

# Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

was born in Hampshire, England, and is considered to be one of the greatest British authors of all time. During his lifetime, he used his great influence to comment on the social wrongs of the Victorian era, particularly those related to the poor in London. In fact, Dickens was no stranger to hardship himself. As a teenager, he was forced to finish school and work in a factory, while his family were in a debtors' prison. This had a profound effect on Dickens and his later writings. Some of Charles Dickens' most well-known and loved novels include *Oliver Twist* (1839), *David Copperfield* (1850) and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).

In *Great Expectations*, a poor 10-year-old orphan named Pip is confronted by a prisoner. This encounter would have a huge impact on Pip's future.



## What do you know about him?

What would you like to know  
about him?

Profession

City

Age

Interesting facts

Biography

# Before reading learn new words.

рядом, около

просить, умолять

столкнуться

смотреть свирепо

крапива

стучать зубами

должник

лоскут

влияние

искренне

ворчать

хромать

хоронить

бормотать

крыльцо

прожорливый

осужденный

дрожать от холода

напильник

грубый (ткань)

облизывать

невзгоды

хромать, ковылять

встреча

хватать

влияние,  
воздействие

основательный

# Before reading learn new words.

колокольня

рвать, разрывать

промокать

робко, запуганно

надгробие

наклонять,  
опрокидывать

жалить

трястись, дрожать

тугой, плотный

покрывать

быть тише

указывать

быть склонным  
сделать ч-л

повышать голос

1. Prison chain
2. The characters are in a graveyard. I think the man will ask the boy to help him and threaten to hurt him if he doesn't.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

The characters are in a graveyard. I think the man will ask the boy to help him and threaten to hurt him if he doesn't.



with  
tilt  
"O  
"Ha... he mattered them, considering! Who do you live with?  
supposin' I kindly let you live, which I han't made up my mind  
about?"

Text 1

Text 2

Text 3

Text 4

NOTE



graveyard

"My sister, sir – Mrs Joe Gargery – wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith<sup>8</sup>, sir."

"Blacksmith, eh?", said he. And looked down at his leg.

After darkly looking at his leg and me several times, he came closer to my tombstone, took me by both arms, and **tilted** me back as far as he could hold me; so that his eyes looked most powerfully down into mine, and mine looked most helplessly up into his.

"Now lookee here," he said, "the question being whether I let you live. You know what a **file** is?"

"Yes, sir."

"And you know what wittles<sup>9</sup> is?"

"Yes, sir."

After each question he tilted me over a little more, so as to give me a greater sense of helplessness and danger.

"You get me a file." He tilted me again. "And you get me wittles." He tilted me again. "You bring 'em both to me." He tilted me again.

"Or I'll have your heart and **liver** out." He tilted me again.

"Ha!" he **muttered** then, considering. "who aye live with – supposin' I kindly let you live, which I han't made up my mind about?"

aps with a suitable

throat

Text 1

Text 2

Text 3

Text 4

wittles (food)



Listen and read the text again. Match the highlighted words/phrases in the extract with their meanings below:

- Covered completely
- Grabbed
- Walked with difficulty
- Shyly
- Shaking with fear or cold
- Very hungrily
- Moved so that one end/side is higher than the other
- Upside down
- Started at angrily
- Rough



glared

Match the words in bold to their meanings. Choose some and mime or draw their meaning.

soaked



chattered



lamed



steeple



porch



tombstone



pleaded



rag



Soft parts of face on either side of mouth

fearful



shivered



pointed



stung



cheeks



lay



growled



torn



Match the words in bold to their meanings. Choose some and mime or draw their meaning.

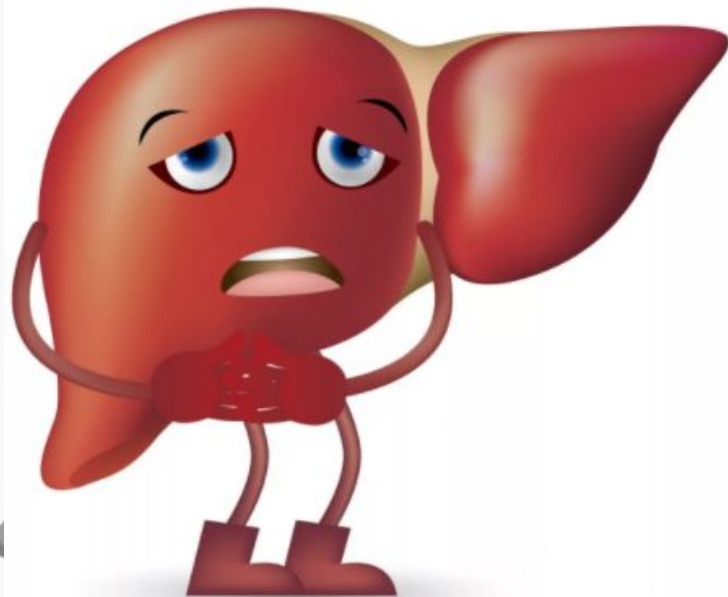
muttered ✓

file ✓

threatening ✓

liver ✓

tighter ✓



Organ of the body that cleans  
blood



Read the description of the convict again in the first section of the extract and make notes about how he:

walked



lamed  
limped

looked

spoke

acted

### **Suggested Answer Key**

The convict had difficulty walking – he was lamed and he limped. He didn't just look at you – he glared and looked powerfully into your eyes. He didn't speak softly – he growled in a terrible voice and sometimes he muttered. He shivered and his teeth chattered. He must have been cold. He was hungry because he licked his lips and ate ravenously. He was quite threatening towards Pip. He tilted him back several times.

shivered

teeth

chattered

ravenously

tilting his lips

threatening  
of the head

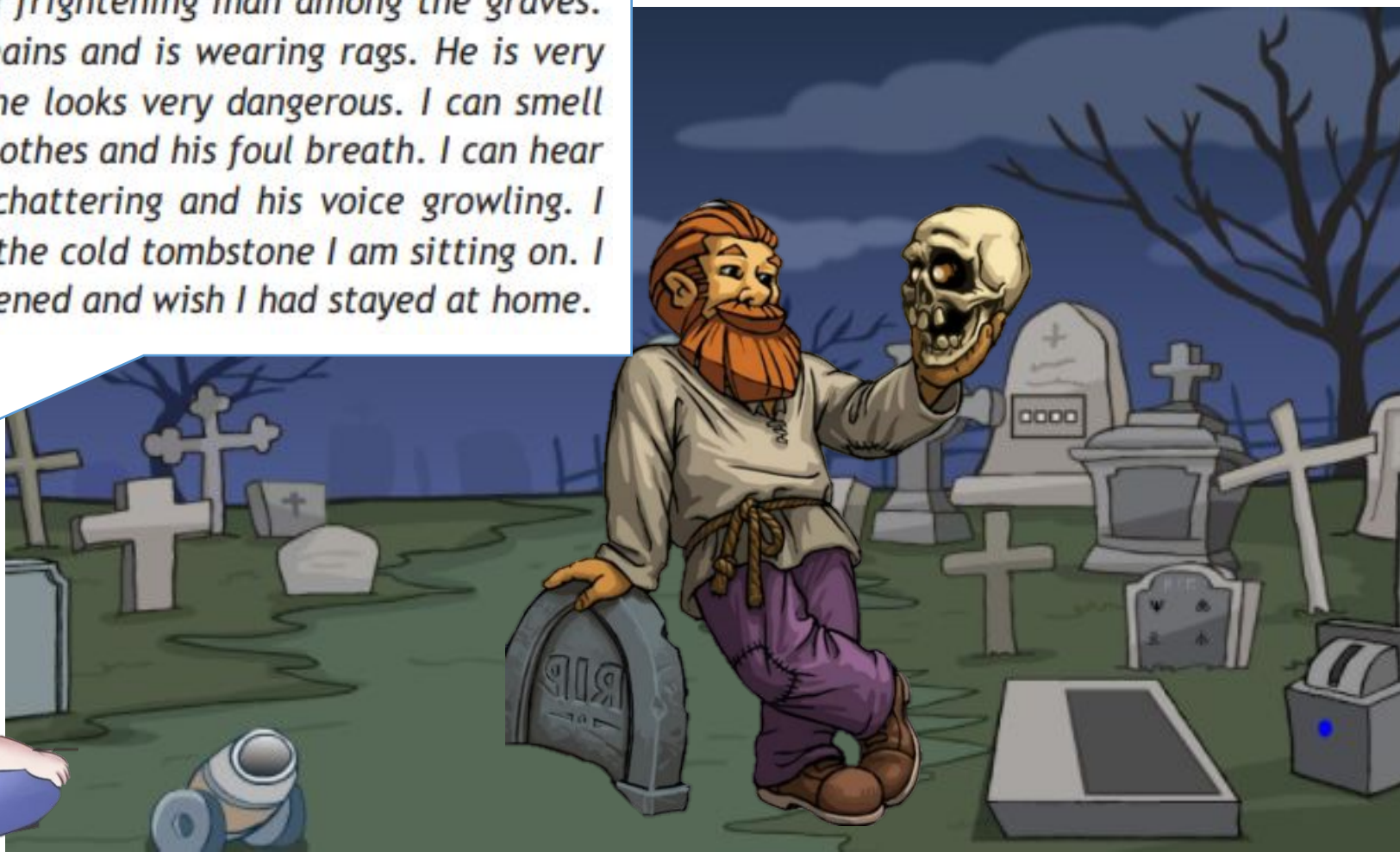
tilting him back as far  
as he could hold me

he tilted me again

**Answer**

Close your eyes and imagine you are Pip sitting on the tombstone. What can you see, smell, hear, touch? How do you feel?

*I can see a frightening man among the graves. He is in chains and is wearing rags. He is very dirty and he looks very dangerous. I can smell his dirty clothes and his foul breath. I can hear his teeth chattering and his voice growling. I can touch the cold tombstone I am sitting on. I feel frightened and wish I had stayed at home.*



Explain the meaning of the underlined sections of the text in your own words.



Hold your noise!

Be quiet!



Explain the meaning of the underlined sections of the text in your own words.



Licking his lips

Moving his tongue around the outside of his mouth.

Explain the meaning of the underlined sections of the text in your own words.



I've half a mind to ...

I'm considering (doing sth, usually as a threat to a naughty child)

How does the convict's way of speaking differ from Pip's? Underline the parts of the convict's speech that show us this and say what they mean. Why do you think Dickens did this?

Charles Dickens  
**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

Dickens was trying to show the different backgrounds of the two characters and the different class of each character. (Magwitch - lower working class criminal; Pip - educated middle class)

suppose I  
let you live, which I  
haven't made up my  
mind about?

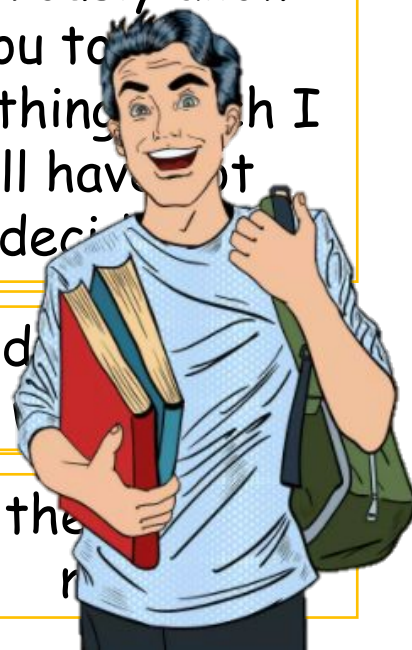
And you know what  
wittles is?

You bring 'em both  
to me

generously allow  
you to have  
something which I  
still haven't  
decided

And do  
what

Bring the  
me





In pairs, take the roles of Pip and the convict and act out their dialogue in the graveyard. Change the ending.

**Convict:** Hold your noise! Keep still, you little devil, or I'll cut your throat!

**Pip:** Oh! Don't cut my throat, sir! Please don't do it, sir!

**Convict:** Tell us your name! Quick!

**Pip:** Pip, sir.

**Convict:** Once more. Speak up!

**Pip:** Pip, sir.

**Convict:** Show us where you live. Pint out the place.

**Pip:** I only have this little piece of bread, sir.

**Convict:** You young, dog. What fat cheeks you ha' got. I could eat 'em - and I've half a mind to.

**Pip:** Please don't hurt me, sir.

**Convict:** Now lookee here! Where's your mother?

**Pip:** There, sir. Also Georgiana. That's my mother.

**Convict:** Oh! And is that your father alongside your mother?

**Pip:** Yes, sir. Him too, late of this parish.

**Convict:** Ha! Who d'ye live with? Supposin' I kindly let you live, which I han't made up my mind about?

**Pip:** My sister, sir. Mrs Joe Gargery – wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith, sir.

**Convict:** Blacksmith, eh? Now, lookee here –0 the question being whether I let you live. You know what a file is?

**Pip:** No, sir.

**Convict:** And you know what wittles is?

**Convict:** Do you want to live, boy?

**Pip:** Please don't hurt me! I'll help you. Follow me to our house, sir and you can take what you need and then be on your way.

**Convict:** Lead the way, boy! We ain't got all day!

# Smile

What might your  
name be, young  
man?

It might be Charles,  
but it isn't.



Fill in: pleaded, chattered, muttered, soaked, shiver, pointed, tombstone, ravenously, steeple, porch.

# Workbook

- 1 Ben's teeth **chattered** from the cold.
- 2 A **tombstone** was placed over the old man's grave.
- 3 I was caught in a terrible storm and got **soaked** to the skin.
- 4 The cold air made her .....  
**shiver**
- 5 The builder added a new **porch** onto the front of our house.
- 6 Penny looked **ravenously** at the buffet table.

- 7 "What shall I do now?" Jess **muttered** under his breath.
- 8 The church **steeple** was rebuilt because it had collapsed during the earthquake.
- 9 Diana **pleaded** with Chris to stay away from the haunted house.
- 10 Miranda **pointed** to where her new house was.

# Fill in: in, by, about, of, at, to.

1 Cherie stared ..... the young boy because she thought she recognised him.

at

2 Jim's trousers were torn ..... the barbed wire.

by

3 When she heard the shots, she started screaming ..... terror.

in

4 The road sign pointed ..... Newmarket Square.

to

5 "Absolutely not!" he said with a shake ..... his head.

of

6 Ann can't make up her mind ..... what to do with her birthday money.

about



Match the verbs with their meanings. Then, complete the sentences using the verbs in the correct form.

A

- |   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | g | limp    |
| 2 | a | glare   |
| 3 | h | seize   |
| 4 | b | smother |
| 5 | e | tremble |
| 6 | c | tilt    |
| 7 | f | lick    |
| 8 | d | growl   |

B

- a to stare at sb/sth angrily
- b to cover sb/sth completely with sth else
- c to move into a sloping position
- d to make a low, rough, angry sound
- e to shake, as from fear or cold
- f to pass the tongue over the surface of sth
- g to walk with difficulty
- h to grab

- |   |             |           |           |     |
|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 3 | 1 g         | 3 h       | 5 e       | 7 f |
|   | 2 a         | 4 b       | 6 c       | 8 d |
|   | 1 growled   | 4 seized  | 7 tilted  |     |
|   | 2 smothered | 5 tremble | 8 limping |     |
|   | 3 licked    | 6 glared  |           |     |

Match the verbs with their meanings. Then, complete the sentences using the verbs in the correct form.

- 1 The dog **growled** at the burglar as he broke into the house.
- 2 Julia **smothered** her steak and potatoes in gravy.
- 3 Billy **licked** the ice cream off his fingers.
- 4 The policeman caught up with the criminal and **seized** him by the arm.
- 5 Her voice started to **trembled** and she began to cry.
- 6 Greg **glared** at Harry and muttered something to himself angrily.
- 7 He **tilted** his head to the side and looked in wonder at the unusual piece of art.
- 8 Danny is **limping** because he hurt his leg playing football yesterday.

limp  
glare  
seize  
smother  
tremble  
tilt  
lick  
growl



Tick the parts of the body you can see in the picture.

throat



teeth



chin



feet



cheeks



head



shoulders



legs



arms



eyes



lips



Complete the sentences with the correct word derived from the word in bold.

1 Mrs. Miller has high **expectations** for her daughter. She wants her to get a PhD. **EXPECT**

2 Trapped in the lift, a sudden feeling of **helplessness** overcame her. **HELP**

3 The new president spoke **earnestly** to the citizens about the need for change. **EARNEST**

4 The bank robber had a **fearful/fearless** expression that scared everyone. **FEAR**

5 He hit the cricket ball so **powerfully** that it smashed his neighbour's living room window. **POWER**

6 Max was frightened by the man's ..... **THREAT**  
**threatening** behaviour so he called the police.