

Who Was Charles Dickens?

Winner of the Plutarch Award for Best Biography A lively and insightful biographical celebration of the imaginative genius of Charles Dickens, published in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of his death. Charles Dickens was a superb public performer, a great orator and one of the most famous of the Eminent Victorians. Slight of build, with a frenzied, hyper-energetic personality, Dickens looked much older than his fifty-eight years when he died—an occasion marked by a crowded funeral at Westminster Abbey, despite his waking wishes for a small affair. Experiencing the worst and best of life during the Victorian Age, Dickens was not merely the conduit through whom some of the most beloved characters in literature came into the world. He was one of them. Filled with the twists, pathos, and unusual characters that sprang from this novelist's extraordinary imagination, *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* looks back from the legendary writer's death to recall the key events in his life. In doing so, he seeks to understand Dickens' creative genius and enduring popularity. Following his life from cradle to grave, it becomes clear that Dickens's fiction drew from his life—a fact he acknowledged. Like *Oliver Twist*, Dickens suffered a wretched childhood, then grew up to become not only a respectable gentleman but an artist of prodigious popularity. Dickens knew firsthand the poverty and pain his characters endured, including the scandal of a failed marriage. Going beyond standard narrative biography, A. N. Wilson brilliantly revisits the wellspring of Dickens's vast and wild imagination, to reveal at long last why his novels captured the hearts of nineteenth century readers—and why they continue to resonate today. *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* is illustrated with 30 black-and-white images.

A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, usually known just as A Christmas Carol is a fairy-tale novel by a British classic Charles Dickens, that was published in 1843. It consists of five chapters, or staves as the author named them. Among all the stories from Christmas Books by Dickens this one became the most popular story about Christmas in Great Britain and outside the country. The main character is an old gloomy miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who doesn't love anyone or anything except his money. He doesn't understand why everybody is so happy about Christmas and with disgust, refuses the invitation from his kind nephew to celebrate this holiday together with his family. On Christmas Eve, the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley appeared in front of Scrooge, and it changed him drastically...

Hard Times--Dickens's shortest novel and one of his triumphs--tells the tragic story of Louisa Gradgrind and her father and has had lasting appeal to generations of readers. Paul Schlicke is lecturer in English at the University of Aberdeen. Looks at the life and works of Dickens, describes what life was like during the times in which he lived, and surveys the stage and screen adaptations of his works.

To be Read at Dusk

A Christmas Carol

American Notes, and Reprinted Pieces

A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, The Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist, Bleak House, Hard Times, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations

Charles Dickens in Context

A young English lawyer is drawn into the turmoil of the French Revolution.

Charles Dickens is arguably the greatest storyteller in English Literature and his novels have been loved and respected for nearly two hundred years. As accurate reflections of Victorian society they are unparalleled. Vivid characters and realistic settings are created in the mind of the reader, all laced with Dickens inimitable humour, wit and lacerating political comment. This book aims to bring alive these characters and settings in the minds of children. It provides a comprehensive resource for children not only to learn about the literary heritage of the English language, but also to encourage them to create meanings from these classic stories through their personal, social and cultural experiences. The authors set each novel in context, providing a synopsis of the book, as well as characters, settings themes and symbolism. Works covered include: A Christmas Carol Bleak House David Copperfield Great Expectations Hard Times Oliver Twist But this book doesn't just aim to introduce classic literature to children; it also provides a wide range of truly contemporary tools with which they can respond creatively, including: drama and film, blogs, web 2.0 technologies, multimodality and animation and graphic novels. The book is also accompanied by a CD which contains chapter outlines, extended text extracts, and practical resource sheets, including PowerPoint presentations, book review templates and flash cards, as well as a set of 8 week lesson plans for each novel. The Essential Charles Dickens School Resource provides essential classroom learning material for teachers and literacy co-ordinators teaching Key Stages 1 -3, as well as CPD students and those studying on PGCE English/Drama courses.

The Chimes A Goblin Story of Some Bells that Rang an Old Year Out and a New Year In, a short novel by Charles Dickens, was written and published in 1844, one year after A Christmas Carol. It is the second in his series of Christmas books five short books with strong social and moral messages that he published during the 1840's.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of British novelist CHARLES DICKENS (1812-1870) not only to literature in the English language, but to Western civilization on the whole. He is arguably the first fiction writer to have become an international celebrity. He popularized episodic fiction and the cliffhanger, which had a profound influence on the development of film and television. He is entirely responsible for the popular image of Victorian London that still lingers today, and his characters—from Oliver Twist to Ebenezer Scrooge, from Miss Havisham to Uriah Heep—have become not merely iconic, but mythic. But it was his stirring portraits of ordinary people—not the upper classes or the aristocracy—and his fervent cries for social, moral, and legal justice for the working poor, and in particular for poor children, in the grim early decades of the Industrial Revolution that powerfully impacted social concerns well into

the 20th century. Without Charles Dickens, we may never have seen the likes of Sherlock Holmes, Upton Sinclair, or even Bob Dylan. Here, in 30 beautiful volumes-complete with all the original illustrations-is every published word written by one of the most important writers ever. The essential collector's set will delight anyone who cherishes English literature...and who takes pleasure in constantly rediscovering its joys. This volume contains Pictures from Italy-an 1846 travelogue featuring delightful observations on the street life of the great cities of that land-and American Notes, a journal of Dickens's 1842 visit to the United States and Canada, the trip that provided the inspiration for his novel Martin Chuzzlewit.

The Best of Charles Dickens

The Life of Charles Dickens

Night Walks

A Life

Mugby Junction

Illustrated biographies featuring a range of fascinating figures from history (and current figures, too!) provide great information and entertainment through short chapters and illustrations that will appeal to reluctant readers as well as middle readers in general.

Simultaneous eBook.

Celebrate the bicentennial birthday of Charles Dickens with this Miniature Edition packed with witty summaries of the novels of one of history's most beloved storytellers. All fans of great literature can enjoy these perfectly portable renditions of Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, A Tale of Two Cities, and all the Dickensian classics. Featuring synopses, character profiles, and illustrations, this mini book brings to life twenty classic tales and the iconic characters that populate the world of Dickens.

Charles Dickens is credited with creating some of the world's best-known fictional characters, and is widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian age. Even before reading the works of Dickens many people have met him already in some form or another. His characters have such vitality that they have leapt from his pages to enjoy flourishing lives of their own: The Artful Dodger, Miss Havisham, Scrooge, Fagin, Mr Micawber, and many many more. His portrait has been in our pockets, on our ten-pound notes; he is a national icon, indeed himself a generator of what Englishness signifies. In this Very Short Introduction Jenny Hartley explores the key themes running through Dickens's corpus of works, and considers how they reflect his attitudes towards the harsh realities of nineteenth century society and its institutions, such as the workhouses and prisons. Running alongside this is Dickens's relish of the carnivalesque; if there is a prison in almost every novel, there is also a theatre. She considers Dickens's multiple lives and careers: as magazine editor for two thirds of his working life, as travel writer and journalist, and his work on behalf of social causes including ragged schools and fallen women. She also shows how his public readings enthralled the readers he wanted to reach but also helped to kill him. Finally, Hartley considers what we mean when we use the term 'Dickensian' today, and how Dickens's enduring legacy marks him out as a novelist different in kind from others. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable. · This book was previously published in hardback as Charles Dickens: An Introduction

Charles Dickens was the most popular English novelist of the Victorian era is still very popular today, here are collected the very finest of his crime and mystery stories. Some of the stories included are, 'The Drunkard's Death', 'The Automaton Police', 'The Edwin Drood Syndicate' and many more.

The Mystery of Charles Dickens

The Shorter Novels of Charles Dickens

The Turning Point

An Introduction

What the Dickens? - Tales of Crime and Mystery by Charles Dickens (Fantasy and Horror Classics)

This unique collection of Dickens' greatest works includes: The Pickwick Papers Oliver Twist A Christmas Carol David Copperfield Bleak House Hard Times A Tale of Two Cities Great Expectations Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812 - 1870) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's most memorable fictional characters and is generally regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian period. During his life, his works enjoyed unprecedented fame, and by the twentieth century his literary genius was broadly acknowledged by critics and scholars. His novels and short stories continue to be widely popular.

"Mugby Junction" by Charles Dickens. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten—or yet undiscovered gems—of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

Stunning illustrations by award-winning artist Lee Krutop accompany this timeless Christmas story. Each spread features a beautiful pop-up. This book is a special keepsake to be enjoyed and shared with loved ones for many years to come.

No library's complete without the classics! This new edition collects the greatest works of Charles Dickens, one of the most popular novelists of all time. Oliver Twist. Pip. The ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. The characters of Charles Dickens live on in our imaginations long after we've read his renowned works of social commentary and vivid storytelling. And though these novels were written more than one hundred years ago, no home library today would be complete without them. This Canterbury Classics edition of Charles Dickens collects some of his most famous and beloved works--The Adventures of Oliver

Twist, A Christmas Carol, A Tale of Two Cities, and Great Expectations--into a single volume. For those who've never read Dickens, it's the perfect opportunity to experience his unique and compelling writing. And for those who are already Dickens devotees, an introduction by a renowned scholar will provide additional context and food for thought.

And Other Stories, Sketches and Essays

A Tale of Two Cities

The Perils of Certain English Prisoners

The Complete Novels in One Sitting

Hard Times for These Times

Charles Dickens, a man so representative of his age as to have become considered synonymous with it, demands to be read in context. This book illuminates the worlds - social, political, economic and artistic - in which Dickens worked. Dickens's professional life encompassed work as a novelist, journalist, editor, public reader and passionate advocate of social reform. This volume offers a detailed treatment of Dickens in each of these roles, exploring the central features of Dickens's age, work and legacy, and uncovering sometimes surprising faces of the man and of the range of Dickens industries. Through 45 digestible short chapters written by a leading expert on each topic, a rounded picture emerges of Dickens's engagement with his time, the influence of his works and the ways he has been read, adapted and re-imagined from the nineteenth century to the present.

First published in serial form, "The Pickwick Papers" tells the story of Samuel Pickwick, a good natured elderly gentleman and president of the Pickwick Club. With three other members of the club, Pickwick travels around the English countryside, where he becomes caught up in a series of comic adventures, from romantic and legal misunderstandings. Although light in tone, the novel foreshadows the social concerns that would emerge in Dickens' later work.

In this book from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy bestselling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, discover the life of Charles Dickens, the influential author. When Charles was a boy he made up his own adventures. But after a Dickensian twist of fate saw his father go to prison for debt, Charles ended up working in a factory with other children. He worked his way out, trying his hand in a law firm, and then as an actor, before making a name for himself as a reporter and gifted storyteller. Charles became one of the most beloved novelists of all time, aware of the power of a tale and of giving poor children a voice. This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the writer's life. Little People, BIG DREAMS is a bestselling series of books and educational games that explore the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream. This empowering series offers inspiring messages to children of all ages, in a range of formats. The board books are told in simple sentences, perfect for reading aloud to babies and toddlers. The hardback versions present expanded stories for beginning readers. Boxed gift sets allow you to collect a selection of the books by theme. Paper dolls, learning cards, matching games and other fun learning tools provide even more ways to make the lives of these role models accessible to children. Inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world with Little People, BIG DREAMS!

Near the English colony of Belize, a silver mine is attacked by pirates. They murder a number of the British colonist and take the rest hostage. When all hope seems lost, the colonists' survival is suddenly down to a couple of remarkable and brave imprisoned English women. Co-written by Dickens' friend Wilkie Collins, *The Perils of Certain English Prisoners* is a thrilling adventure novel filled with murder, intrigue and strong female characters. Told in the first person and with the same sense of adventure, the novel is similar in style to Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English author, social critic, and philanthropist. Much of his writing first appeared in small instalments in magazines and was widely popular. Among his most famous novels are *Oliver Twist* (1839), *David Copperfield* (1850), and *Great Expectations* (1861).

The Life, Times and Works of the Great Victorian Novelist

Charles Dickens Books

Hard Times

The Speeches of Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens' Complete Works

*This superb collection of classic Victorian literature features the most notable works of Charles Dickens, including *Oliver Twist* (1839), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectations* (1861). Considered the greatest novelist of the Victorian era, Dickens was especially known for his unusual characters, incisive social commentary, and carefully constructed plots. Over the last two centuries, his popular fiction has continued to inspire adaptations in nearly artistic genre, and now it is available--complete and unabridged--in this gorgeous slipcase edition. The stylish clothbound hardcover also features a ribbon marker, historical timeline, and comprehensive introduction, enlightening the reader on the author's life and works.*

A collection which brings together perhaps the four finest of Charles Dickens' shorter novels, filled with event, character, and the brilliance of his story-telling.

This provocative biography tells the story of how an ambitious young Londoner became England's greatest novelist. Focused on the 1830s, it portrays a restless, uncertain Dickens who could not decide on a career path. Through twists and turns, the author traces a double transformation: in reinventing himself Dickens reinvented the form of the novel.

*Charles Dickens describes in *Night Walks* his time as an insomniac, when he decided to cure himself by walking through London in the small hours, and discovered homelessness, drunkenness and vice on the streets. This collection of essays shows Dickens as one of the greatest visionaries of the city in all its variety and cruelty. GREAT IDEAS. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.*

Contemporary Approaches to Teaching Classic Texts Ages 7-14

The Man Who Had Great Expectations

1851--A Year That Changed Charles Dickens and the World

The Essential Collection *Who Was Charles Dickens?*

A compendium of four of Charles Dickens's Christmas stories, *A Charles Dickens Christmas* includes *The Chimes* (1844), *The Cricket on the Hearth* (1845), *The Battle of Life* (1846) and *The Haunted Man* (1848). A magnificent new biography of the man who gave us *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Ebenezer Scrooge*. This long-awaited biography, twenty years after the last major account, uncovers Dickens the man through the profession in which he excelled. Drawing on a lifetime's study of this prodigiously brilliant figure, Michael Slater explores the personal and emotional life, the high-profile public activities, the relentless travel, the charitable works, the amateur theatricals and the astonishing productivity. But the core focus is Dickens' career as a writer and professional author, covering not only his big novels but also his phenomenal output of other writing--letters, journalism, shorter fiction, plays, verses, essays, writings for children, travel books, speeches, and scripts for his public readings, and the relationships among them. Slater's account, rooted in deep research but written with affection, clarity, and economy, illuminates the context of each of the great novels while locating the life of the author within the imagination that created them. It highlights Dickens' boundless energy, his passion for order and fascination with disorder, his organizational genius, his deep concern for the poor and outrage at indifference towards them, his susceptibility towards young women, his love of Christmas and fairy tales, and his hatred of tyranny. Richly and precisely illustrated with many rare images, this masterly work on the complete Dickens, man and writer, becomes the indispensable guide and companion to one of the greatest novelists in the language.

Charles Dickens is credited with creating some of the world's best-known fictional characters, and is widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian age. Even before reading the works of Dickens many people have met him already in some form or another. His characters have such vitality that they have leapt from his pages to enjoy flourishing lives of their own: *The Artful Dodger*, *Miss Havisham*, *Scrooge*, *Fagin*, *Mr Micawber*, and many many more. His portrait has been in our pockets, on our ten-pound notes; he is a national icon, indeed himself a generator of what Englishness signifies. In this book Jenny Hartley explores the key themes running through Dickens's corpus of works, and considers how they reflect his attitudes towards the harsh realities of nineteenth century society and its institutions, such as the workhouses and prisons. Running alongside this is Dickens's relish of the carnivalesque; if there is a prison in almost every novel, there is also a theatre. She considers Dickens's multiple lives and careers: as magazine editor for two thirds of his working life, as travel writer and journalist, and his work on behalf of social causes including ragged schools and fallen women. She also shows how his public readings enthralled the readers he wanted to reach but also helped to kill him. Finally, Hartley considers what we mean when we use the term 'Dickensian' today, and how Dickens's enduring legacy marks him out as a novelist different in kind from others.

Chronicles the life of the nineteenth-century literary master from the challenges he faced as the imprisoned son of a profligate father, his rise to one of England's foremost novelists, and the personal demons that challenged his relationships.

Charles Dickens

The Complete Works of Charles Dickens

Becoming Dickens

David Copperfield, *Hard Times*

Pictures from Italy and American Notes

Charles Dickens is rightly hailed as the grand master of Victorian literature. His astonishing range extends from tales of political intrigue to poignant coming-of-age sagas, and his superb eye for detail has conjured some of the most memorable characters in English fiction - from the cruel Miss Havisham of *Great Expectations* to the treacherous Uriah Heep of *David Copperfield*. This timeless collection brings together his most iconic novels. *David Copperfield* *Hard Times* The power of [Dickens] is so amazing that the reader at once becomes his captive.' William Makepeace Thackeray

Dickens was known as one of the best after-dinner speakers of his day. It was a period when elaborate formal dinners were the standard fundraising method for charities and other institutes, and the speeches at such occasions were printed by newspapers from shorthand reports on the occasion. Dickens himself did not use notes, but these eyewitness reports allow the reader to gain a very close idea of what he actually said on hundreds of public occasions throughout his career. The organisations he was involved with - here elaborated by extensive headnotes on his participation in each body - give key insights into his activities and thinking beyond literature which are much enriched by reading what he said about them to their members and supporters. As the editor states in his introduction, the speeches are in their own way as important an insight into Dickens as his letters. The late Prof. K. J. Fielding's edition of the *Speeches* is universally acknowledged as the academic standard version. Each speech was carefully collated from the original reports and any other available sources. Copious notes describe variations, suggested corrections, the context of each speech and further factual information where necessary to understand references made by Dickens. All of this has been preserved in this reprint, which makes the whole edition available for the first time since 1988. This edition is necessary reading for any serious scholar of Dickens or Victorian oratory, and will also be of great interest to anyone studying issues connected with Dickens such as nineteenth-century philanthropy, the 'dignity of literature' debates, transatlantic relations of the period or the changing statuses of novels, drama and journalism.

In celebration of the bicentennial of Charles Dickens's birth, here is Dickens as you have never seen him before: an intimate and engaging portrait of the great author and the women he loved. "To conceal anything from those to whom I am attached, is not in my nature. I can never close my lips where I have opened my heart." —Charles Dickens When Charles Dickens died in 1870 he was the best-known man in the English-speaking world—the preeminent Victorian celebrity, universally mourned as both a noble spirit and the greatest of novelists. Yet when the first person named in his will turned out to be an unknown woman named Ellen Ternan, only a handful of people had any idea who she was. Of his romance with Ellen, Dickens had

written, “it belongs to my life and probably will only die out of the same with the proprietor,” and so it was—until his death she remained the most important person in his life. She was not the first woman who had fired his imagination. As a young man he had fallen deeply in love with a woman who “pervaded every chink and crevice” of his mind for three years, Maria Beadnell, and when she eventually jilted him he vowed that “I never can love any human creature but yourself.” A few years later he was stunned by the sudden death of his young sister-in-law, Mary Scott Hogarth, and worshiped her memory for the rest of his life. “I solemnly believe that so perfect a creature never breathed,” he declared, and when he died over thirty years later he was still wearing her ring. Charles Dickens has no rival as the most fertile creative imagination since William Shakespeare, and no one influenced his imagination more powerfully than these three women, his muses and teachers in the school of love. Using hundreds of primary sources, *Charles Dickens in Love* narrates the story of the most intense romances of Dickens’s life and shows how his novels both testify to his own strongest affections and serve as memorials to the young women he loved all too well, if not always wisely.

Charles Dickens is one of the world's greatest and best loved writers. To read *Great Expectations*, *A Christmas Carol*, or *Nicholas Nickleby* is to be drawn into a society that still seems fresh and real today: nineteenth-century London with its extraordinary extremes of wealth, progress, poverty, and despair. Dickens captures it all in plots that are by turns wildly comical, wonderfully melodramatic, and tragic to the point of tears. In his writing and later, in his dramatic readings, Charles Dickens was a master showman, mesmerizing the whole world. His novels are stuffed to bursting with unforgettable characters like Mr. Micawber, Ebenezer Scrooge, and Little Nell. Most affecting are his portraits of children abused and abandoned by the Industrial Age. *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Tiny Tim* are mirrors that reflect the twisted values of their time. The twists of Dickens's own life encompassed childhood suffering as well as international acclaim. When he was twelve, his father was consigned to debtors' prison and Charles to working in a blacking factory. Not twelve years later *The Pickwick Papers* would propel him toward literary stardom. In their lovingly researched, incisively written biography, illustrated with a lushness and attention to period detail of which Dickens would have approved, Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema illuminate his inspirations, his impact on nations of readers, and his gleaming genius that has only brightened with time. A handsome book on the beloved novelist. Dickens's troubled, well-documented life has plenty to interest children....Lucid, accessible....A lively, entertaining story for children who enjoy *A Christmas Carol* in its various guises....A must.

A Charles Dickens Christmas

Christmas Books

The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club

Four Novels

Charles Dickens in Love

A major new biography that takes an unusual and illuminating approach to the great writer—immersing us in one year of his life—from the award-winning author of *Becoming Dickens* and *The Story of Alice*. The year is 1851. It's a time of radical change in Britain, when industrial miracles and artistic innovations rub shoulders with political unrest, poverty, and disease. It is also a turbulent year in the private life of Charles Dickens, as he copes with a double bereavement and early signs that his marriage is falling apart. But this formative year will become perhaps the greatest turning point in Dickens's career, as he embraces his calling as a chronicler of ordinary people's lives and develops a new form of writing that will reveal just how interconnected the world is becoming. *The Turning Point* transports us into the foggy streets of Dickens's London, closely following the twists and turns of a year that would come to define him and forever alter Britain's relationship with the world. Fully illustrated, and brimming with fascinating details about the larger-than-life man who wrote *Bleak House*, this is the closest look yet at one of the greatest literary personalities ever to have lived.

The Essential Charles Dickens School Resource

Charles Dickens: A Very Short Introduction

The World of Charles Dickens

A Biography

The Child's Dickens