

Who was this man?

Read the following biography and underline all the words you understand:



Charles Dickens /ˈtʃɑːrlz ˈdɪkɪnz/ was born on February 7, 1812 in Portsmouth, England, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. He was the second of eight children.

In 1822, the family moved to London, where his father worked as a clerk in the Navy Pay Office. He had problems to save money and brought his family to financial disaster. In 1824, he was imprisoned for debt. Charles was the oldest of the Dickens children.

So, he was withdrawn from school and sent to work in a shoe-dye factory. His mother and his brothers and sisters joined John Dickens in prison.

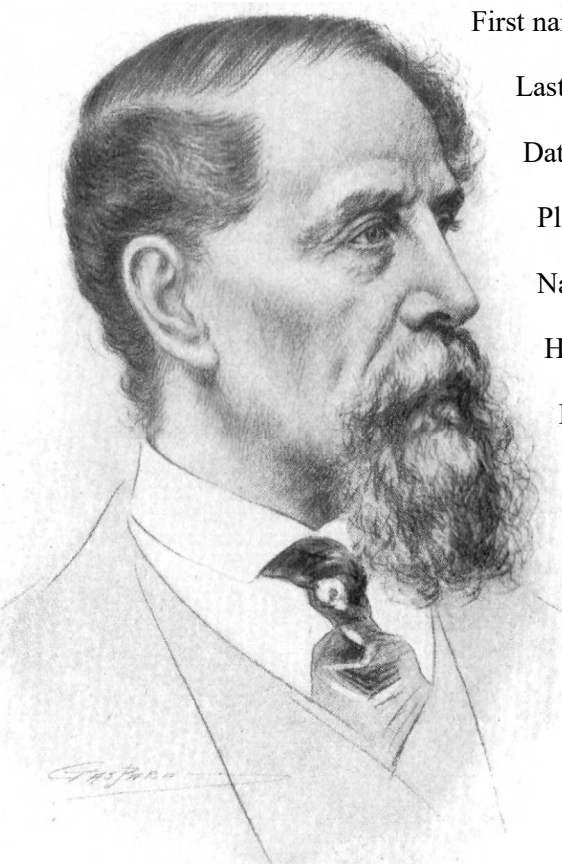
During this period, Charles lived alone and considered it was the most terrible experience of his life. When the family fortunes improved, Charles went back to school, after which he became an office boy, a reporter and finally an author. With **Pickwick Papers** (1836-7)

he became immediately famous. In a few years he was easily the most popular and respected writer of his time.

It has been estimated that one out of every ten persons in Victorian England was a Dickens reader.

Oliver Twist (1837), **Nicholas Nickleby** (1838-9) and **The Old Curiosity Shop** (1840-41) were huge successes. He also wrote **A Christmas Carol** (1843), **The Chimes** (1844), **The Cricket on the Hearth** (1845), **David Copperfield** (1849), **Bleak House** (1852-3), **Hard Times** (1854), **A Tale of Two Cities** (1859), **Great Expectations** (1860-1) and **Our mutual Friend** (1864) completed his major works. Dickens married Catherine Hogarth. They had ten children but they separated in 1858. Charles Dickens died suddenly at home on June 9, 1870. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Complete Dickens' identity card:



First name:

Last name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Nationality:

His father's name:

His mother's name:

His father's job:

Dickens' jobs:

His wife's name:

Number of children:

Date of death:

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12933/12933-h/12933-h.htm#CHARLES_DICKENS

Dickens's famous books: find the corresponding titles in English:

TITLES IN FRENCH	TITLES IN ENGLISH
Les Aventures de Mr Pickwick	
Conte de Noël	
Le Carillon	
Le Grillon du Foyer	
Les Temps Difficiles	
Les Grandes Espérances	
Notre Ami Commun	

Do you know the literary genres in English ?

1. Match these English literary terms to their French equivalents:

Poetry	•	•	Romans
Fantasy	•	•	Nouvelles
Short stories	•	•	Contes
Novels	•	•	Fantastique
Drama / plays	•	•	Poésie
Tales	•	•	Théâtre

2. Read the following definitions and find the literary genres which correspond to each of them :

- > Poetry/Fantasy <
- > Drama/Plays <
- > Science Fiction <
- > Biography <
- > Fables/Myths <
- > Short Stories <
- > Novel <

GENRES	Characteristics
	A long prose narrative that usually portrays imaginary characters and events
	A book about a famous person's life
	A short fictitious story intended to teach a lesson and in which animals speak and act like human beings
	A legend often describing the adventures of a superhuman being that attempts to describe the origins of something
	A written work that tells a story through action and speech and is meant to be acted on a stage
	A short prose narrative that usually portrays imaginary characters and events
	Writing usually with a rhythm that repeats
	A work of literature set in an unreal world often with superhuman characters and monsters
	A fictitious story based on scientific principals.