

Unforgettable energy

Dickens was such a forceful personality that no one who met him ever forgot him, and he had amazing energy. He had ten children, edited his own magazines, traveled widely, wrote thousands of letters, produced and acted in plays, and was writing his 15th novel when he died in 1870.

Dickens's dream, an unfinished painting by R. W. Buss

DICKENS'S CHARACTERS

Dickens filled his books with a whole universe full of memorable characters, drawn from every part of the British society of his time. Some, like Scrooge, are far larger than life, and have become legends.



He broke new ground by making many of his most important characters children or poor people.

Mrs. Gamp from Martin Chuzzlewit

Immortal eccentrics

Eccentric Dickens characters like Scrooge and Mrs. Gamp illuminate aspects of human nature by exaggerating them.

Sam Weller from The Pickwick Papers



Hard-up heroes

Dickens's heroes are not superhuman. They are ordinary people who triumph over, or at least survive, great troubles.

Little Dorrit from Little Dorrit



A world of women

Dickens created a wide range of female characters.

One of the best-loved of them all is the innocent and good Little Dorrit.

David Copperfield and Mr. Micawber from David Copperfield



Children to the fore Dickens featured children more than any novelist before him, in novels such as David Copperfield and Oliver Twist.

Fagin from Oliver Twist

Real villains

Dickens's villains are often very, very bad, but they are drawn with such energy that they are more fascinating than repulsive.



Dickens on screen

Dickens's novels and stories have been made into many movies and television series, seen all around the world. These have made him famous among people who have never read his books.



A scene from the BBC's Martin Chuzzlewit (1994)

A TV version of Little Dorrit (1987)



This painting shows Dickens in the study of his house at Gad's Hill Place in Kent.