

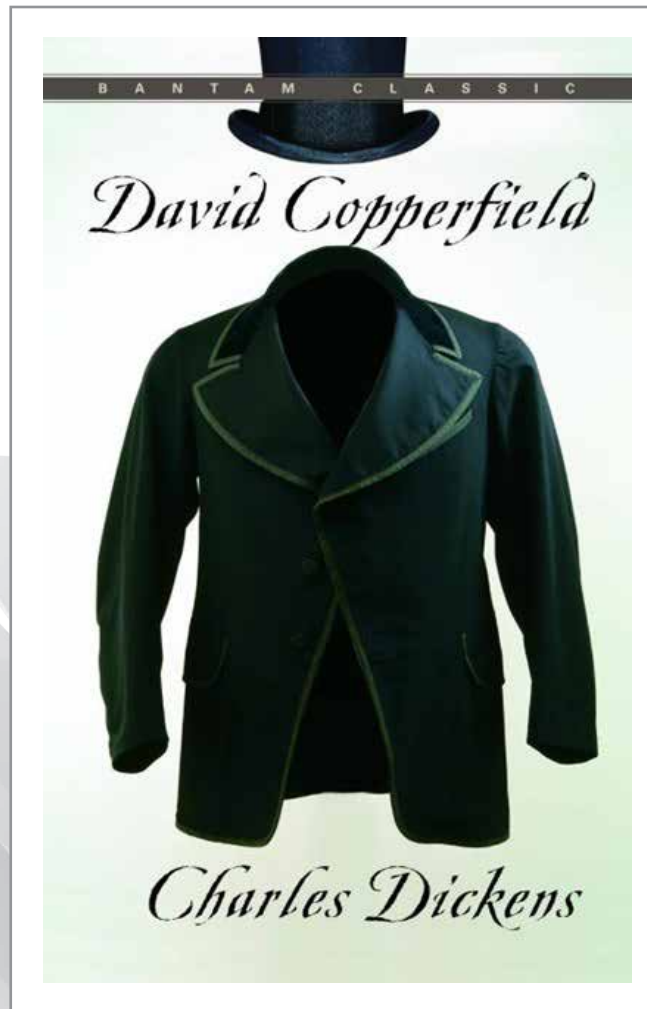


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

# David Copperfield

Charles Dickens



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

# David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test.

\* = thought question, no right or wrong answer

\*\* = prediction, no right or wrong answer

## Chapters 1-6

1. When does Miss Betsey Trotwood first show up at the Copperfields' house, and why does she leave so suddenly?
2. How does David like spending the holiday with the family servant, Peggotty?
3. What happened to David's father?
4. Why don't David and Mr. Murdstone enjoy each other?
5. Who is "constantly haunted by a suspicion that the servants had a man secreted somewhere on the premises"?
6. Why is David sent to his room for five days?
7. Who is Barkis and what message does he send with David?
8. Who is Steerforth and how does he "use" young David?
- \*9. What would you do if you had a step-father like Mr. Murdstone? What could David have done? Why do you think he rebelled so little?
- \*\*10. As the adult David recalls how little Em'ly nearly fell in the ocean, why do you think he reflects that it might have been "better for little Em'ly to have had the waters close above her head that morning..."?

## Chapters 7-12

1. Why don't the boys at David's school learn much?
2. Why is Mr. Mell, the schoolmaster, fired?
3. When David returns home for the holidays, how does he find his mother changed?
4. Why is David so sad on his birthday?
5. What happens to David's baby brother after their mother dies?
6. Who is David's "first love"?
7. How do the Murdstones get rid of David after his mother dies?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Choose the given word's synonym from among the four choices. Circle its letter.

1. supplication (page 497)

- (a) entreaty      (b) demand      (c) felicity      (d) indoctrination

2. inveigler (page 518)

- (a) educator      (b) hustler      (c) mercenary      (d) lawyer

3. fatuity (page 533)

- (a) competence      (b) renunciation      (c) ineptitude      (d) obesity

4. perambulations (page 575)

- (a) roamings      (b) musings      (c) emoluments      (d) admonitions

5. immolation (page 594)

- (a) exploitation      (b) concurrence      (c) sacrifice      (d) replication

6. munificence (page 611)

- (a) covetousness      (b) self-laudation      (c) generosity      (d) impertinence

7. privation (page 634)

- (a) luxury      (b) hardship      (c) aversion      (d) seclusion

8. sardonically (page 653)

- (a) rhapsodically      (b) contemptuously      (c) inauspiciously      (d) fashionably

9. expeditiously (page 661)

- (a) swiftly      (b) languorously      (c) loquaciously      (d) adventurously

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** If you read any of today’s newspapers or magazines, you will find some of the same themes that you find in *David Copperfield*—including child abuse, marital incompatibility, exploitation of the poor, teen runaways, white-collar crime, etc. Characters in fiction, like people in real life, make many decisions—sometimes faulty ones.

List as many pros and cons as you can think of for each choice, below. Then select one of the questions and find an article in a newspaper or magazine that contains present-day parallels.

pros



cons



1. David: “Should I fight back when my stepfather beats me?”

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2. David: “Should I stay with my wife, even though I am vaguely dissatisfied with my marriage?”

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