

Charles Dickens 200 Years QUOTATIONS

Ex.1. Speaking

Discuss the following questions in pairs or groups of three.

1. Does spending money make you happy?
2. Do you enjoy doing things for other people?
3. Why do people try not to cry in public?
4. Can a too comfortable life be a source of problems?
5. Do people have complete control over their lives?
6. Who has best manners? The French, English, American, Russian or Polish people?
7. When do people feel ashamed?
8. What makes people happy?

Ex.2. Vocabulary

Read the quotations in the next exercise and decide which of the words in bold means the following:

1. Embarrassed
2. Too much of something
3. Spots
4. To make less heavy/lighter
5. To gain control
6. Something very heavy
7. Something unpleasant
8. To happen
9. To control or make smaller
10. To think
11. To ruin
12. To ruin or spend in a useless way
13. To make out of metal
14. Money we earn
15. Money we spend

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Ex.3. Reading Comprehension

Read the quotations below and discuss with a partner their possible interpretations.

1. Accidents will **occur** in the best regulated families.
2. I do not know the American gentleman, god forgive me for putting two such words together.
3. Minds, like bodies, will often fall into a **pimpled**, ill-conditioned state from mere **excess** of comfort.
4. No one is useless in this world who **lightens** the **burdens** of another.
5. **Reflect** on your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past **misfortunes**, of which all men have some.
6. **Subdue** your appetites, my dears, and you've **conquered** human nature.
7. Train up a fig tree in the way it should go, and when you are old sit under the shade of it.
8. We need never be **ashamed** of our tears.
9. A day **wasted** on others is not wasted on one's self.
10. A loving heart is the truest wisdom.
11. Annual **income** twenty pounds, annual **expenditure** nineteen six, result happiness.
12. I only ask to be free. The butterflies are free.
13. There is a wisdom of the head, and... a wisdom of the heart.
14. The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again.
15. We **forge** the chains we wear in life

Ex.4. Writing

Write in pairs a short dialogue including one of the quotations above. Act it out in front of your classmates. If needed, explain who's who in your scene, before acting it out.

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Teachers' Notes

Before asking students to read the quotations ask them to discuss the questions in Ex.1. and vocabulary in Ex.2.

After they complete Ex.3. say that they may one day become as famous as Charles Dickens and what they think or say may turn into famous quotations as well.

Ask the students to choose one of the following themes: life / love / money / family / important things and once they have chosen, ask them to write on slip of paper a quotation of their own and sign it. You may give an example.

In life there is time for laughter and tears.

Zofia Kowalska

Collect the quotations. Before the next class, type them up, copy and give students the list of quotations.

Ask the students to read the quotations in pairs and guess who wrote which one. It's great fun.

