

The power of Dickens

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Charles Dickens is one of the greatest writers of the English Literature. He was born in 1812, in Portsmouth, and died in 1870. His books became best-sellers in the Victorian Period. He wrote many novels, the main form of Literature at this time.

Dickens wrote about thirteen novels, and his first success was *The Pickwick Papers*, which is about the old fashioned view of England. But in *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby* he described the problems of young people. The writer was extremely worried with the suffering of children and all issues from the Industrial Revolution.

In the book *A history of reading*, by Alberto Manguel, we can read that Dickens was an actor too, and he worked in a play named *The frozen deep*, in 1857. He used his talent to read his novels to his friends and in public readings. He performed his second Christmas tale, *The Carillon*, and made one of his friends cry during his presentation. Charles Dickens was really conscious of the power of the word upon the people, so he worked hard travelling to more than forty cities. He performed about 80 public readings in England, at hotels, bookstores, offices and stores. While the famous writer was acting, he used to ask people to imagine that they were only a group of friends, waiting to hear a good story. His performances were very lively and the audience felt strong emotions. After thanking the public he would leave the room immediately because he was all sweat and he had to change his clothes.

Dickens was a fantastic communicator, like Shakespeare, who was an actor too. Both of these great men didn't study in Universities, but the names of their characters are in the heart of English people in the whole world.

Have you heard about Mr. Scrooge? No? Well, you must read about him in *A Christmas Carol*. You will enjoy it.

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