

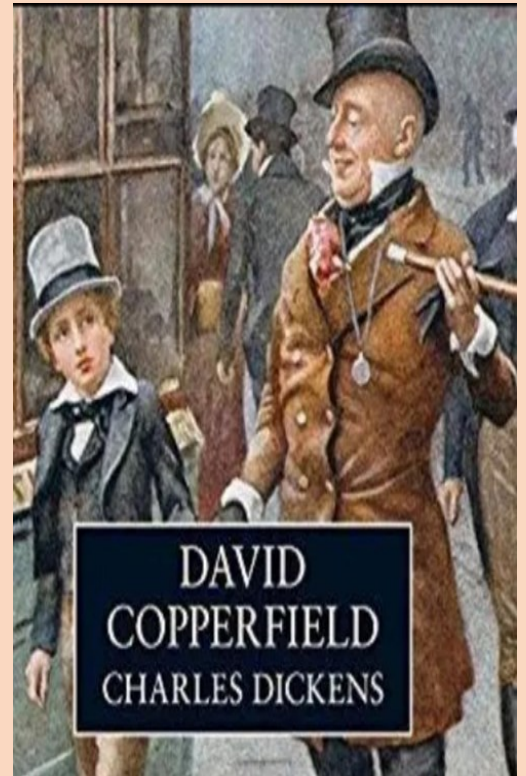
Name: Mrs Chisty 6C

Title– David Copperfield

Author: Charles Dickens

**Background-** The story follows the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity. David was born in Blunderstone, Suffolk, England, six months after the death of his father. David spends his early years in relative happiness with his loving, childish naive mother and their kind housekeeper, Mrs. Peggotty.

**The Setting-** David Copperfield begins in Blunderstone Rookery, a house in rural Suffolk. This home is an ideal setting in the years before his mother's second marriage... After she marries Murdstone, it becomes a prison with Murdstone and his equally "firm" sister as they become David's keepers.



**The Plot-** During David's early childhood, his mother marries the violent Mr. Murdstone, who brings his strict sister, Miss Murdstone, into the house. The Murdstones treat David cruelly, and David bites Mr. Murdstone's hand during one beating. The Murdstones send David away to school. Peggotty takes David to visit her family in Yarmouth, where David meets Peggotty's brother, Mr. Peggotty, and his two adopted children, Ham and Little Em'ly. Mr. Peggotty's family lives in a boat turned upside down—a space they share with Mrs. Gumidge, the widowed wife of Mr. Peggotty's brother. After this visit, David attends school at Salem House, which is run by a man named Mr. Creakle. David befriends and idolises an egotistical young man named James Steerforth. David also befriends Tommy Traddles, an unfortunate, corpulent young boy who is beaten more than the others...

**Comments—** An insight into Victorian London through Dickens' pen has made a permanent mark on literature as one of the greatest books ever written. You can also choose from any of Dickens' 21 amazing books.

**Recommendation—** I highly recommend this book to Year 5 and 6 readers who like classic, adventure good vs evil. This book has been adapted for the screen multiple times. The 1935 version featuring W.C. Fields is especially delightful, as is a 1999 BBC special starring Bob Hoskins and a very young Daniel Radcliffe.

A 2020 film with Dev Patel as the main character includes a diverse cast, and is told in a series of flashbacks. *David Copperfield* is available in an excellent **audiobook version** read by Richard Armitage. **However, I would definitely recommend reading this philanthropist's books.**

