



David Copperfield

Book key

- 1 Possible answers:
a *Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby, The Pickwick Papers, A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, Hard Times, Little Dorrit, Our Mutual Friend, Bleak House, A Tale of Two Cities* (and other stories)
b The problems of poorer people in the 1800s.
c Happy, because he was successful; sad, because he had a difficult time as a child and an unsuccessful marriage.
d Thirty-seven.
- 2 **a** clerk, gentleman, lawyer, servant
b carriage, cart, coach
- 3 (✓): Peggotty, the sea, Mr Peggotty's home, Little Emily
- 4 **a** Peggotty **b** Little Emily **c** Miss Trotwood
d Mrs Copperfield **e** Mr Peggotty
f Mr Murdstone **g** Mrs Gummidge
- 5–6 Open answers
- 7 **a** Mr Mell **b** Mr Creakle **c** Steerforth
d Mr Peggotty and Ham **e** David's mother
f David's mother and brother **g** Mr Barkis
h Mr Quinion
- 8 **a** He is unhappy because he has to wear a board on his back and Mr Creakle is cruel.
b He likes him because he is kind, friendly and a good teacher.
c He thinks Mr Creakle is cruel. He probably likes Mrs Creakle more because she gives him his bad news kindly.
d He likes both of them. Traddles is friendly, and Steerforth enjoys listening to his stories.
e He is happy because he has a new baby brother.
f He is sad because his mother and baby brother are dead.
g He is happy because everybody is friendly.
h He is happy for them, but he is now alone.
- 9–10 Open answers
- 11 **a** dislikes **b** lives **c** walks **d** on a donkey
e kind **f** dislikes **g** lawyer **h** likes
- 12 His clothes are bright, not dark. He has no hair. His house has little furniture. Mrs Micawber thinks that he is an unlucky man. The Micawbers owe money – they didn't steal it.
- 13–14 Open answers
- 15 **a** 4 **b** 5 **c** 2 **d** 9 **e** 6 **f** 8 **g** 3 **h** 7 **i** 1
- 16 **a** Yes. Mr Micawber likes Uriah Heep because he is clever.
b Yes. They are like brother and sister.
c Yes and No. Ham is happy with Emily, but Emily is unhappy with Ham for some reason.
d No. Agnes hates Uriah Heep because he has bought half of her husband's business.
e No. Miss Murdstone is always watching Dora and never leaves her alone.
- 17–18 Open answers
- 19 **a** ✗ **b** ✗ **c** ✗ **d** ✓ **e** ✓ **f** ✓ **g** ✗ **h** ✓
i ✓ **j** ✗
- 20 **a** Traddles and Sophy do not have enough money. David and Dora have not told Dora's father yet.
b Mr Micawber writes to David that he has lost Traddles's money. Peggotty writes to David about her dying husband, Barkis. Emily writes to Ham about why she has run away with Steerforth. Dora writes love letters to David.
c Open answers
- 21 Open answers
- 22 **c** and **e**
- 23 **a** David is talking to Agnes about Dora.
b Agnes is talking to and about David.
c Mr Wickfield is talking to Uriah Heep about Agnes.
d Mr Peggotty is talking to David about Ham.
e Traddles is talking to David about Sophy.
f David is talking to and about Dora.
- 24 **a** Agnes is angry with Uriah Heep for turning her father into his servant.
b Dora is angry with David for a short time because he has lost his money.
c Mr Spenlow is angry with David. He thinks David tried to deceive him about his love for Dora.
d Mr Wickfield is angry with Uriah Heep for wanting to marry his daughter.
e Mr Peggotty is still angry with Steerforth for running away with Emily.
f Miss Trotwood is angry with Uriah Heep for wanting to marry Agnes.
- 25–26 Open answers
- 27 **a** spends (not saves)
b London (not Yarmouth)
c jumps (not falls)
d writer (not lawyer)
e angry (not friendly)
f loves (not hates)



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g Mrs Gummidge (not Ham)

h Mr Wickfield (not Mr Micawber)

28–29 Open answers

30 a D b A c D d D e A, M f M g M

h A i A

31–41 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 Open answers

2 It may make the story more interesting if its readers are young people. Besides, readers get a full description of David's life this way.

3 Ten stories are mentioned.

4–7 Open answers

8 David, Ham, Little Emily

9 Those words make them feel bad, silly, stupid and very unhappy. He makes them suffer a lot. It's like hitting a person with words.

10–12 Open answers

13 Mr Mell isn't rude to Steerforth. It's Steerforth who is rude to him. Mr Creakle doesn't ask Steerforth to leave because he's very rich. Mr Mell is the true gentleman.

14 Open answers

15 At Mr Murdstone's house David feels very unhappy, afraid and very uncomfortable. He talks very little. At Mr Peggotty's house David feels calm, happy and comfortable.

16 Open answers

17 Miss Murdstone treats David badly. She doesn't let him hold his little brother.
– His mother and little brother die.
– He isn't sent back to school because Mr Murdstone doesn't want to spend any money on him.

18 Both Dickens's father and Mr Micawber owed money to a lot of people. When John Dickens was sent to a debtors' prison, Charles left school and started working at a shoe-polish factory. There, he had to put labels onto bottles. David Copperfield had to wash dirty bottles and fill them with wine. Charles's family also ended up in prison like Mr Micawber's.

19–20 Open answers

21 – Steerforth is very proud. He thinks that the people in Yarmouth are rough and rude.
– He hit Rosa Dartle on the mouth when he was a little boy and now she has a scar.
– He feels that he isn't a good man.
– He seems to be in love with Emily.

22–28 Open answers

29 He can't go on studying law and he can't marry Dora. Open answers.

30 Through Mr Wickfield's case Dickens wants to teach us that drink destroys people.

31 Open answers

32 Open answers. Perhaps she wasn't clever enough, perhaps she was still a child, perhaps she was shallow.

33 In the nineteenth century it was wrong for a woman to live with a man without being married. This is why Emily doesn't want to be found by her family or go back to Yarmouth. It is also what makes Mr Peggotty decide to settle down in Australia.

34–36 Open answers

37 Canada, New Zealand, India, South Africa, etc. Many chose Australia because it wasn't highly populated and it had fertile lands.

Activity worksheets key

1 'He's not like Mr Copperfield.' (Peggotty)
'This boy is stupid and lazy.' (Mr Murdstone)
'Please don't hit me.' (David)
'You're going to go to a school.' (Peggotty)
'You've hurt Mr Murdstone and you've hurt me.' (Clara Copperfield)
'You have a new father.' (Peggotty)
'Don't be soft with the child.' (Mr Murdstone)
'I'll leave the house *now*.' (Miss Murdstone)

2 Open answers

3 a near b poor c pipe d school
e children/students f holiday g board
h neck i bites j laughing k unhappy
l fun

4–5 Open answers

6 Suggested answers:

a 'Of course'.
b 'Please, aunt. I'm David Copperfield.'
c 'He can stay here.'
d 'I'm studying law.'
e 'Yes, lawyers earn a lot of money, don't they?'

7 Open answers

8 a Uriah Heep b Miss Micawber c Steerforth
d Mr Peggotty e David f Agnes

9–10 Open answers

11 Emily, Mr Murdstone, Miss Murdstone

12 a David with Dora
b Agnes with David
c Traddles with Sophy
d Emily with Steerforth
e Uriah Heep with Agnes



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13 Open answers

14 a Dora b Miss Trotwood c Martha Endells
d David e Mr Micawber f Rose
g Mrs Gummidge

15 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✗ f ✗ g ✓ h ✓
i ✗ j ✓

16 a 3 b 2 c 5 d 4 e 1 f 6

17–18 Open answers

19 Right answers: a, d, e

20 Steerforth and Uriah Heep.

21–22 Open answers

Progress test key

1 David was born on a *terrible stormy night* six months after his father's death. Just *before* he was born his mother received a visitor: Miss Trotwood. She wanted the baby to be called *Betsey*, like her. When she saw that the baby was a boy she left the house and never saw *David's mother* again. David was happy with his mother and Peggotty but things changed when *Mr* Murdstone appeared. He *often* came to visit David's mother. When David returned from *Yarmouth* Peggotty told David that he had a new *father*. Miss Murdstone managed Clara's *house* and once she kept David locked in his room for *five* days.

2 a Mr Creakle b Traddles c David
d David's mother e Miss Murdstone
f Mr Murdstone

3 a 3 b 2 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 8 g 7 h 5

4 a Because he owes money to a lot of people.

b Because she thinks that she's a bad woman/because she's in love with Steerforth and not with Ham.

c Because Mr Spenlow is going to teach David law.

d Because he's drunk.

e Because she's company for Dora and looks after her.

5 a Traddles b Rosa c Mrs Steerforth

d Mr Spenlow's e Julia Mills

6 a London b France c Canterbury d France

e England f Yarmouth

7 a Traddles b Dora c Emily d Mr Micawber

e Uriah Heep f Miss Trotwood

8 a ✗

b ✗ Traddles found five thousand pounds of Miss Trotwood's money.

c ✓

d ✗

e ✓

f ✓

g ✓