



Perfect Dickens Recall

Your knowledge of Dickens is about to be tested! Use the words in the box *Dickens* to fill in the blanks below. Beware some words are there to trick you! Then write the answers in the spaces provided.

articles	Factory	ten	Christmas	Victorian	fifty
poverty	Prison	shorthand	Dickensian	1564	Portsmouth
Oliver	1870	school	Dagenham	Papers	Cheryl Cole

Charles Dickens is one of the most famous _____ authors. He was born in Landport, near _____ in 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. Two years later, his family moved to London and then on to Chatham, where Charles went to _____. The good fortune of being sent to school at the age of nine was short-lived because in 1821 his father fell into debt and was arrested. The entire family, except Charles, were sent to Marshalsea _____ along with their father. Charles was sent to work to earn money for the family in Warren's Blacking _____, where he made polish for boots, and endured horrible conditions. He was only _____ years old.

In the years that followed, Charles showed great determination to improve his life. He taught himself '_____', a style of writing, and eventually he became a newspaper reporter in London. He also started to write _____ for magazines, using the pen name 'Boz'. His stories were very popular.

His terrible experience at the blacking factory haunted him all of his life: in his stories, he often wrote about _____ and the hard social conditions experienced by many people living in London at that time. This theme is given the name _____. The first of his many successful novels was *The Pickwick* _____, which was published in 1837. He also wrote _____ *Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield* and *A* _____ *Carol*.

In 1837, Charles married Catherine Hogarth, and they had ten children! Charles Dickens died on 9th June _____. His books have become recognised as 'classics', and he is famously known as one of Britain's greatest ever _____.

Now answer the following questions in your books, using the information you have just read.

Remember to write in full sentences.

1. What year was Charles Dickens born in?
2. What period in history was Dickens writing in?
3. Where did Dickens go to school?
4. Explain how life became difficult for the Dickens family in 1821.

(3 points)

5. What did Dickens teach himself to do?
6. After learning this new skill, what job did Dickens get?
7. Explain what the term 'pen name' means.
8. What is a common theme in Dickens' stories and how was he drawing on his own experiences?

(3 points)

9. What was Dickens' first novel and when was it published?
10. What is Dickens' contribution to English literature?

(2 points)

