

Name _____



Charles Dickens: A Voice for the Poor

Charles Dickens was one of the most famous writers in history. He is known for writing books that tell exciting stories while teaching important lessons about kindness, fairness, and the struggles of poor people. His books, such as *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist*, are still read and loved by people around the world.

Early Life and Challenges

Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. He had a happy childhood at first, but his life changed when his father was sent to prison for owing money. At that time, families of prisoners had to live on their own, so 12-year-old Charles had to work in a factory to help support his family.

His job was to paste labels on bottles, and the work was long and tiring. He felt sad and lonely, but he never gave up. Later, this difficult experience inspired many of his stories about poor children who worked hard to survive.

Becoming a Writer

When Charles was older, he became a newspaper reporter and wrote about the lives of ordinary people in London. He used his writing to show the unfairness of society and the struggles of the poor. Soon, he started writing novels that became very popular. His most famous books include:

- **Oliver Twist (1837-1839)** – The story of a poor orphan who faces many struggles but never gives up.
- **A Christmas Carol (1843)** – The story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a selfish man who learns the importance of kindness.
- **David Copperfield (1850)** – A book based on Dickens' own life, telling the story of a boy growing up with many hardships.
- **Great Expectations (1861)** – A novel about a young boy named Pip who dreams of becoming a gentleman.

His Impact on Society

Dickens did not just write stories; he used his books to speak out against injustice. He believed that poor children deserved better lives and that rich people should help those in need. His books encouraged people to be kind and fair to others.

People loved Dickens' books because they were exciting, emotional, and full of memorable characters. He even performed his stories in front of large crowds, acting out different voices and scenes.

Later Life and Legacy

Charles Dickens became one of the most famous writers of his time, but he never forgot his own struggles. He spent his later years helping the poor and supporting schools for children. He passed away on June 9, 1870, but his books continue to inspire readers today. His stories remind us to be kind, work hard, and help those who are less fortunate.

