

Charles Dickens: A Busy Life

Charles Dickens was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1812 near Portsmouth. His first years in London then in Kent were very happy. Very early he enjoyed reading a lot. He liked very much walking with his father, going to the theatre, and playing with his younger brother Fred.

His father, John Dickens, was a very nice man but he always had serious money problems. At the age of 12, Charles had to stop going to school. He worked in a factory for two or three months. He never forgot that horrible experience. His father's situation became better in 1824 and Charles went back to school for three years.

He left school at the age of 15 and became a legal clerk and later a reporter. His first book came out in February 1836. He got married in April that year. His first big success came with the Pickwick Papers. In the next twenty years, he wrote ten very famous books: "Everyone knows David Copperfield", "Oliver Twist" and "Little Dorrit". Charles Dickens had ten children. He travelled a lot. He spent six months in America then he visited Italy, Switzerland and France. When he died on the 9th of June 1870, he was a very famous and very rich man.

Section One /A)-Reading Interpretation:(4,5pts)

1)-Are the following statements true or false according to the text?

- a) Charles Dickens is English.
- b) He did not like reading.
- c) He never went to school.
- d) He got married after he wrote his first book.
- e) Oliver Twist was written by Charles Dickens.

2) Answer the following questions according to the text:

- a) - Why had Charles Dickens to stop going to school?
- b) - When did he write his first book?

3)-Who or what the underlined words in the text refer to?

- a- He=
- b- Rich man=

Section two: B) Text Exploration:(11.5pts)

1) - Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following:

- a) - Well-known=
- b) - small =
- c) glad=

2) - Find in the text words that are opposite in meaning to the following:

- a) - Sad ≠
- b)-failure ≠
- c) – remembered≠

3)Complete the table

Noun	Adjectives
Beauty	.....
.....	Atomic
sun	.....

4)Use the relative pronouns **who, whom, which** to join the following pairs of sentences:

- a) The man smoked forty cigarettes a day. He died of heart attack.
- b) He stayed in a hotel. The hotel was very expensive.
- c) I hit the boy. The boy was taken to hospital.

5) - Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form

- a- An old man (walk) in the country when he (arrive).
- b- While I (to take) my bath, the telephone (to ring).

6) - Put the stress on the following words

Best-selling –bleu-eyed- housewife- newborn - technologic

Part Two : ( 5pts)

Written Expression:

Write the biography of the following scientist. Use the following notes

Albert Einstein/ famous scientist

Born/ 1879/ Germany

Education< professor in 1909

Went to the U.S.A/ 1933

Numerous scientific appointments< number of the institute for Advanced Study in Princeton 1933... 1945.

Naturalized American citizen/ 1934

Theory of relativity/ Nobel Prize for physics in 1922

Wrote" Meaning of Relativity", 1932/ "Why War" (with Freud) 1933/Died 1955