

Contents

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
FACT FILE Fact or fiction?	8
Characters	12
Before Reading	14
1 David Copperfield	19
2 A new father	22
3 School	28
4 A death	32
5 London	34
6 Aunt Betsey	37
7 A new school	41
8 Uriah Heep	45
9 Steerforth	47
10 A secret	50
11 Dora	53
12 Mr Spenlow	56
13 Marriage	59
14 Mr Micawber's plan	61
15 Too young	65
16 The future	66
17 The storm	67
18 Abroad	70
19 Agnes	72
Postscript	76
After Reading	79
LIFE SKILLS Very humble, very fake	90

FACT OR FICTION?

Writers often include parts of their own lives in their work. Ernest Hemingway said: “Write about what you know and know well.” And what do we know best? Our own lives, of course.

There is no fixed rule•, and authors can differ• greatly in how much of themselves and their lives they put into their books. Literature is not created separately from its context•. It often reflects the author’s real life, personal conflicts• and cultural world. Some level of inspiration• from their own lives may even be unavoidable• for writers. What is certain is that writing is not only a powerful way to express ideas and feelings, but it can also help writers explore and understand themselves better.

The amount of his/her life an author includes can change from a few hidden details to a **memoir** or **autobiography**. However, most authors choose something in the middle. **Autofiction** has become popular. In autofiction, the main character is based on the author, but some characters and parts of the story are invented.

It’s my life

Some famous examples of books that use parts of their authors’ lives include Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*, Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse* and James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. Joyce went even further, using his own everyday life to explore human thoughts and feelings in a wider way.

- **conflicts:** (here) difficulties; problems
- **context:** place, time, etc. when something happens
- **differ:** be different from each other
- **fixed rule:** one correct way
- **inspiration:** ideas that help one create something
- **unavoidable:** impossible not to do; inevitable



OVER TO YOU

Autobiography, autofiction and memoir all have a first-person narrator. What does this mean?

 In pairs, write definitions for autobiography, autofiction and memoir.

DAVID COPPERFIELD



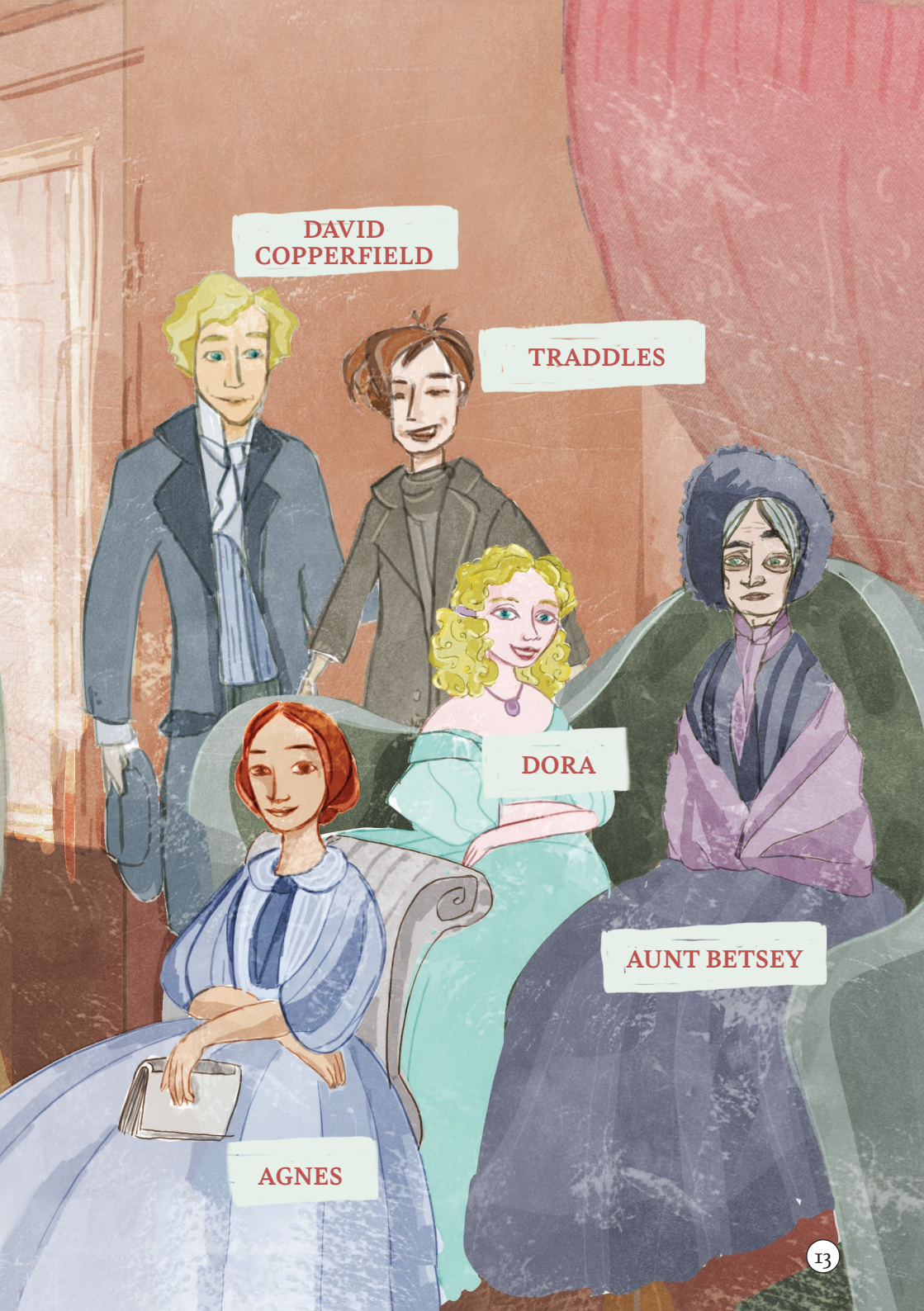
MR MURDSTONE

An illustration of a Victorian parlor scene. Mr. Murdstone stands on the left in a grey suit with a white shirt and cravat, his hand on his hip. Peggotty stands on the right in a green dress and bonnet. Clara Copperfield sits in the foreground on the left in a grey dress with a high collar. Young David sits on the floor in the center in a green striped shirt and green pants. A large potted plant is in the background.

PEGGOTTY

YOUNG DAVID

CLARA
COPPERFIELD

An illustration of five characters from the novel David Copperfield. David Copperfield, a young man with blonde hair, stands on the left in a grey suit. Traddles, a man with brown hair, stands behind him in a dark coat. Dora, a young woman with blonde curly hair, sits in the center in a light blue dress. Agnes, a woman with red hair, sits in the foreground on the left in a blue dress, holding a book. Aunt Betsey, an older woman with grey hair and a blue bonnet, sits on the right in a dark blue dress and purple shawl. The background features a red curtain and a doorway.

**DAVID
COPPERFIELD**

TRADDLES

DORA

AUNT BETSEY

AGNES

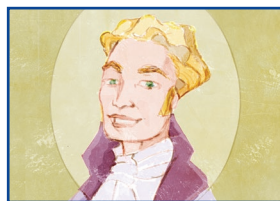
BEFORE READING

1 The following sentences describe six of the characters. Match a beginning (a-f) to a suitable ending (1-6).

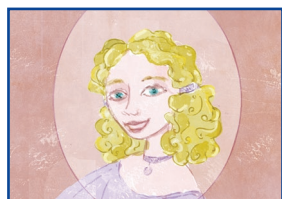
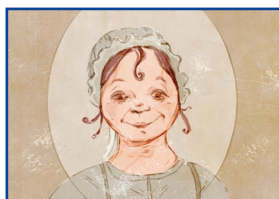
- a ☐ David Copperfield is an honest and trusting
- b ☐ Agnes Wickfield was a kind and wise young
- c ☐ Betsey Trotwood was a rich old lady
- d ☐ James Steerforth was confident and handsome,
- e ☐ Peggotty was the Copperfields' servant and
- f ☐ Dora Spenlow had lovely curly blonde hair

- 1 and she was David's aunt.
- 2 she was always kind to David.
- 3 woman with a sweet face.
- 4 but he had a dangerous side.
- 5 and a girlish sense of fun.
- 6 young man, who had a difficult childhood.

2  Now, label the pictures with the correct character name. How do you know? Tell a partner.



a b c



d e f

3 Match the family words to their definitions.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a ☐ aunt | b ☐ fiancée |
| c ☐ godmother | d ☐ niece |
| e ☐ nephew | f ☐ uncle |

- 1 daughter of someone's brother or sister
- 2 son of someone's brother or sister
- 3 sister of someone's father or mother, or wife of someone's uncle or aunt
- 4 brother of someone's father or mother, or husband of someone's uncle or aunt
- 5 woman who promises to be a guide for a child (in the Christian religion)
- 6 woman who someone is engaged to be married to

4 Complete the sentences from the story with words from Exercise 3.

- a Emily and Ham were Mr Peggotty's and, the children of his brothers, who both died while fishing.
- b 'I shall help you with the baby when she is born. I will be her and look after her well.'
- c Betsey Trotwood was my father's My father was her favourite nephew.
- d Then I went to see Traddles. I knew that his Sophy lived in Devon. 'You see her so rarely! How can you live with it?' I asked him.

5 In pairs, brainstorm any other family words you know. Make sentences using them. Share in class.

1 DAVID COPPERFIELD

 I was born in Suffolk, England, on a Friday night at midnight. Some women in my village said that people born at midnight, on Friday, are unlucky•. You can decide if that is true when you read my story.

My father died six months before I was born. My mother was much younger than my father, and she was pregnant• with me when he died. That Friday, she was sitting by the fire, crying. It was a cold day in March, and she was worried about her child who would soon be born.

She looked up and saw a strange lady• with a walking stick• coming into the garden. The lady did not knock on the door like other people, but she looked in the window. It was Betsey Trotwood, my father's aunt. She was the richest person in the family. My father was her favourite nephew, but when he married my mother, Betsey was very annoyed•.

‘She is half your age, Copperfield!’ she said. ‘She is like a doll, a child!’

After that, Betsey moved away and did not visit the family again.

My mother let Betsey into the house and started to cry.

‘Stop crying, Clara,’ said Betsey, ‘I shall help you with the baby when she's born.’

‘It may be a boy,’ said my mother quietly.

‘It will be a girl,’ said Betsey Trotwood firmly•. ‘You will call her Betsey Trotwood Copperfield. I will be her godmother and look after her well.’

- **annoyed:** angry
- **firmly:** in a way that is certain
- **lady:** woman
- **pregnant:** waiting for a baby

- **unlucky:** who bad things will happen to
- **walking stick:**



The night that I was born, the doctor went to Aunt Betsey.

'How is she?' asked my aunt.

'Mrs Copperfield is very tired after the birth•,' said the doctor.

'No, I mean the baby!' she said.

'It is a baby boy,' said the doctor.

Betsey Trotwood put on her hat and coat, hit the doctor with her walking stick and left the house.

Betsey Trotwood

What do we know about Betsey Trotwood?

Who is she?

What does she want?

Has she ever left suddenly before?

Why does she want a girl, not a boy?



Share ideas with a partner.

- **birth:** when a baby comes into the world

My first memories are of my mother's pretty hair and Peggotty, our servant•. Peggotty was kind, and she looked after us. One evening, I was sitting by the fire with Peggotty. She was repairing some clothes, and I was reading her a story. There was a knock on the door. My mother was there, looking very pretty. There was a gentleman• beside her, with dark hair and eyes. My mother kissed me and the gentleman said that I was very lucky. I didn't like him, and I didn't want him to stay.

Mr Murdstone, that was his name, said that I was a good boy. He then said goodnight and left. But we soon saw him again. I got used to• seeing him, but I still didn't like him.

One evening, my mother was out and Peggotty and I were sitting together.

'Master Davy, would you like to come with me to Yarmouth?' asked Peggotty. 'I am going to visit my brother. There is the sea, and boats, and fishermen•, and Ham to play with.' Ham was her nephew.

'What will Mother do while we are away?' I asked.

'She's going to stay with a neighbour,' said Peggotty.

On the morning we left for Yarmouth, my mother kissed me and cried. Then, as the cart• began to move, she shouted, 'Stop!' And ran to kiss me again. At that moment, Mr Murdstone appeared• next to my mother. I heard him say, 'Clara, you must control yourself•.'

What does he want? I thought. Peggotty looked unhappy, too.

• **appeared:** came into view

• **cart:**



• **control yourself:** stop showing your emotions

• **fishermen:** men who catch fish in the sea

• **gentleman:** (polite) man

• **got used to:** (it) became usual

• **servant:** person who works in another person's house

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

defend greet handsome power sore train will wise

- a Once in London, David began to as a lawyer.
- b Mr Spenlow did not leave a, and he owed a lot of money.
- c David lay on the floor, hot,, angry and crying.
- d As soon as he arrived, his mother got up to him.
- e Soon after Miss Murdstone's arrival, David's mother was completely in her

2 Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Circle the word or words (1, 2, 3 or 4) which is/are closest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.

- a My father was her favourite nephew, but when he married my mother, Betsey was very annoyed.
1 surprised 2 worried 3 uninterested 4 angry
- b The boys started arriving for the new term. I was still wearing my sign and I felt ashamed.
1 confused 2 guilty 3 embarrassed 4 inferior
- c Eventually, Mr Micawber was sent to a debtors' prison.
1 Possibly 2 In the end 3 Probably 4 As a consequence
- d Uriah rubbed his long, thin hands together and smiled his big snake's smile.
1 moved back and forth 2 cleaned 3 closed 4 put together
- e He was very upset and made wild gestures with his arms.
1 uncontrolled 2 unclear 3 impolite 4 many

4 Now use the underlined words from Exercise 3 to make sentences of your own.

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Read the sentences and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1** His sadness was great, and he thought of he had lost—love, friendship and hope.
A that **B** anything **C** whatever **D** everything
- 2** He surprised David saying that he was going to stay for a while.
A by **B** for **C** of **D** with
- 3** Sometimes he became sad, but she talked to him he looked happier.
A that **B** until **C** because **D** although
- 4** When the wave gone, there was only one man left.
A had **B** were **C** was **D** has
- 5** He got used Mr Murdstone, but he still didn't like him.
A of seeing **B** to have seen **C** to seeing **D** to see
- 6** There was a chimney with smoke from it.
A to rise **B** raising **C** risen **D** rising
- 7** Traddles never cried and he never another boy in trouble.
A got **B** put **C** saw **D** let
- 8** They the engagement secret and decided to tell Mr Spenlow later.
A had **B** kept **C** left **D** held
- 9** She suggested that I to Dora's aunts, and I followed her advice immediately.
A to write **B** write **C** writing **D** to writing
- 10** Agnes her calm, clear eyes and saw that David was watching her.
A raised **B** rose **C** arose **D** rise