

书虫·牛津
英汉双语读物

少爷返乡

3级

适合初三、
高一年级

Nicholas Nickleby

Charles Dickens (英) 著
Tim Herdon (英) 改写

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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宋杰青 译

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关于作者

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens (1812–1870) was born in Portsmouth, England, and for most of his life lived in or near London. His family was poor, and he had to go out to work in a factory at the age of twelve. Dickens never forgot this difficult time, and many of his books describe the problems of poor people, especially poor children, and the wide differences between the rich and the poor. When he was older, Dickens started working for a newspaper and then wrote some of the most famous novels in English, including *Hard Times* which is also available as a Bookworm.

查尔斯·狄更斯

查尔斯·狄更斯 (1812—1870) 生于英格兰的朴茨茅斯，一生大部分时间都在伦敦和伦敦附近生活。他家境贫困，十二岁时就不得不离家到工厂做工。狄更斯一生都没有忘记这段苦难的时期，他的许多作品也描写了穷人的问题，尤其是穷孩子，以及贫富间的巨大差距。年纪稍大一些时，狄更斯开始为报社工作，之后写了最为著名的几部英语小说，包括《艰难时世》。《艰难时世》也是“书虫”系列读物之一。

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ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

- 1 Here are some of the people in the story of *Nicholas Nickleby*'s life and adventures. Match the sentences with the pictures.



*Ralph
Nickleby*



Nicholas Nickleby



*Kate
Nickleby*



Wackford Squeers



Smike



*Newman
Noggs*



*John
Browdie*



The Cheeryble brothers

- a He's a nice young man who's looking for work, and he's Kate's brother.
- b They're very rich and enjoy helping poor people.
- c He was once rich but is now poor. He works for Ralph Nickleby.
- d He's Nicholas's and Kate's rich uncle who lives in London.
- e He's a poor young man, and he has a sad life.
- f He's a big, strong but kind man who lives in the country.
- g She's a nice young woman, and she's Nicholas's sister.
- h He has a school but doesn't really teach his students anything.

- 2 Who helps Nicholas in the story, do you think? Who does he help?
Who are his enemies?

第一章 新的开始

When old Mr Nick Nickleby died at home in Devon in the south-west of England, he left many **debts** behind him. Once these were paid, his wife, his son – Nicholas – and his daughter – Kate – found themselves with little money and no house to live in. There was only one person that they could turn to for help: Ralph Nickleby, the children's **uncle**. Mrs Nickleby didn't really know him, but – because he was in the London **finance** business – he was rich and knew many people. Before her husband died, he said that Ralph would help them. So she wrote a letter to say that they were coming, and the very next day they all travelled to London.

Soon after they arrived, Ralph Nickleby came to the little house where they were staying. He wore fine clothes, but had cold eyes and a hard voice. He didn't look very **sad** about his brother's death.

debt

n. money that you must pay back to someone
债

uncle

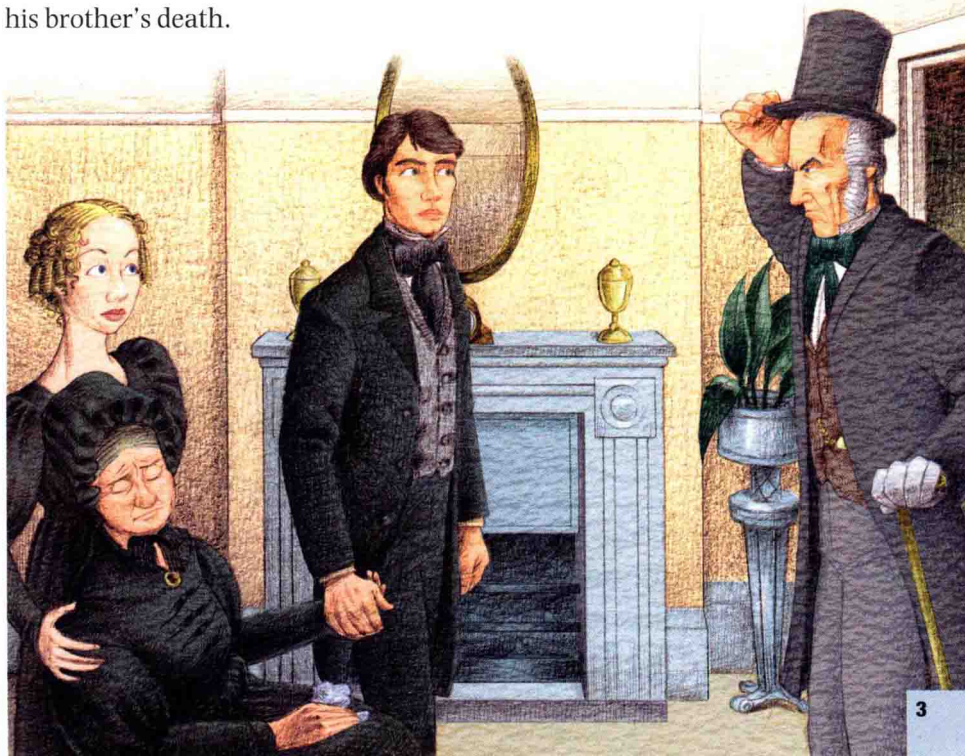
n. your father's (or mother's) brother
叔叔; 舅舅

finance

n. to do with money
金融

sad

adj. not happy
悲伤的



'How did he die?' he asked Mrs Nickleby.

'The doctors don't really know what the problem was. We think that perhaps he died of a broken **heart**,' replied Mrs Nickleby.

'I've heard of people dying of a broken neck, but a broken heart? Never. A man can't pay his debts and so he dies of a broken heart! Ha!' laughed Ralph Nickleby coldly.

'Some people have no heart to break,' said Nicholas to himself quietly.

'How old is this boy?' asked Ralph Nickleby, looking angrily at Nicholas.

'Nearly nineteen,' replied Mrs Nickleby.

'And how will you pay for your food now, boy?' Ralph Nickleby asked Nicholas.

'I shall not cost you or my mother anything at all,' replied Nicholas.

For a while Nicholas and his uncle looked at each other without speaking. The older man saw in front of him a young man who was kind and **honest**, and from that moment he **hated** him.

Then Ralph Nickleby talked with Mrs Nickleby about finding work for poor but beautiful Kate. Turning back to Nicholas, he showed him an **advertisement** in the newspaper that he had with him.

Mr Wackford Squeers – staying at
the Snow Street Inn in North London
– needs a teacher for his school in
Yorkshire. Call today.

Yorkshire was far away, in the north-east of England, but Nicholas was excited.

'Perhaps our luck is changing!' he thought.

heart

n. the centre of feeling in someone; this is in your chest and it sends the blood round your body
心脏

honest

adj. saying things that are true
诚实的

hate

v. not to love
恨

advertisement

n. you pay to put this information in a newspaper
广告

inn

n. an old name for a hotel near a road
旅店

‘We must go and see Mr Squeers immediately, before he gives the job to another young man,’ said Ralph Nickleby.



When Nicholas and his uncle arrived at the inn, Squeers was busy with some new students. He was a short man, about fifty years old. He had only one greeny-grey eye in his face, where people usually prefer two, and he looked very **strange** in his black suit, which was too long for him in the arms, and too short for him in the legs.

‘Mr Squeers, this is my **nephew**, Mr Nicholas Nickleby. We’re here because of your newspaper advertisement,’ said Ralph Nickleby.

‘He’s too young to be a teacher,’ Squeers said at once, looking at Nicholas.

But after talking quietly with Ralph Nickleby for a while, he turned back to Nicholas with a smile, saying, ‘The job is yours. Our **coach** leaves at eight o’clock tomorrow morning. Be here early to help with the new students.’

‘Certainly,’ replied Nicholas. And to his uncle he said, ‘I shall never forget how kind you’ve been.’



The next day, Nicholas said goodbye sadly to his sister and his mother at the inn.

‘How will they **survive** without me?’ he thought with a heavy heart.

Just before Nicholas got onto the coach, someone pushed a letter into his hand. It was Newman Noggs, Ralph Nickleby’s **clerk**. Nicholas quickly put it into his pocket.

The journey to Yorkshire was long and hard, and they stopped at different inns on the way. Squeers ate a lot at every meal, but gave very little food to the students who were with him.

‘He worries more about the cost of the meals than he does about those poor, hungry boys,’ thought Nicholas.

strange
adj. not usual
奇怪的

nephew
n. your sister’s (or brother’s) son
侄子

coach
n. a kind of car with horses
马车

survive
v. to live through a difficult or dangerous time
存活

clerk
n. someone who does the writing work in an office
文员

In the evening of the second day, they arrived in Yorkshire. There was snow everywhere, and in front of them was a long, low building with dark windows. It looked cold and unpleasant. This was the school – Dotheboys Hall.

Inside Mrs Squeers was waiting for them. She looked at Nicholas coldly, then turned to her husband.

‘How is my Squeery?’ she said.

‘Very well, my love,’ replied Squeers. ‘How are the cows and the other animals?’

‘Very well.’

‘And the boys?’ asked Squeers.

‘Oh, they’re well, too,’ replied Mrs Squeers quickly in a hard voice.

After that, they talked about parents who paid their debts to the school and parents who couldn’t pay. Then Mrs Squeers put a cold supper on the table for her husband – and for Nicholas. Squeers ate and drank a lot; Nicholas had only a little. Then they all went to bed. Before he went to sleep on his bed on the floor upstairs, Nicholas took Noggs’s letter from his pocket and read it:

My dear young man,

I know the world better than you. The place that you’re going to isn’t like any place that you know. If you ever need somewhere to stay in London, ask for me at the Crown Inn, in Golden Square. They know me there. Don’t think that I’m strange writing to you like this. I was once a gentleman, but I’ve come down in the world.

Your friend,

Newman Noggs

crown

n. a king or a queen wears this on their head

皇冠

gentleman

n. a man from a rich family who does not need to work

绅士

If Nicholas's first night at Dotheboys Hall was bad, the next day was worse. He soon saw that Mr and Mrs Squeers loved making the boys there **suffer**. Squeers **beat** them hard and often. He read their letters from home himself, telling them that their parents didn't love them and didn't want them back. The boys had no real lessons, but did jobs for Squeers in the school and its garden all day.

They were especially **cruel** to one boy – Smike. He was taller and older than the other boys at the school – perhaps eighteen or nineteen. His clothes were old and too small for him and he looked ill.

At the end of his first day, Nicholas found Smike working in the kitchen. He saw in the boy's eyes that he was afraid.

'Don't be afraid of me,' said Nicholas kindly.

'Oh, my poor heart will break, living here,' Smike cried.

'No, it won't. There's always hope.'

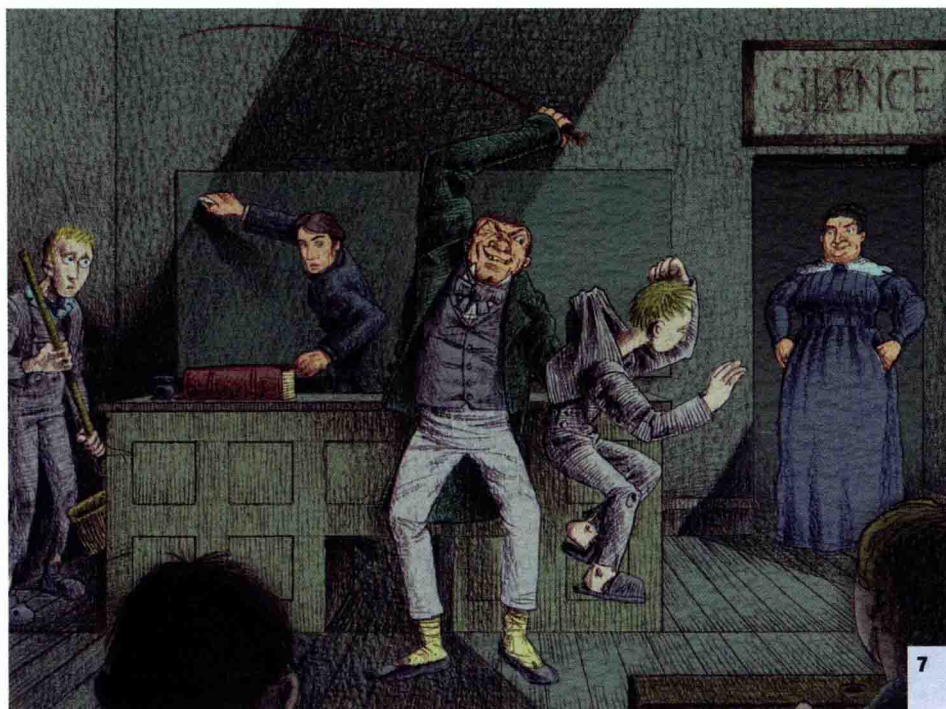
'Not for me,' replied Smike. 'I've got no family or friends. It doesn't matter if I live or die. There's only **suffering** for me in this life.'

suffer
v. to feel hurt or
unhappy
感到痛苦

beat
v. (beat-beaten) to
hit strongly
打

cruel
adj. unkind and
liking to hurt
people
残忍的

suffering
n. when you feel
hurt or unhappy
痛苦



ACTIVITIES

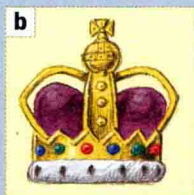
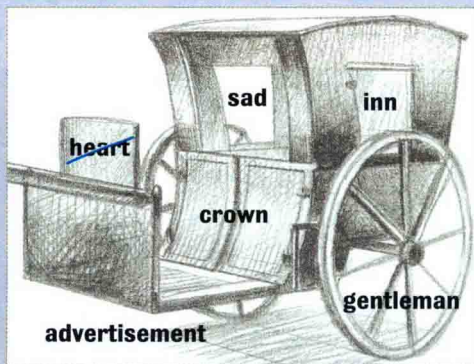
READING CHECK

Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

	True	False
a Mr Nick Nickleby dies of a broken neck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Mr Squeers has a school in the north-east of England.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Mr Squeers gives Nicholas Nickleby a job as a teacher.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d The journey to Yorkshire is short.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e The school is warm and beautiful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f Mr and Mrs Squeers are cruel to the boys in their school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g Newman Noggs's letter says that Nicholas can't come to him for help.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h Smike is very unhappy at Dotheboys Hall.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WORD WORK

1 Match the words in the coach with the pictures.



ACTIVITIES

2 Complete the sentences with twelve other new words from Chapter One in the correct form.

- a It's not good to have many d.....ebts..... You need to pay back money that you borrow quickly.
- b It's difficult for a family to s..... without money.
- c My mother's brother, U..... Jon, lives in Devon.
- d Nicholas is h..... : he always says what he thinks is true.
- e Ralph Nickleby doesn't really love his family, and he h..... Nicholas.
- f Newman Noggs works as Ralph Nickleby's c.....
- g People who are good with money enjoy working in the f..... business.
- h Mr and Mrs Squeers are more c..... to Smike than to the other boys.
- i Squeers likes b..... the boys at the school with a big stick.
- j Nicholas is Ralph Nickleby's n.....
- k 'Dotheboys' isn't a very usual English name, and it's a s..... name for a boy's school.
- l Some people say that animals don't s....., but when you hit an animal, you hurt it.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick five boxes.

- a We learn more about life at Dotheboys Hall. ☐
- b We learn more about Ralph Nickleby's life in London. ☐
- c Nicholas meets some new people in Yorkshire. ☐
- d Life at Dotheboys Hall gets better. ☐
- e Squeers beats Smike. ☐
- f Nicholas beats Squeers. ☐
- g Nicholas decides to stay at the school for a long time. ☐
- h Nicholas decides to leave the school in the end. ☐

第二章 多斯男童学堂的生活

After the night that they first met and talked in the kitchen, Smike followed Nicholas everywhere. But when Squeers saw this, he beat Smike more than before.

‘They’re harder with me than ever,’ Smike cried one evening to Nicholas in the empty schoolroom.

‘I know,’ Nicholas replied, putting a hand on Smike’s shoulder kindly. ‘You’ll be happier when I’ve gone.’

‘Are you leaving?’ asked Smike, suddenly worried.

‘No,’ said Nicholas. ‘I was just thinking aloud.’

‘But will you go one day?’

‘Yes, one day I must go out into the world.’

‘And can we meet – out in the world?’ asked Smike.

‘Of course,’ said Nicholas. ‘And I’ll help you there and not make your life worse, as I’ve done here.’

Just then, Squeers arrived, and Smike disappeared.

Smike was not Nicholas’s only worry at Dotheboys Hall. There was also Squeers’s daughter, Fanny. One day – not long after Nicholas arrived – Fanny went into the schoolroom to get a pen. Nicholas gave her a friendly smile. ‘What a wonderful smile he has,’ she thought, and at once she decided that she was in love.

Soon after that, Fanny asked Nicholas to tea when Mrs Squeers was out. Fanny’s best friend Tilda, and Tilda’s **fiancé**, John Browdie, also came. There was bread and butter to eat, and Nicholas ate it very fast. When he saw this, John Browdie started laughing.

‘You won’t get fat if you stay in this school!’ he said.

‘John, don’t speak to Mr Nickleby like that!’ cried Fanny.

‘Oh, Fanny. Shall we leave you and Mr Nickleby alone?’ asked Tilda, laughing.

fiancé

n. the man that a woman is going to marry

未婚夫



‘Oh, no. Please don’t go,’ said Nicholas worriedly. He suddenly saw the way that things were going. Then, because he didn’t want to **raise** Fanny’s hopes of love, and because Browdie was a man of few words, he began to talk with Tilda. This made both Fanny and Browdie very angry.

In the end, Tilda and her fiancé went home, Fanny started crying, and Nicholas went off quickly up to bed. ‘I must stop trying to be friendly to everyone!’ he thought. ‘It just gets me into trouble.’



One morning, not long after that, Squeers woke everyone by shouting from the kitchen downstairs, ‘Are you going to sleep all day, you lazy dogs?’

‘We’re coming down now,’ shouted Nicholas from the big long bedroom upstairs, where he and the boys all slept.

‘Smike!’ called Mrs Squeers. ‘Come down here at once!’ There was no reply.

Nicholas couldn’t see Smike at all.

‘He’s not up here!’ he cried.

‘That’s what you say!’ shouted Squeers. ‘I’m coming up to find him.’

‘I think that he’s run away,’ said Nicholas when Squeers came upstairs.

raise
v. to lift up
增加

Squeers was very angry. 'How do you know that?' he asked. Now Mrs Squeers came upstairs, too.

'Smike has run away, my dear,' explained Squeers.

'That's no surprise to me!' said Mrs Squeers, looking at Nicholas with an **ugly** smile. 'You helped him!'

'I did not,' replied Nicholas hotly.

'I'll beat the life out of him when we catch him! Which way do you think he went?' Squeers asked his wife.

'Who knows? You take one coach and go **towards** York. I'll borrow another coach and go the other way,' replied Mrs Squeers.

For the rest of the day, Nicholas waited at the school with the other boys and worried.

In the evening, Squeers came back, but Smike wasn't with him.

'Someone will pay for this!' said Squeers angrily. 'I'm telling you, Nicholas.'

'It's nothing to do with me, **sir**,' said Nicholas, and he went to bed.

It was **clear** that Squeers wanted Smike back at the school just because the boy did lots of work there for nothing.

Early next morning, Nicholas heard a coach arriving at the front gate, and Mrs Squeers calling for her husband. Afraid of the worst, Nicholas looked through the window and saw Smike in the coach. His tired face was covered with **mud** and rain and he looked nearly dead. Mr Squeers came from the house and took him inside. He put him in the **cellar** and **locked** the door. He was **looking forward to** beating him later.

After lunch, Squeers told all the school to come to the classroom. When everyone was there, he brought Smike into the room, pulling him by his coat.

'Well, Smike, explain yourself!'

'Please, **sir**, **forgive** me!'

ugly

adj. not beautiful
丑陋的

towards

prep. in the
direction of
朝着

sir

n. you say this
when you talk to a
rich or important
man
先生

clear

adj. easy to
understand
明显的

mud

n. very wet earth
泥

cellar

n. a room under
the ground at the
bottom of a house
地下室

lock

v. to close with
a key
锁 (门)

look forward to

to think happily
about something
that is going to
happen
盼望

forgive

v. (forgave-
forgiven) to stop
being angry with
someone for
something bad that
they did
饶恕