

KNOWING BETTER...



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens _____ (be) born Charles John Huffam Dickens on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth. In 1822, the Dickens family _____ (move) to Camden Town, a poor neighborhood in London. Following his father's imprisonment, Charles Dickens _____ (leave) school to work at a boot-blackening factory alongside the River Thames. At the factory, Dickens _____ (earn) six shillings a week labeling pots of "blacking," a substance used to clean fireplaces. Looking back on the experience, Dickens _____ (see) it as the moment he _____ (say) goodbye to his youthful innocence. Much to his relief, Dickens _____ (go) back to school when his father _____ (receive) a family inheritance and _____ (use) it to pay off his debts. Dickens _____ (begin) freelance reporting at the law courts of London. In 1833, he _____ (submit) sketches to various magazines and newspapers under the pseudonym "Boz." In 1836, he _____ (publish) his clippings in his first book, *Sketches by Boz*. Dickens' first success _____ (catch) the eye of Catherine Hogarth, whom he soon _____ (marry).

Around this time, Dickens _____ (become) publisher of a magazine called *Bentley's Miscellany*. In it he _____ (start) publishing his first novel, *Oliver Twist*. Over the next few years, Dickens _____ (struggle) to match the level of *Oliver Twist*'s success.



From 1838 to 1841, he _____ (publish) *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge*. In 1842, Dickens and his wife, Kate, _____ (embark) on a five-month lecture tour of the United States. From 1849 to 1850, Dickens _____ (work) on *David Copperfield*, the first work of its kind: a novel that simply _____ (follow) a character through his everyday life. In 1865, Dickens _____ (be) in a train accident and never fully _____ (recover). On June 9, 1870, Dickens _____ (have) a stroke and, at age 58, _____ (die).

