

Nicholas Nickleby

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗) or possible (?). Check your answers with the rest of the class. Do you agree?

- a To Ralph Nickleby, money was the most important thing. ☐
- b Nicholas's father and Ralph were not on speaking terms because Nicholas's father owed him a lot of money. ☐
- c Miss La Creevy was a painter. ☐
- d Nicholas and Ralph had a good relationship right from the start. ☐
- e Nicholas accepted to work for Ralph. ☐
- f Wackford Squeers beat children. ☐

2 Match the name and the description.

Mrs Nickleby Ralph Nickleby
Newman Noggs Miss La Creevy
Wackford Squeers Smike

- a is very shy. He is about eighteen years old but wears children's clothes.
- b is the clerk of a mean, bitter man.
- c is a widow and needs help to support her family.
- d lends money to people in order to get richer.
- e is an artist who owns the house where the Nicklebys live.
- f is the schoolmaster at Dotheboys.

Chapters 3–4

3 Fill in the gaps with the right word.

hugged evil lodgings relieved agency
persuade

- a Wackford Squeers was the most man that Nicholas had ever seen.
- b Nicholas had to Ralph that he was not a thief.
- c Nicholas needed to work so he immediately went to a job to see if he could find something.
- d Newman Noggs got money from his job as a clerk and from the he had at the top of his house.
- e Before Nicholas left for Dotheboys Hall he kissed and his mother and sister.

f Nicholas was that he could run away from Dotheboys Hall with Smike.

4 Who said the following and under which circumstances, do you think?

Kate Nickleby Fanny Squeers Tilda
Nicholas Newman Noggs Smike

- a 'I like this boy! I'll marry him and show all the girls that I'm better than they are!'
- b 'She thinks he likes her but I'm much prettier and he will want to marry me ... even though I do have a boyfriend.'
- c 'What's the matter with these girls? Why are they looking at me like that?'
- d 'I can't believe I'm finally going to have a nice home with people who care about me!'
- e 'Poor young men! They look cold and tired. I'll help them and ask them to come in.'
- f 'Who does this man think he is? How can he speak of my brother like that!'

Chapters 5–6

5 What will happen next? Work in pairs.

- a What will Kate do about Sir Mulberry Hawk?
- b Where will Kate and Mrs Nickleby live if Nicholas fights Ralph?
- c How safe will Smike be at the Nicklebys?
- d What will Sir Mulberry Hawk do after being attacked by Nicholas?
- e What job will Nicholas get?
- f Which friend from Dotheboys will Nicholas meet again?

6 Find the mistakes and write the correct sentences.

- a Nicholas was so hungry that he had to stop at a restaurant to eat and drink.
- b Nicholas overheard a group of men talking about his mother.
- c Sir Mulberry Hawk was so drunk that Nicholas had to help him walk.
- d Nicholas was angry with Sir Mulberry Hawk because he didn't want to tell him where he worked.
- e Sir Mulberry Hawk left on horseback.

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- f Nicholas wrote a letter to Ralph saying he was sorry.

Chapters 7–8

7 Finish the sentences. Work in pairs.

- When Ralph was planning how to take revenge on Nicholas his old friend,
- Charles Cheeryble couldn't believe that a fine gentleman like Nicholas
- Tim Linkinwater told Nicholas
- When the Nicklebys moved to the cottage, Smike,
- When Wackford Squeers and his son saw Smike,
- John Browdie made everybody believe that he was sleeping and

Chapters 9–11

8 Who they love or who they want to marry, do you think? Write the names. Some can be used more than once.

Nicholas Ralph Tilda Charles Cheeryble
Mr Gride Sir Mulberry Hawk John Browdie

- Madeline:
- John Browdie:
- Himself:
- Madeline's mother:
- Kate:
- Tilda:

9 What do they want 1) from other people? 2) to do as soon as possible? Work in pairs. Finish the sentences.

- Brooker 1 (from Ralph)
2
- Ralph 1 (from Squeers and Snawley)
2
- Charles Cheeryble 1 (from Nicholas)
2
- Mr Bray 1 (from Nicholas)
2
- Arthur Gride 1 (from Ralph)
2
- Nicholas 1 (from Noggs)
2

Chapters 12–14

10 Match the names and the descriptions.

Ralph Nickleby Snawley Squeers
Frank Cheeryble Peg Sliderskew
Tim Linkinwater

- was Arthur Gride's housekeeper.
- was interested in Kate, and Mrs Nickleby started dreaming of a wedding for her daughter.
-'s wife kicked Ralph out of her house because he got her husband into a lot of trouble.
- is in jail and completely ruined.
- told Ralph that the Cheerybles had very bad news to tell him.
- To everybody's surprise couldn't take so much bad news and hanged himself.

11 Match the incomplete sentences with their endings.

- Everybody was shocked to learn that
- When Nicholas sadly returned from Devon after Smike's death
- Nicholas was happy because
- When John Browdie reached Dotheboys Hall
- Kate married Frank and
- Miss La Creevy married
1 all his enemies had been defeated.
2 Ralph was Smike's father.
3 he saw all the boys breaking the furniture.
4 Nicholas married Madeline
5 he was shocked to find that Ralph had killed himself.
6 Tim Linkinwater in secret.

After reading

12 A secret marriage! Work with another student.

Discuss when, where and how (who were the guests? what did they wear?) Tim Linkinwater and Miss La Creevy's secret wedding took place.

13 Student A is Tim Linkinwater. Student B is Miss La Creevy. Act out the marriage proposal.

14 Draw and write about your favourite part in the book.

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Chapters 1–2

1 Fill in the gaps with the right word.

owed clerk sighed begged

- Many poor people Ralph to help them but he was too mean to agree.
- Ralph was a moneylender and he lived on the people who him money.
- Mrs Nickleby was sad and she with pain.
- Newman Noggs was Ralph Nickleby's

Chapters 3–4

2 What is right (✓) and what is wrong (X)?

- Fanny Squeers wanted to meet Nicholas because she heard he was very good and intelligent. ☐
- Tilda initially believed that Nicholas was going to marry Fanny. ☐
- Fanny got angry with John because he said that the teachers at Dotheboys had almost no food. ☐
- Nicholas felt that instead of friends he was making enemies. ☐

3 Complete the sentences.

- When Nicolas visited Newman Noggs, he learnt that
- Nicholas wanted to persuade Ralph that
- Ralph visited Kate and Mrs Nickleby to tell them
- Kate was angry with Ralph

Chapters 5–6

4 Circle the right words.

- Kate started working for Mrs Witterly as a *clerk* / *companion*.
- Mrs Nickleby thought that Kate's strange look on her face was *shyness of love* / *sadness*.
- Ralph decided to help Sir Mulberry with Kate because he thought it would be *good for his business* / *a way to take revenge on Mrs Nickleby*.
- Kate thought that Sir Mulberry was a *rude unpleasant man* / *poor old man*.

Chapters 7–8

5 Put the sentences in order, 1–5.

- ☐ Ralph and Wackford Squeers planned their revenge on Nicholas.
- ☐ Nicholas met Charles Cheeryble at a job agency.
- ☐ Nicholas introduced his mother and sister to Smike.

- ☐ Nicholas's mother and sister moved to a house that belongs to Nicholas's new employers.
- ☐ The Cheerybles offered Nicholas a job at the counting-house.

Chapters 9–11

6 There is a mistake in each of the sentences below. Underline it. Then, write the right information.

- Nicholas wanted to punish Squeers for being rude to his mother and sister.
- When Nicholas asked Tim Linkinwater who the mysterious girl was, the man told him she was the Cheerybles' niece.
- After his fight with Nicholas, Sir Mulberry Hawk asked Ralph for help to take revenge.

7 Choose the right endings. Circle 1 or 2.

- When Charles Cheeryble was a young man ...
1 he was in love with Madeline Bray's mother.
2 he had a secret lover.
- Madeline's mother ...
1 hated her husband.
2 asked for help from Charles before she died.
- Madeline's father ...
1 hates Charles Cheeryble.
2 is friends with Ned Cheeryble.

Chapters 12–14

8 Circle the right words.

- Charles showed Nicholas Madeline's grandfather's *will* / *accounts* / *paintings*.
- Nicholas was happy because all his enemies had been *lost* / *sad* / *defeated*.
- The Nicklebys always took flowers to Smike's *school* / *grave* / *house*.
- Everybody was shocked because Ralph had *disappeared* / *died* / *killed himself*.

9 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- Mr Squeers made Peg Sliderskew give him Mr Gride's papers. ☐
- Frank Cheeryble and Newman Noggs found that Mr Gride's papers actually belonged to Madeline. ☐
- As soon as Nicholas and Smike arrived in Devon, Smike died. ☐
- Before dying, Smike saw Brooker. ☐