



Dickens and his public: Worksheet

A Before you read. Discuss

Think about all the different places where you read every week. Think about text books, novels, magazines, newspapers, instruction manuals, road signs, food packets, CD inserts. Think also about the reading you do from your computer screen, from the TV and from your mobile phone.

How long are the texts in each place?

- more than 10,000 words
- about 5,000 words
- about 2,000 words
- about 1,000 words
- about 500 words
- about 200 words
- about 100 words
- about 50 words
- about 20 words
- less than 15 words

How much time do you need to read each text?

B Read the text

Answer the questions.

- 1) Why could only a few people read when Dickens was born?
 - a) Because there were no books.
 - b) Because there weren't free schools for everyone.
 - c) Because people didn't want to read.



- 2) Why did the number of readers increase?
 - a) Because more free schools started.
 - b) Because Dickens was very popular.
 - c) Because more magazines started.

- 3) Dickens books were published in magazines. Why was this better for ordinary people?
 - a) Because each magazine only published one chapter.
 - b) Because the magazines required less time to read.
 - c) Because the magazines were cheaper than whole books.
 - d) All of the above.

- 4) Why did people like the stories by Charles Dickens?
 - a) Because they were interesting stories.
 - b) Because the stories were full of memorable characters.
 - c) Because the stories were funny, exciting and sad.
 - d) All of the above.

- 5) Dickens changed the ways in which we celebrate Christmas in Britain. Can you think about authors from your own country who have influenced traditions in your country?

C Characters

Choose a character you like from a Dickens story, from another story, from a film, from a TV series or serial drama. Write a paragraph describing what the character looks like. Write a second paragraph describing how the character behaves. Use your paragraphs to tell your group about the character you have chosen.



Key

A] Open answers.

Encourage learners to think about the different ways in which they read. Ask them to talk about the different types of content presented in different media.

B] Open answers.

Use these questions to encourage learners to think about the original readers of Dickens' stories. Encourage learners to make comparisons with popular authors from their own countries or in their languages.

C] Open answers.

Describing people from real life or from fiction is a very useful skill; encouraging learners to share the information about their chosen character. The paragraphs (with illustrations) might be used to make a class notice board display or Power Point presentations to be shared with other classes.