



Nicholas Nickleby

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While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Are the sentences are right (✓), wrong (X) 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 Colour 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.



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- e Sir Mulberry Hawk left on horseback.
- f Nicholas wrote a letter to Ralph saying he was sorry.

Chapters 7–8

- 7 **Finish the sentences. Work in pairs.**
- a When Ralph was planning how to take revenge on Nicholas his old friend,
 - b Charles Cheeryble couldn't believe that a fine gentleman like Nicholas
 - c Tim Linkinwater told Nicholas
 - d When the Nicklebys moved to the cottage, Smike,
 - e When Wackford Squeers and his son saw Smike,
 - f 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

- a Madeline:
- b John Browdie:
- c Himself:
- d Madeline's mother:
- e Kate:
- f Tilda:

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

- a Brooker 1 (from Ralph).....
2
- b Ralph 1 (from Squeers and Snawley)
2
- c Charles Cheeryble 1 (from Nicolas)
2
- d Mr Bray 1 (from Nicholas)
2
- e Arthur Gride 1 (from Ralph)
2
- f 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

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

- 11 **Match the incomplete sentences with their endings.**

- a Everybody was shocked to learn that
- b When Nicholas sadly returned from Devon after Smike's death
- c Nicholas was happy because
- d When John Browdie reached Dotheboys Hall
- e Kate married Frank and
- f 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

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

Chapters 3–4

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

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

3 Complete the sentences.

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

Chapters 5–6

4 Circle the right words.

- a Kate started working for Mrs Witterly as a *clerk* / *companion*.
- b Mrs Nickleby thought that Kate's strange look on her face was *shyness of love* / *sadness*.
- c 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*.
- d Kate thought that Sir Mulberry was a *rude unpleasant man* / *poor old man*.

Chapters 7–8

5 Put the sentences in order, 1–5.

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

- d Nicholas's mother and sister moved to a small house that belongs to Nicholas's new employers.
- e 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.

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

7 Choose the right endings. Circle 1 or 2.

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

Chapters 12–14

8 Circle the right words.

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

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

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