

# CHARLES DICKENS' CHILDHOOD

Read the text and write in the correct word.

Charles Dickens was one of the greatest nineteenth-century English novelists. At the time of (1)\_\_\_\_\_ death in 1870 he was a wealthy man, in contrast to the poverty of his early days. His parents (2)\_\_\_\_\_ their best to look after him but were always in difficulties (3)\_\_\_\_\_ money. Eventually, his father owed (4)\_\_\_\_\_ a large amount of money that he was sent to prison for three months.

Two days after his twelfth birthday, Dickens was taken away from school by his parents and made (5)\_\_\_\_\_ work in a factory to increase the family income. Factories could be dangerous places in (6)\_\_\_\_\_ days and some employers were cruel. Charles was not (7)\_\_\_\_\_ extremely unhappy, but also ashamed of working there, and he (8)\_\_\_\_\_ never get that period of his life. In his novels Dickens showed just how shocking working and living conditions were.

Working in the factory affected him so deeply that he found (9)\_\_\_\_\_ much too painful to speak about in later life. His own wife and children knew (10)\_\_\_\_\_ at all about the unhappiness of his childhood while Dickens was still alive, (11)\_\_\_\_\_ shortly after his death a biography was published in (12)\_\_\_\_\_ Dickens' terrible childhood experiences in the factory were revealed (9)\_\_\_\_\_ the first time.

