DAVID COPPERFIELD

Original by Charles Dickens
Retold by Pauline Francis





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Introduction

Charles Dickens was born in 1812, the second of eight children. When he was twelve years old, his father went to prison because he owed money. Charles went out to work to help his family. He never forgot this terrible time when he was poor, and later used his experiences in some of his stories.

In his twenties, Charles found work writing about London life for newspapers and magazines. Some of these articles were published as a book called *The Pickwick Papers*. This is how Charles Dickens became famous at the age of twenty-four.

David Copperfield was published as a novel in 1850. It tells the story of a young boy called David who, after his mother's death, has to find his own way in a harsh world – and who dreams of becoming a writer. He makes many friends on the way, both good and bad.

Charles Dickens wrote many famous novels, including Nicholas Nickleby, A Christmas Carol, Oliver Twist and Great Expectations. He died in 1870 at the age of fifty-eight and is buried in Westminster Abbey, London.