

LITERATURE

Worksheet for *David Copperfield*, retold by Clare West

To find the "topic" in a story, ask yourself, "What is this story about?" A story might be about marriage, competition, survival, etc. In the spaces below, write at least one way that each topic is displayed in each chapter.

CHAPTER 1 David Copperfield's childhood

kindness

abuse of power

discipline

CHAPTER 2 David is sent away to school

kindness

abuse of power

discipline

CHAPTER 3 David the orphan

kindness

abuse of power

discipline

CHAPTER 4 David and his aunt

kindness

abuse of power

discipline

CHAPTER 5 David meets old friends again

kindness

abuse of power

discipline

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As you read this week, think about the topics of kindness, abuse of power, and discipline. If necessary, take notes on these like you did last week so that you will be prepared for your discussion time.

Review terminology that you learned last week by answering the following questions.

1. Who is the protagonist?

2. Who is the antagonist in the second half of the novel?

3. Identify another archetype from this novel. Universally, what do people think of when they hear the word “orphan”? Who in this story is an archetype of an orphan?

4. Who is a foil to Steerforth, and why?

From the back of your book, and from encyclopedia or Internet research, read about Charles Dickens. Your preparation for discussion this week will depend on your attention to more details than just the answers to the questions below.

1. When and where was Charles Dickens born?

2. When he was 12 years old, where did his father go, and why?

3. What was the name of his first novel?

4. Name three other novels that Charles Dickens wrote.

5. Describe Dickens’s family life as an adult.

6. What aspects of Victorian life did you read about in *David Copperfield*?

7. What would you say is Charles Dickens’s legacy?