

Charles Dickens: A Literary Legacy

Charles Dickens, an English writer and social critic, achieved unparalleled popularity during his lifetime and is now revered as a literary genius. Renowned for creating some of the most iconic fictional characters and for being the preeminent novelist of the Victorian era, his works continue to captivate readers worldwide, ensuring his enduring legacy in literature.

Early Life

Born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England, Dickens faced financial hardship from an early age. His father's imprudent spending led to his imprisonment for debt when Charles was only 12 years old. Forced to leave school and work in a factory, Dickens's lack of formal education did not deter him from pursuing a career in writing.

Literary Success

Dickens's literary journey began with the serial publication of "The Pickwick Papers" in 1836, marking the start of his meteoric rise to international acclaim. Renowned for his humor, satire, and acute observations of society, Dickens pioneered the serial publication of narrative fiction, captivating audiences with his serialized novels and engaging characters.

Notable Works

Among his many works, "A Christmas Carol," published in 1843, remains a beloved classic, inspiring numerous adaptations across various artistic mediums. Other notable novels include "Oliver Twist," "Great Expectations," and "A Tale of Two Cities," each offering vivid depictions of Victorian London and exploring themes of social injustice and redemption.

Legacy

Dickens's creative brilliance has earned him praise from literary luminaries such as Leo Tolstoy and George Orwell, who lauded his realism, prose style, and social commentary. However, critics like Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf criticized his perceived lack of psychological depth and sentimentalism. Nevertheless, the term "Dickensian" continues to evoke images of poverty, injustice, and memorable characters, solidifying his enduring influence on literature.

Death

Charles Dickens passed away on June 9, 1870, after suffering a stroke. He was laid to rest in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey, where thousands gathered to honor his memory and pay their respects with floral tributes.

1) Read the biography and choose the correct option.

A- Charles was forced to leave school and work in a factory when he was ...

1. 10 years old.
2. 12 years old.
3. 15 years old.

B- His first publication was ...

1. Oliver Twist.
2. Great Expectations.
3. The Pickwick Papers.

C- Charles Dickens died in ...

1. 1842
2. 1812
3. 1870

D- He was renowned for ...

1. His humour and satire.
2. His romantic style.
3. His drawings.

2) Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

Sentimentalism - 58 years old - injustice - 1812 - Virginia Woolf - writer - Oscar Wilde

Charles Dickens was an English _____ who was born in _____. He wrote novels that represented life during Victorian times and explored themes of social _____. Some of his critics were _____ and _____ because of Dickens's lack of _____. He died when he was _____ because of a stroke.

3) Match the following phrases.

His first publication

He was born in

In 1843, he published

England.

'A Christmas Carol'.

was in 1836.