



ECHOES OF INJUSTICE: CHARLES DICKENS' CRITIQUE OF POVERTY AND EXPLOITATION IN *DAVID COPPERFIELD*

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ABSTRACT:

It aims to examine how Charles Dickens' most powerful critique of social injustice is revealed in his novel *David Copperfield* by opening up a world of poverty and exploitation in Victorian England. Dickens uses David's eyes to discover the bitters of the poor, especially to the neglect and mistreatment of children condemned to labor. In his own life, for example, Dickens shows how these cycles of poverty repeat themselves systemically in characters such as David and Micawbers, who fight for emancipation from a soulless legal and social system. As a compelling narrative, a sharp indictment of Victorian society's indifference to the distress of its less fortunate members, it is no less. Dickens' work not only showed his readers these injustices but asked his readership for empathy and reform, earning him a long-lasting place in the history of social consciousness and literature. This paper takes Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* through this prism to explore his critique of social injustice by tracing poverty and exploitation. Historical conditions of child labor, class disparity and neglect of institutions are portrayed in Victorian English. By following David's journey, Dickens points out how poverty is internal to society in the systems that maintain it, and the lack of interest that allows the exploitation of others. Through this study of the key characters and events of this novel, the thesis proves that Dickens used fiction as a tool for social reform, delivering both an engrossing story and scathing social criticism of the Victorian period. The novel remains relevant as a reminder of the need to practice empathy and reform to combat social inequities.

KEYWORDS:

SOCIAL INJUSTICE. POVERTY, EXPLOITATION, CHILD LABOR, SOCIAL REFORM, CLASS DISPARITY.

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INTRODUCTION:

The social critic and celebrated English novelist, Charles Dickens (1812–1870), was a typical Victorian novelist with his vivid storytelling and profound insights into Victorian society. Dickens came into a modest family, and struggled at an early age after his father went in debtors' prison. Early life, poverty, and social injustice affected his lifelong empathy with the underprivileged and social reform, which flows his works.

The Novel, *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens is one of the most distinguished English works which form a social critique. Telling a gripping story, the novel published in 1850 confronts contemporary social problems in Victorian England, such as exploitation of the poor, infant labor, and the corruption of institutions. Dickens, who had suffered firsthand an awful lot of poverty and child labor, poured his own experiences into David, his fictional character. This paper looks at Dickens' representations of social injustice through the eyes of *David Copperfield* to see how

he uses *David Copperfield* to expose the struggles of the poor and to campaign for reforms.

Dickens' early life was characterised by poverty. Dickens, a child when his father was imprisoned for debt, worked in a blacking factory, a demeaning experience Dickens later incorporated into David's life. According to Dictionary of Literary Biography, David's experiences in the wine-bottling factory recall Dickens' anger and distress at the masses of children forced into labor. David says what no words can express of the secret agony of my soul as I sank into this companionship" (*David Copperfield*, 55). Child labour becomes an evil through Dickens' voice through David's voice which shows the deep emotional scars from the child exploitation from childhood, that's left in adulthood.

One of the most striking issues in the book is Child labor. Young David is made to do heavy and degrading work for Mr. Murdstone's factory, as was true for many Victorian

children. This 'employment' which, pretended was, only opened our eyes too how hypocritical a society that allowed children to suffer so that did gain. Dickens writes: Now that I know enough of the world, and of human nature, to have lost all my naïvety, I had nearly lost the capacity of being greatly surprised at anything. (*David Copperfield*, 65). In a society that so easily treated children as disposable labor, so easily dashed that innocence, this disillusionment served to compound the manifestations of psychological harm visited on these children.

In the mid 1800's child labor was the norm due to the rapid industrialization of the time that accompanied poverty and the lack of protective legislation. Families who lived in poverty pushed to survive, often working in factories, mines and other physically demanding positions that would tap a child well before they had entered adulthood. Under hazardous conditions, for long and meager wages, these children were unable, even, to supplement their families' incomes to some degree.

The children of the Victorian society were considered part and parcel of the system, there being no moral destination attached to it, even though the social system considered child labor as necessary for economic growth, ignoring its negative moral implications, as well as, its harmful effects to the child's well being. They [the Gazan families] are many and their stories were told in few words. The children had no school, and were prevented from going to school; the children lost out on an education, of a better future. It ran the poverty cycle, which turned into generations of unskilled, exploited workers.

The novel, *David Copperfield* portrays the child labor experience when Dickens chronicles David's work for Murdstone and Grinby in their wine bottling factory. Young David is abandoned, left to living with his mother and Mr. Murdstone, who is heartlessly cruel unto him after his mother's death. Insolent work, full of work which never varies, is the same work that Dickens experienced in a blacking factory when his father had been imprisoned for debt.

David elaborates that his work is exhausting both physically and emotionally so that it dehumanizes him and stunts him. He feels ashamed of being, hopeless and alienated because he realizes society sees him as a worthless worker. When he says 'No words can express the secret agony of my soul, as I sank into this companionship' (*David Copperfield*, 54), I feel his isolation palpable. Dickens' voice criticizes a system that calls for profit instead of humanity through David's voice because the system has left a psychological impact on young, innocent minds.

Dickens shows us the sting of the ruthless, never ending pressure of child labor upon the body, but even more so the spirit of a child. The setting is grimy, degrading and full of no compassion, this is an environment where David's sense of self worth and innocence are eaten away. David's narrative illustrates how Dickens unfolds the child's hope into the burdened, shamed, and self-tortured.

Dickens is able to understand the physical exhaustion a child laborers had to deal with and worked long hours with no rest. They suffered from chronic illnesses and shortened lifespans soon enough due to this constant fatigue which affected their health and growth. In describing the physical impacts, Dickens challenges a society where children are acutely uncomfortably expended in the frenetic drive for productivity for their health and well being.

David's wages symbolize poor payout as a result of child labour. Children were paid a lot less than adults as a source of cheap labor. Profit motivated employers favored business rather than ethics; hiring children proved to be less costly than investing in safer working conditions or fair wages.

This exploitative system found the children trapped in a cycle of poverty with little chance that it would improve. David's experiences bring out the Dickensian condemnation of the Victorian economy's inability to protect its own youth, to prevent an economically gained dollar from costing a child his well-being and future.

In fact, when the book *David Copperfield* was written, there was no law on child labor. In addition, Dickens condemns the government and legal system for not protecting children from such exploitation. Society did nothing and there was no oversight which enabled employers to mistreat children with impunity.

Implicitly, Dickens demands reform, requiring laws to protect against the exploitation of youth, and to safeguard the most basic rights and safety of such workers. His critique is right in line with his support of Ragged Schools, which endeavored to afford the first opportunity of education in lieu of the chance to work to those with no ready means of existence.

He makes special points of the psychological isolation and alienation of child laborers, beyond the physical hardship. In David's work environment (without friendship or compassion) his connection to the family and society is destroyed. He talks of feeling abandoned, of being 'secretly degrading' on his own in the world where no one sees he's in pain.

Like Dickens's wider point about a society that isolates and ostracises its most vulnerable, this emotional isolation reflects Dickens's broader critique. By painting David's loneliness, Dickens makes the reader think about the psychological consequence of child labor, and the social inability that compounds this misery.

Dickens also uses *David Copperfield* to condemn child labor and advocate for reform. The suffering of David, his portrayal, becomes a powerful case against exploitation, which should be prevented and for benefit of children. A vocal supporter of social reforms, such as those that eventually resulted in more stringent regulation of child labor, Dickens was also known as being unforgiving of Vingt Choses. His novel moved public empathy and readers were inspired to understand the need for child to be provided nurturing environment.

One of the things that David Copperfield, like many of Dickens' works, did was raise consciousness about how the working class was being treated, and urge Victorian society to change its attitude towards it and be more humane and compassionate towards it. His fiction brought forward conversations that helped in Britain's labor laws' slow but sure improvement and educational opportunities for children.

In *Winter's Bone*, child rights remain in the news because of Dickens' still potent critique of child labor in David Copperfield. His advancement of child labor contributed to the shift of societal attitudes and years later helped lay the groundwork for legislation that would protect young workers.

However, the novel, *David Copperfield* is still a book of consideration within the realms of child labor, poverty, and how social institutions contribute to fighting exploitation. Dickens' writing has formed a widespread impression of the importance of children's rights. His representation of David's suffering reminds us of the importance of protecting vulnerable children from exploitation.

Lastly, Dickens uses *David Copperfield* to condemn Victorian society's practices about child labor, while urging compassion and reform. The way he shares David's pain and struggles provide his readers a great understanding of the necessity to preserve children's welfare, develop their potential and prevent the injustices which arise from society when it worships profit over people. A lasting novel to fight against child exploitation and the responsibility of empathy and self on the part of any society.

In *David Copperfield*, the disparity between social classes shows us why Dickens attacked such a system: one that places great value on being rich and powerful as compared to morality and compassion. The fact that David went from a comfortable childhood into poverty, his mother remarrying, shows just how vulnerable those with no means and no connections are. Mr. Cruel Murdstone also rules David's life, using authority over him, not as a son but as a subordinate. An even greater personification of the theme of class conflict is the novel's antagonist, Uriah Heep. Yet while Heep is a lower-class member, he uses the system to his own ends and exposes how social injustice lends itself to resentment and exploitation.

Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* creates a complex explication of class inequity and social unfairness in late 19th century England, discussing the vast prohibition between the wealthy and the economically deprived, and demonstrates the tremendous influence of the social system in making the fact of inequality true. In his characters and plot, Dickens shows how the lower classes are usually exploited, neglected, and denied under opportunities for advancement by the rich and powerful. When examining these theme, Dickens not only exposes the injustice he encounters but also calls for a more empathetic and equitable society.

The general society was divided into a class hierarchy where social mobility was impossible. Those born into wealth had access to education, connections, and opportunities that you working people didn't have. Characters of lower socioeconomic backgrounds in David Copperfield can't escape the obstacles that nearly ensure their inability to advance their circumstances, even for David after his mother remarries.

For instance, the experiences of Mr. Micawber especially emphasize the lack of social mobility: he educated (thought to be), and talented (creatively appropriate) but caught in a cycle of debt and poverty blameless but made by a society that makes those with financial circumstances worse off rather than better off. Mr. Micawber is a case study of a person who, with education and talent, but through no fault of their own finds themselves unable to move through the middle class.

Dickens analyses the situations of classes on how people in higher social classes exploit people in lower classes with personal gains. For example, Uriah Heep represents the resentment and the exploitation based on the class that comes up from exploitation. Heep is of lower class but uses deceit and dishonest maneuvering to gain power which he hopes to take out on his employer, Mr. Wickfield being of a higher station.

Another such figure is the exploitation of the weak into another, David's cruel stepfather, Mr. Murdstone. He is a middle class representative who has a position of power picks on David and his mom, Clara, through strict rules and harsh punishments. Here, David and Clara's callous treatment by Sutherland displays why power is so frequently a means of dominating, and not a means of protecting, and an implication that sometimes power is the preservation of economic and social status as an oppressive act.

In *David Copperfield* Dickens demonstrates the failure of institutionalized society to protect the vulnerable. All this harmed characters such as Mr. Micawber, whose debts took away his prison and cemented him as a tramp of no social welfare. These institutions are indifferent to class disparity, they punish instead of help those struggling but stuck in a class.

In addition to the evidence the treatment of orphans and children also includes David and girls like Emily, show the institutionalized injustice of Victorian society. Children are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, lacking family or any support. Such children as David, who have no social safety nets, are born into poverty, then used a disposable labor source in Murdstone and Grinby's factory where David is used as a commodity, not a child in need of guidance.

On one hand, Dickens explores how good wine from a good wine merchant blurs one's perception of character and how people manipulate our definition of character to create a social hierarchy where rich people are good and poor people are bad. Characters like Steerforth who comes from a high place take on the veneer of respect and admiration because of his wealth, yet upon exposing his disregard for

others interests especially those of lesser social standing, such as Emily, may not get even that veneer of respect and admiration.

However, for instance, Mr. Peggotty, a character belonging to a lower class, has moral strength, kindness and toughness. Mr. Peggotty's willingness to go in search of and redeem hallway her niece Emily, the social outcast, as an example, embodies the integrity and compassion found in most 'wealthy' characters. The contrast that Dickens provides between rich characters and the working class implies that wealth doesn't consist of moral superiority, in opposition to the social norms of that time.

David Copperfield shows how class distinction is crosscut by gender, creating additional disadvantages for women. Despite being victims of manipulation, characters like Emily are seduced and abandoned by Steerforth and will suffer the most severe social ramifications for their perceived transgressions. Low social standing have left Emily without the resources or power to resist Steerforth, or, if she did, to rebuild her life. The fall from grace is her own fault.

Yet another example of how class and gender intersect to make social vulnerability is David's mother, Clara Copperfield. Her marriage to the domineering Mr. Murdstone together with her oppression, both instinctively and actively, by him and eventually Mr. Murdstone's oppression of David further reducing her agency, plays out during the misery of Mrs. Murdstone as women from lower or more vulnerable classes would often be exploited and controlled by men of higher social standing. These are Dickens characters that show us how and why women in Victoria's society had never got such a status that made them possible to be abused and left without any resources.

Dickens reveals the misery that working class people suffer, but he also describes how they are united, resilient, and compassionate to each other. For example, the Peggotty family shows how familial bonds and mutual support remain strong even when limited in their means. Mr. While rich people would have done anything to cast Emily down, Peggotty is always dedicated to finding and forgiving Emily when she falls from grace.

Mr. Micawber, as well, is a model of fortitude and humor in spite of his desire for funds. His friendships with David and others from similar low background offerings are indicative of the formidable, dignified hardness forged in defeat. Through these characters, Dickens suggests that the true measure of the worth of a human is not the amount of money that he controls but rather the amount of compassion and community in which he can partake.

Dickens calls on the reader to both feel and act with reform regarding class disparity and social injustice. He draws readers' eye away from higher class characters and brings attention to the suffering of the lower class, calling their values and structures in question. Dickens stresses that people should be evaluated based on character and conduct rather than social status.

Dickens takes pains, through David Copperfield to argue,

not for the value of money or power, but of humanity and compassion. His critical point pivots to the rich's duty to raise up those grinding out a living rather than exploiting them, and that we must have systemic change so that we do not see the 'benefiting by another people's expenditure of labour' in Victorian society as he saw.

While he critiques this social mobility, Dickens suggests that education and personal growth offer a pathway, but for a hard one. Eventually, David himself succeeds with perseverance and talent precisely what Dickens believed in individual agency and upward (ostensibly) mobility via education and work. However, the struggles David endures are the reality that such routes are not available to all, not least the poor, stuck in poverty with little or no help.

However, Dickens underlines the value of education and the necessity for society to provide the facilities that will enable people to better their circumstances. With this David's journey, he is pleading for an environment whereby people are not hindered as they embark on their path to self betterment and rise became of merit, not of birthright.

However, the character of Mr. Micawber, who is perpetually in debt, is used by Dickens to critique the way the legal system exploits the poor: almost imprisoning him so he is reliant on overspending that most money he has; when he is released the debt return and again he finds himself incarcerated, and spends further money tricking others so that he has little left to live on. To Micawber: 'I am a mere cipher in the world' (David Copperfield, 99). Through his Micawber, Dickens makes clear the legal and economic institutions of this time did not have compassion for the working class and represented there was no escape from poverty, just continued entrapment in it.

Throughout *David Copperfield* Dickens keeps emphasizing our society's callousness to the greatest suffering of its weakest members. Poor Mr. Peggotty, along with his friend David, is a working class man that 'our society' neglects and abuses. But even as their characters fail, Mr. Peggotty is one example of morality; Mr. Murdstone and Uriah Heep are a far cry from such morality as they succeed. Dickens reminds us that society will overlook the pain of those that are powerless or poor and calls for empathy and reform.

In *David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens demonstrates how Victoria England was an insensitive social machine towards the poor and people on society's fringes, particularly the working class. In the struggles and the lives of characters who are let down, abandoned or used as resources Dickens paints a bleak picture of a society which refuses to see suffering. His criticism calls for a mending of moral failings of institutions, social customs and beings who favor or arrogantly endow poverty and oppression.

Of all David's experiences of child labor, societal indifference in the novel is probably the most poignant. When his mother dies David is sent to work at Murdstone and Grinby's wine bottling factory, where as is often the case in these sent to so far life you are exposed to demeaning and physically demanding work reserved for

adults. Victorian England's indifference to the welfare of its children is revealed by the fact that we accepted child labor as a part of society.

Given, the bleak, unsanitary place in which David works, children work alongside adults for long hours with little if any supervision, that which is described as a system of inhumanity of putting children, the children who are the lowest of the low in any socioeconomic scale, in cheap labor. This revelations of emotional cost of this neglect are shown in David's painful isolation and shame. This is a Dickens based experience in which society that assumes the productivity of the economy and the well being of its people at the cost of the youth, so the most vulnerable in it.

Mr. Micawber's recurring financial troubles expose another facet of societal indifference: the debt imprisonment system. Trapped in cycles of debt and constantly pursued by creditors they are unable to break free from poverty. Eventually, he is arrested for debt, the result of a system of law designed to incarcerate the poor, never allowing them to reach a starting point to get back on their feet.

Dickens also uses Mr. Micawber's plight to criticize such a society that criminalizes poverty, yet does not deal with the causes of poverty. The debtors' prison is a common fate for people owing money, a remnant of apathy by Victorian society toward the struggles of the lower classes. Prisoning people for debt not only keeps them from working and paying off what they owe, but also renders them helpless, and thus a cycle of hopelessness.

This further focuses on the indifferent treatment of women of a poorer socioeconomic status in society. Em'ly, of a poor background, looks up, hopes, and is tempted by, and then deserted by, Steer forth, a man of a better class. Its ready condemnation brings the stigmata of society to follow society's eagerness to ostracize and shame vulnerable people who have fallen from respectability, as in Em'ly's case.

Em'ly's own experience reveals the double standard and tougher penalties accorded working class women, even more than men, for breaking taboos. Dickens' critique of Victorian society's moral hypocrisy is cemented by his depiction of society's indifference to her circumstances and the hardships she endures, particularly after being thrown out. Em'ly is castigated; Steer forth's 'moral falling' is tolerated socially, thrusting into a spotlight the bias and compassion of society: their hatred of those they perceive, and thus find, to be morally fallen.

The Peggotty family is a picture of working class resilience in a society where these struggles are invisible and unhelpful. Though they live on little (and there is considerable economic disadvantage and social stigma attached to being 'Peggottys'), MrPeggotty and the Peggottys stick together. Mr. Peggotty's devotion to Em'ly, in particular after her downfall, is a note of loyalty and character out of step with the world's casualness.

Dickens shows how those of the working class often look after their own rather than expecting to be helped by any

proper help from society or social institutions through the Peggotty's family. This is a society that has left the poor to fight for themselves to fend, while spilling its sympathy and assistance on to the wealthy.

Dickens attacks broad Victorian social institutions workhouses, factories, debtors' prisons which 'cannot relieve, or, at least, cannot improperly improve,' those who are in need. These institutions in the novel either exploit or abandon individuals instead of dying them out of poverty. David's time at Murdstone and Grinby's, again Em'ly's circumstances; the lack of institutional support for Em'ly all give a glimpse of a socially indifferent to the well being of the vulnerable.

Dickens suggests that indifference to poverty is both the result and the reason for Victorian England's lack of social safety nets. The novel emphasizes the absence of institutions that would offer educational and economic opportunities to the working class and might otherwise enable them to ameliorate their situation. Rather, society allows the rich to reap the poor at the expense of profit while blind to the suffering it entails.

Murdstone and Grinby's factory is, in so many ways, a microcosm of exploitation and apathy in society. The machine is used to exploit young David, the factory employee, who, as a callous cog in the machine is denied childhood and subjected to an inhumane job in a horrible, brutish system with no protection or even the rudiments of concern for their well being. The factory symbolizes society's exploitation of its most vulnerable members described a demeaning and degrading environment.

Dickens portrays this factory as cruel and depicts a system in which profit trumps human dignity. Societies' failure to recognize or remedy the abuse of young workers are shown in David's lack of support, education, or advocacy. An indictment of an industrialized society which by systematic oversight, fails the needs of its workforce is the factory's inhumane conditions.

Dickens attacks the rich because they lack a sense of moral feeling for the plight of the poor. Individuals like Mr. Murdstone and Steer forth express people who are happy with comfort and security and disregard for them, which are likely to tarnish or may hurt. For example, Murdstone is more about discipline and control than support, and Steer forth does not care what happens to others relating to his conquests.

The wealthy are shown by Dickens as largely indifferent or even cruel, to which he uses these portrayals to suggest their moral apathy brings about social inequality. Then they tell the well off to look after their influence as the privileged rather than add to social injustice. By suggesting that a lack of empathy among the upper classes allows for the exploitation and debasement of the working poor, Dickens begins to suggest that if the upper class develops more empathy, more compassionate society would also result.

Finally, Dickens' depiction of apathy to poverty and exploitation it is in fact a cry for mercy and intervention.

Through the suffering of David, Micawber and Em'ly, he urges readers to understand the humanity of the poor, and the damaging result of a society who refuse to see them. His novel emphasizes the importance of doing social responsibility, compassion, and the transformation of institutions guilty for suffering.

Dickens brings to people's attention the moral must of individuals and society to help and enhance the less fortunate. The marginalized are given a voice, the struggle is in vivid detail, and readers are asked to confront the realities of poverty and exploitation – asked to challenge their society so that profit and status do not blind politicians and the powerful.

David Copperfield is a powerful commentary on 'Victorian society's failings' as Dickens' critique of indifference to poverty and exploitation, is depicted. What emerges from that is vivid descriptions of neglectful institutions and unsympathetic wealthy characters and harsh realities of poverty in a world of the vulnerable left to suffer alone. In Dickens' novel he promotes guiltless empathy, reform and moral awakening and urges readers to abandon indifference, and fight for a more just, more noble society.

Adversity is what mars David's early years, starting with the death of his father and then some hard knocks afterward. Before long, his mother, Clara, marries the vicious Mr. Murdstone whose oppressive characteristic makes David to pretend that he's the elder sister and a character who makes David to experience emotional pain at an early age. David can take recourse into the defensive position, it's the Murdstone's abusive treatment that puts him in a defensive and so he's becoming independent from an early age. This experience reminds me that early adversity teaches you to become resilient and to want to break out of an oppressive situation.

David's forced labor at Murdstone and Grinby's wine bottling factory upon his mother's death is its turning point in David's youth. David's sense of displacement and despair is compounded by the physical labor, social isolation, and humiliation he endures at the factory. Yet, in its very heart of hardship, this period makes him self-reliant and drives him to seek ways to better himself. As Dickens too worked as a child in a blacking factory and David's journey would have been played out in Dickens' mind, his journey is a personal dramatisation of Dickens' own resilience.

During David's journey, positive influences bulk up his character and give him compassion, perseverance, and honesty principles. Characters, such as his companionous childhood caregiver, Peggotty, and his great aunt, Betsey Trotwood, provide David the love he doesn't get from his step father. More importantly, when Aunt Betsey intervenes, it is on a unique point in David's life; it salvages him out of destitution and gives him an education that clears the way for self-improvement and personal fulfilment.

So David's friendship with Mr Wickfield, Agnes, the Micawber family is a source of moral and emotional

support. Through these relationships, David learns what is inherent to being loyal, being honest, and even being capable of forgiveness. The point reiterated is that each positive influence shows how mentorship and compassion are important and that society should do the same for people in need. And in that, Dickens suggests that resilience is usually fostered among individuals through the kindness and mentoring of others, and that society should strengthen those who support those they want to be resilient.

Resilience and reform are part of David's education journey. David attends school largely with Aunt Betsey's help and becomes a proctor and later an author. For David, education is a means of personal advancement and social mobility and presents education as a powerful tool for self-improvement.

Dickens subtly uses David's access to education to condemn the limited educational opportunities for the lower classes in Victorian English. Education facilitated David's success somewhat, and more education could help others improve their lives. Dickens argues for a socially reformist approach to education, one that addresses systemic issues to ensure that education is indeed accessible and that it can provide people with a way to become independent and have their worth as a matter of self.

David's ascension is not only about finances and society, but also about morality. David has a run in with characters, Steerforth and Uriah Heep, who retire the poor moral choices and learn from them throughout his life what is important as an individual, the value of integrity, respect, and humility. Steerforth betrays little Em'ly, and Mr. Wickfield becomes the victim of Heep's lies; both are cautionary examples of what happens, not just when people are selfish and dishonest, but to the people who attempt to profit off others through manipulation.

David's moral compass becomes this defining characteristic of David's character. His strength and hard inner core are shown in his empathy, sense of justice, and loyalty to those he cares about. This tells the reader that Dickens thinks moral development is of vital importance because the happy life depends on ethical behaviour and genuine relationship. Dickens saw David as a man who learns well from others mistakes, who commits to truthfulness and compassion, and who believes personal values can help create personal resilience and can propel people to reform.

As a personal triumph and farther symbol of self expression and redemption, David's ultimate success as an author is proof positive. Writing gives David an opportunity to work through a tough time and express his voice, way, and experience. The message, Dickens drives home through David's success as an author is that personal adversity can not only be turned into (creative and constructive) outlets, but can, in fact, lead to success.

For David, an author's career symbolizes the possibility of personal and professional fulfilment in Victorian society.

According to Dickens himself, who went on to become a famous writer himself, David's portrayal of the belief that people can rise above their circumstances by hard work is a way to achieve fame. The story of David's journey through the drudgery of being a child of neglect to being one of the most beloved authors in the world ends opening the door to every other person's journey towards self development and liberation from the past one has come to live in.

David's story is a story of reform and compassion, and it offers a transformative message in his life and a social message. Dickens suggests here that his choice of David's journey prompts readers to feel concern for a lot of the lower classes and to know that those in need would weaken only with support. Lives all over would be changed if a more compassionate society were to exist and make safety nets for the vulnerable a reality, like Aunt Betsey is in David's life.

Dickens' subtext emphasis on kindness, education and mentorship as necessary supports to David implicitly advocates for social reform. David's resilience grows through acts of compassion Dickens displays, which advocate for changes in society that would provide others with the same aid. Other than David's own hard work, the ingredients of his success relate to the kindness of others, indicating that a society where individuals live with empathy and choose reform, can lift and power individuals.

In the end, David's journey is a symbol of resilience, showing that people should be strong enough in him, choose memeticly, and work on his self-improvement. Even though David suffers and is hard, he can raise a useful life for himself, which shows that resiliency can result in personal greatness.

David's story inspires change and challenges us to imagine how resilience may be supported and nurtured through compassionate reform. David's journey becomes a call to action for society to see there is problems with the disadvantaged and take action accordingly. Focusing on resilience engages Dickens to argue for society and individuals both have a role in shaping a holistically more just and supportive environment for all.

The theme of reform runs through *David Copperfield* and is underwritten by Dickens' powerful narrative of resilience. David's tale of a neglected child becoming an acclaimed author proves that these seemingly insurmountable experiences of young people restraining who they are can be overcome by boundless inner strength, education, and great supportive care and love. With David's story, Dickens attacks the social structures which cannot as a matter of social support, the vulnerable, for crying and demands a more compassionate and caring society. By elevating what Dickens shams on to for the individual's ability to prevail in a bad second, additionally, as we say, epidemiologist Klan is in the direction of arranging to empower individuals and enhance those who would need far the most support.

CONCLUSION

The narrative in *David Copperfield*, Dickens creates a story beyond personal triumph to testify against the terrible social problems of his time. In *The Pickwick Papers* Dickens describes the poverty and exploitation that traps children and adults in cycles, with the writing being used as a rallying point for more social reform and empathy, compassion and empathy. His critique of child labor, class disparity, and institutional neglect remains a timeless call for a more just society. *David Copperfield* is a timeless and enduringly effective argument for action in the cause of social injustice and the role played by literature in drawing attention to and helping effect change.

Finally, *David Copperfield* is a triumphant study in resilience, on its face social bite, all the while we need tolerance in a bullying society. Charles Dickens via David uncovers how poverty, exploitation and class differentiation which are alive in Victorian England through the experiences that David (the most obviously vulnerable) and the vividly portrayed depiction of secondary characters that reveal the lack of sensitivity from society towards them. However, there is a transfer of hope from Dickens' belief in the transformative power of education, mentorship, and moral fortitude through David's journey, from a vulnerable child victim of cruelty and neglect to an empowered individual free to use his voice as a writer.

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