

Charles Dickens 200 Years

DAVID COPPERFIELD

Ex.1. Speaking

Discuss the following questions in pairs or groups of three.

1. Would you like to go to a boarding school?
2. What are the pros and cons of children working?
3. Why do people go bankrupt?
4. Do you have a mentor, or someone who you look up to?
5. Which of your relatives is your favourite?
6. When do people get depressed?
7. Would you like to emigrate?

Ex.2. Vocabulary

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

1. dishonest
2. feel the same
3. someone you rent a room from
4. sometimes
5. someone who borrows money
6. give a new name
7. meet
8. a school where you live and study
9. cruel
10. very sad
11. lose all the money one has
12. in the end

Ex.3. Reading Comprehension

Read the statements below and put them in the right order so as to make a summary of *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens.

- David, the Micawbers and Little Emily **eventually** emigrate and start a new and much happier life in Australia.
- His mother re-marries Mr. Edward Murdstone, who moves in together with his sister Jane.
- David Copperfield is born in England in 1920.
- He never gets to know his father, who dies before David is born.
- There he makes friends with James Steerforth and Tommy Traddles.
- Soon David's mother has a baby boy but they both die and Mr. Murdstone sends David to work in a factory in London.
- After his **landlord**, Mr. Wilkins Micawber **goes bankrupt** and is sent to **debtor's** prison, depressed by the **grim** reality of his London life David runs away.
- He walks to Dover to live with his aunt, Miss Betsey Trotwood, who **renames** him 'Trotwood Copperfield', shortened to "Trot".
- David does not like either of them and the feeling is **reciprocated**.
- He is sent to Salem House, a **boarding school** run by a **ruthless** headmaster, Mr. Creakle.
- As he grows, David **encounters** many interesting people such as Little Emily who charms David but is seduced by his friend James.
- The debt-ridden Micawber **occasionally** acts as David's mentor and is generally shown in a positive light unlike his **fraudulent** clerk, Uriah Heep.
- David marries twice and has several children.

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Teacher's Notes

Follow the exercises from 1 to 3. However, to make sure students understand and remember the story of David Copperfield do a little follow up drama activity.

Follow up drama activity:

You can read the statements in Ex.3. one by one and ask the whole group to act them out as you read. You can also ask students to work in pairs or small groups, and have one student read and the other(s) act out. If they enjoy the activity, they can swap roles and do it again.

Ex.3. Reading Comprehension Answer Key

1. David Copperfield is born in England in 1812.
2. He never gets to know his father, who dies before David is born.
3. His mother re-marries Mr. Edward Murdstone, who moves in together with his sister Jane.
4. David does not like either of them and the feeling is reciprocated.
5. He is sent to Salem House, a boarding school run by a ruthless headmaster, Mr. Creakle.
6. There he makes friends with James Steerforth and Tommy Traddles.
7. Soon David's mother has a baby boy but they both die and Mr. Murdstone sends David to work in a factory in London.
8. After his landlord, Mr. Wilkins Micawber goes bankrupt and is sent to debtor's prison, depressed by the grim reality of his London life David runs away.
9. He walks to Dover to live with his aunt, Miss Betsey Trotwood, who renames him 'Trotwood Copperfield', shortened to "Trot".
10. As he grows, David encounters many interesting people such as Little Emily who charms David but is seduced by his friend James.
11. The debt-ridden Micawber occasionally acts as David's mentor and is generally shown in a positive light unlike his fraudulent clerk, Uriah Heep.

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12. David, the Micawbers and Little Emily eventually emigrate and start a new and much happier life in Australia.
13. David marries twice and has several children.