

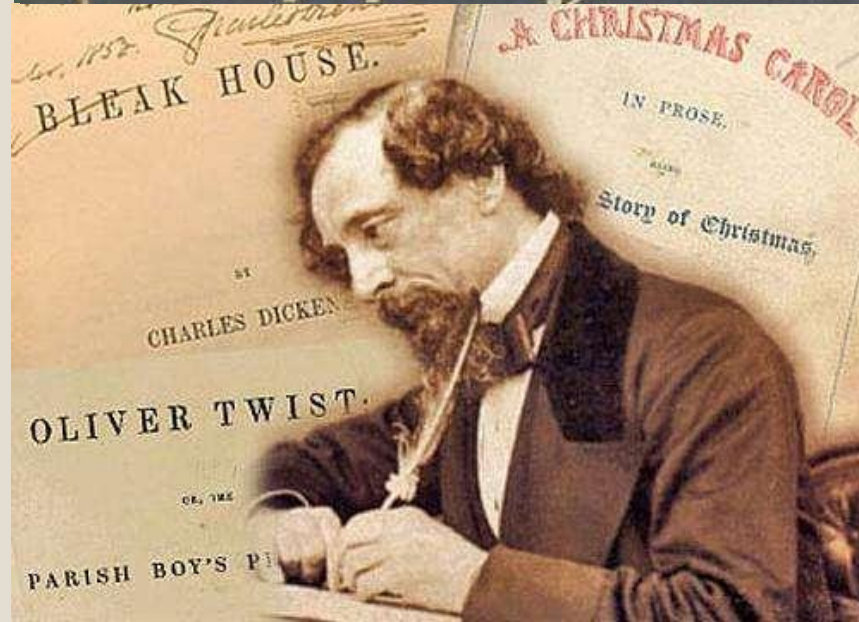
DAVID COPPERFIELD



查尔斯·狄更斯 200 周年诞辰



David
Copperfield



Chapter 6

A Fresh Life and Old Friends

VI. Chapter 6: A Fresh Life and Old Friends

“From this moment,” she said, “your name will be Trotwood Copperfield. My house is now your home!”

I spent the next few days with my head in the clouds, overjoyed at my new life with Aunt Betsey and Mr. Dick. Then one morning, Aunt Betsey said, “Trotwood, we are off to Canterbury today to visit your new school. We will stop on the way at my solicitor’s. Mr. Wickfield is someone whose opinion I greatly value.”

1. What did Aunt Betsey decide to do with me?

She decided to send me to **a new school**.

2. How was the new school different from Salem House?

- **shabby**, square, and **filthy** classroom
- **unwelcoming** and **bare** dormitory
- Mr. Creakle was **harsh** and **cruel**

- **large**, **well-lit** schoolroom
- **sheltered** gardens full of leach trees
- Doctor Strong was **kind** and **gentle**

3. Who did I meet at Mr. Wickfield's house?

Name	What	Appearance	character
Mr. Wickfield	solicitor	having white hair and wearing a kind smile	gentle, gracious
Agnes	daughter	/	sweet-natured, full of life
Uriah Heep	student	bony, red-haired, resentful face, red-brown eyes with no eyelashes	?

4. How did I feel toward the present life?

I was **content** and **happy** with the Wickfields, but I **disliked** Uriah Heep.

5. Why did I dislike Uriah Heep?

“Are you aiming to be Mr. Wickfield’s partner in law, when you’ve qualified?”
I asked him one evening.

Uriah rubbed his pale hands together and his body writhed in a most horrible way. “Oh no,” he oozed, “I’m much **too’umble** for a job like that. But you, **Master Copperfield**, are a **gentleman**. Maybe it will be you who becomes his legal partner.”

I shook my head. The thought hadn’t even crossed my mind.

“I would be honored if you would come to have tea with my mother and I at our **most ‘umble home,**” he went on, **bowing low.**

5. How did Uriah feel when hearing my question?

anxious, worried and restless.

6. Why did Uriah react that way?

Maybe he didn’t want me to regard him as a **competitor** and hide his **real intention**.

7. Why do you think Uriah invite me to his home?

8. What was Uriah's real intention by inviting me for a tea?

To **“steal”** Mr. Wickfield's **information** and **investigate** me.

9. How does the writer show their eagerness for the information?

10. What kind of person is Uriah?

ambitious

disloyal

greedy

shrewd

hypocritical

sly/foxy

11. Who saved me from the miserable talk?

Mr. Micawber

['wi:dl] v. to try to persuade sb. to give you sth. by saying nice things

“We are so delighted you are sitting in our humble home,” she **wheedled**.

Before I could speak, the two of them started **firing questions** at me.

“How long are you going to stay with the Wickfields?”

“What do you know about Mr. Wickfield's law business?”

“What do you think of his daughter, Agnes?”

They were like a pair of dentists pulling out a painful tooth. They managed to **squeeze information** out of me, and I told them a lot more than I meant to...

12. How do you understand the title “A Fresh Life and Old Friends”?

I totally broke away from the Murdstones' rule.

I started to live with Aunt Betsey.

A **Fresh** Life and **Old** Friends

I started a new school.

I met the Micawbers.

I started to meet new people.

I started to...

Chapter 7

Agnes's Warnings

VII. Chapter 7: Agnes's Warnings

My time at Doctor Strong's school passed very quickly and soon I was facing a new future out in the world. The only problem was I didn't know what I wanted to do.

1. What did Aunt Betsey suggest doing?

Having a break and figuring out what I wanted to do in the future.

2. How did I feel towards Salem House?

Both terrified and furious.

Can you find some supporting details in the text?

3. Who did I meet in London unexpectedly? How did we?

Steerforth.

They felt it unbelievable but meanwhile overjoyed.

4. What were the Peggotty's celebrating?

Ham and Emily have just engaged.

5. What did Steerforth think about the engagement? Why would you say that?

6. Why do you think Steerforth behave that way?

7. Why did Steerforth refuse to visit my childhood with me?

Because claimed he wanted to go sailing.

8. What kind of people is Steerforth?

arrogant

shrewd

sophisticated

“Emily is very beautiful,” said Steerforth **thoughtfully**.

“I agree,” I grinned. “She and Ham will make an excellent couple.”

Steerforth **frowned**. “I’m not sure about that,” he said. “I don’t think Ham is good enough for Emily.”

I stopped and eyed Steerforth with shock. “That’s a pretty harsh thing to say!” I protested.

A twinkle of laughter appeared in Steerforth’s eyes and I thought he was joking. But later, I realized how stupid I had been not to realize what was happening.

find Steerforth, slumped in front of the fire, lost in thought.

'How was boating today?' I asked him. My voice gave him a start and he looked gloomily into the fire.

'What's the matter?' I asked. 'It's just me, Copperfield,' he muttered. 'I'm feeling very low today.'

'What do you mean?' I asked, but he went on staring into the fire and didn't reply.

I was puzzled by Steerforth's odd behaviour, but he wasn't the only one who was acting strangely. Emily had suddenly become nervous and moody. One night when we were all

together, she suddenly burst out crying. 'You should have chosen someone better than me!' she sobbed to Ham. 'I'm no good for you!'

I was amazed by this outburst. Ham and Emily seemed to be so in love. Had something gone wrong between them? I just couldn't work it out.

8. How did Steerforth behave strangely one evening?

He **had a lot in his mind** and maybe met **something frustrating.**

9. What can you infer about him from his odd behavior?

9. How did Emily behave?
as **odd/strange** as Steerforth

10. Why do you think Emily said these words?

She felt **sorry for Ham.**
She felt **regretful.**

10. What do you think happened between Steerforth and Emily?

11. Why would that happen?

12. What kind of profession did I decide to take on?

Lawyer.

13. What kind of difficulty did I meet? Who solved it?

Financial difficulty.

Aunt Betsey helped me pay the training costs.

14. Up to now, can you compare the life track of David's with Dicken's?

Father dead when David born

Working in a filthy warehouse

**Adopted by Aunt Betsey and
life starting to change**

Starting to work as a lawyer

Father in prison for debt

Working in a factory

**Inheriting money from uncle
and life starting to change**

Starting to work as a reporter

Can you understand
why Dicken regard
the novel as his
“favorite child”?

What kind of people is David?

bull-headed
arrogant

Absurd/
ridiculous

How did I feel toward her warning?

She came to **warn** me of Steerforth.

15. Why did Agnes visit me?

She came to **tell** me his father's difficult situation (for help).

How did I feel toward Uriah?

Furious
I resented him.

impulsive/rash
a man of integrity

What kind of people is David?

"I'm very worried about one of your friends," she told me.

I pulled a face. "And who's that?" I asked.

"Steerforth," she replied.

"Steerforth!" I cried. "What's the matter with him?"

"All I'm saying is that I know he's kind and charming, but he's also rich and used to having everything he wants..."

"I won't hear of it!" I protested. "Steerforth's one of my oldest friends!"

"The worm!" I declared with outrage, as I remembered Uriah's insistence that he was too 'umble' ever to be Mr. Wickfield's partner. "You must stop this happening, Agnes!"

...

"I'll deal with Uriah!" I seethed (control your anger).

...

I had to admit that Agnes was right. Uriah was a powerful enemy and if...

16. How did Uriah react when I spoke to Agnes during the party?

He **hovered** nearby, listening in to our conversation.

['hɒvə(r)] to wait somewhere, near sb.
e.g. Judith was hovering in the doorway.

17. Why did I invite Uriah for a coffee after the party?

I wanted to “**steal**” some information and then **deal with** him.

18. What’s Uriah’s plan on Agnes?

He wanted to **marry** her.

19. How did my feeling change during the conversation?

angry → **furious** → **afraid** → **worried**

“Liar!” I thought...



I felt my blood boil.



...that made me shudder.



sleepless...tossed and turned...

20. Find sentences that describe Uriah.

His **slimy behavior** was almost unbearable... Whenever I spoke to Agnes, he **hovered** nearby, listening in to our conversation.

He **leaped at** the chance. “Oh what an honor it is for an ‘umble person...”

“It’s a shame about Mr. Wickfield,” he said, **pretending to sigh**...

“But it’s not Mr. Wickfield I have my eyes on,” Uriah said, **leaning forward and rubbing his clammy hands together**...

“...Let’s keep it as our little secret.” And **he smile in a slimy, unpleasant way** that made me shudder.

greedy

sly/foxy

hypocritical

evil

selfish

power-addicted

13. Try to find the sentence describing the following feelings.

happy

“Ham and Emily...” cried Dan, beaming with happiness.

disappointed

My heart sank.

surprised

I turned to her in astonishment.

unhappy

I pulled a face.

angry

I felt my blood boil.

“The worm!” I declared with outrage.

17. Try to find the words indicating “say sth”.

continue

“You could...”, **continued** Aunt Betsey. “See the sights.”

exclaim

“Little Copperfield!” he **exclaimed**, with surprise.

mutter

“It’s just me, Copperfield,” he **muttered**.

declare

“The worm!” I **declared** with outrage.

Chapter 8

Bad News from the Peggottys

VII. Chapter 8: Bad News from the Peggottys

But something was about to happen that would send all thoughts of Agnes and Uriah out of my mind—at least for a while.

1. What does “something” refer to?

I fell in love with Dora, Mr. Spenlow's daughter.

How does the writer show David's love for Dora?

2. How did I feel when I found we both loved each other?

over the moon; ecstatic

[ɪk'stætɪk] *adj.*
extremely happy

To me, Dora was **the most beautiful creature** in the world and I would walk right across London from north to south, just for the chance to see the light at her window.

I would stand for hours, waiting for a glimpse of my beloved, as she set out on an errand with her little dog Jip. I could imagine **no greater joy** than to sit in the same room with her and to hear her voice.

3. How did Mr. Spenlow react to my secret engagement with Dora?

He got **furious** and refused it decidedly.

Why do you think Mr. Spenlow reacted this way?

My poor Aunt Betsey lost all her money.

4. What kind of people is Mr. Spenlow?

shrewd

sophisticated

sly/foxy

5. What happened to Mr. Spenlow finally?

He **died unexpectedly**.

One day after my meeting with Mr. Spenlow, he asked to see me.

“What are the meaning of these letters you’ve been sending to my daughter?” he **demanded**.

“I love your daughter and we are engaged,” I declared.

“Nonsense!” **exploded** Mr. Spenlow. “You will not talk of engagement.”

“But...but,” I stammered.

“No!” **raged** Mr. Spenlow. “We will throw these letters in the fire and forget all about them!”

6. Why was I surprised to see Emily?

She has totally changed.

Why do you think she changed so much?

7. Why did Emily leave a letter?

To show her sorry for Ham.

'...When you who love me so much better than I have ever deserved, see this, I shall be far away...I will never come back, unless he brings me back a lady. Rub me out of your life, Ham, for I am truly wicked.

My last tears and love to my dear Uncle Dan.'

8. How did I feel toward Emily's leaving?

astonished



confused



angry



regretful

What kind of people is Ham according to your understanding?

When we got down to Harmonth, I dropped in to see Dan in his barge house. He was just the same as ever. But I was shocked when I set my eyes on Emily. She was so changed. Gone was the beautiful, passionate young woman I'd always know, to be replaced by a silent, trembling figure who clung to her Uncle Dan all the time.

9. Try to find the sentence describing the following feelings.

desperate

I was thrown into the depth of despair.

unhappy

Dan's face clouded over with a dark sheen of fury

astonished

I sank down into a chair, completely shattered.

10. Try to find the words indicating “say sth”.

stammer

“But...but,” I stammered.

groan

“Of course it's my fault,!” I groaned.

Chapter 9

Uriah Heep's Scheme

VII. Chapter 9: Uriah Heep's Schemes

In the days after that terrible discovery, I went over and over everything that had happened. Agnes had been right yet again. Steerforth had behaved very badly and I was ashamed of him—but I still could not believe that he was wholly evil. He had betrayed his friends through selfishness, but he had not meant to do them harm.

1. How did I feel toward Steerforth's running away with Emily?

angry

I was ashamed of him. He betrayed his friends.

regretful

Agnes had been right all the time.

astonished

I still couldn't believe that he was wholly evil.

Why would David have this kind of mixed feelings?

2. Why did Agnes visit me again?

To tell me the bad situation his father was in

What kind of situation is his father in?

He was **totally controlled** by Uriah both **physically and financially**.

3. What can you infer from Mr. Wickfield's words and actions?

He's both **furious** and **regretful**.

Why would he feel that way?

4. How did I react?

I **fought** with him.

What do you think David would do to deal with Uriah?

"That man is my **torturer!**" he said falteringly, pointing a finger at Uriah. "He has taken **every drop of** peace and quiet from my life!"

...

"You have **ruined me!**" wailed Mr. Wickfield.

...

This was too much for Mr. Wickfield. He **moaned in horror**, started pulling his hair out, and beating his head with his own fists.

Chapter 10

The Shipwreck

IX. Chapter 10: The Shipwreck

Then, at last, I had a stroke of luck. Mr. Micawber wrote to me from Mr. Wickfield's suggesting that my aunt and I should come down to Canterbury. Mysteriously, he hinted that he had some very important news for us.

I tried not to raise my hopes too high...

1. Why do you think I didn't raise my hopes too high?

Because Mr. Micawber isn't *reliable* enough for me to trust.

2. How did Mr. Micawber behave when seeing my aunt and me?

He *pretended* to be very *surprised*.

Why do you think Mr. Micawber behave that way?

3. Why didn't Mr. Micawber leave as ordered?

He wanted to **reveal** Uriah's scheme and **accuse** Uriah **of** crime.

4. How did Uriah react to Mr. Micawber's accusation?

He instantly **flew into a rage** and tried to **defend himself**.

Why do you think Uriah reacted this way?

He thought Mr. Micawber wouldn't betray him.

He blamed all these on David.

The dream to climb to higher social class was shattered.

Uriah **spluttered with fury**. "So this is a plot!" he shrieked, **glaring at** me. I'll get even with you and then you'll be sorry!"

...

He **lunged** at Mr. Micawber, trying to **snatch** the letter...

As the list of his crimes grew longer, Uriah's **face twisted** with rage. Gone was any pretence of 'umbleness.

...

"I've always hated you, Copperfield," he **burst out**...

"But I'm not going to tell you anything more," **sarled** Uriah.

5. How was my marriage with Dora?

It wasn't happy and successful as expected.

Why would the marriage become such unsuccessful?

Dora wasn't good at **household affairs**.

Our first baby died and Dora fell ill.

6. Who helped me through the difficult time?

Agnes

7. How did Ham lose his life?

He sailed into the storm to save the last sailor.

What kind of people is Ham based on these chapters?

kind

warm-hearted

simple

a man of integrity

8. Who was the last sailor?

Steerforth

Chapter 11

New Beginnings and Happy Endings

X. Chapter 11: New Beginnings and Happy Endings

Steerforth had left Emily abroad with no money, and so she came to London where Dan Peggotty finally tracked her down. Dan decided that there was nothing to hold him in Yarmouth and he and Emily began a new life in Australia.

And in search of yet another fresh start, the Micawbers decided that they would also go to Australia. “Something will turn up there,” said Mr. Micawber, as cheerful as ever.

I went travelling abroad as I’d planned, taking pleasure only in the letters from Agnes Wickfield, urging me to come home and continue my writing career. I listened to her encouragement and picked up my pen once more.

1. Why did Ham, Emily and the Micawbers went to Australia?

To seek for a new life.

2. Why did I travel abroad for a long time?

To forget about the miserable things that happened before.

3. How was Mr. Wickfield?

He was contented, free forever from Uriah Heep.

When I finally plucked up the courage to ask her to marry me, she told me that she'd secretly loved me for years. I could hardly believe my happiness and we were married within a fortnight. Aunt Betsey, who had always liked Agnes, was almost as pleased as I was.

As I sit here now I have the two women at my side, who mean everything to me—Agnes, my wife, and Aunt Betsey, who looked after me when I was all alone in the world.

4. How did I feel toward my life at present?

contented and happy

Why do you think I could have such a happy ending?