

Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Charles Dickens

You probably already know some of his characters. The **(0)** *..hungry..* Oliver Twist, who dared to ask for more. Miserly old Ebenezer Scrooge who was haunted by ghosts in *A Christmas Carol*. **HUNGER**

His **(1)** characters are why Dickens remains one of Britain's greatest writers. His novels have been noted for their mix of comedy and realism, as well as the way they tackled issues of social **(2)** in Victorian Britain. **MEMORY**
EQUAL

Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth in 1812. He grew up in London. He came from a poor family. His father was sent to a prison for people who owed money. Young Charles was sent to work in a factory. This experience had a major effect on him. It exposed him first hand to the effects of **(3)** **POOR**

Later, when his father was released, Dickens returned to school. At 15, he found work as an office boy at an attorney's. In 1829, Dickens became a freelance reporter at Doctor's Commons Court. A **(4)** reporter of Parliamentary debates in the House of Commons, he took on the pseudonym Boz in 1834. He wrote about London places and people. **SUCCESS**

Dickens wrote some short texts to accompany a series of **(5)** sporting illustrations. These later became *The Pickwick Papers* and were released as a story in **(6)** parts. It was a major success. Many of the author's later stories were written in monthly or weekly instalments in journals. **HUMOUR**
MONTH

The **(7)** of the first part of his second novel, *Oliver Twist*, began in 1837. The story was told in parts. The last part of the **(8)** was published in 1839. *Oliver Twist* told the story of an orphan who travels to London and meets a gang of young pickpockets. He followed this with many more novels, including *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House* and *Hard Times*. **PUBLISH**
SERIAL

In 1856, Dickens bought Gad's Hill Place. He had walked past this large country house as a child and dreamt of living there. Charles Dickens had a stroke at the age of 58 on June 9, 1870. He died at Gad's Hill Place, his country home in Kent, England.

Check your answers at englishzine.com/charles-dickens/

