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## *Curriculum Guide 2013-2014*

### **The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby**



**David Edgar's adaptation of the novel  
by Charles Dickens**

#### **Sunshine State Standards**

##### **Theater Arts**

- TH.D.1.4
- TH.S.1.5
- TH.S.1.7
- TH.S.3.2
- TH.S.3.3

#### **Common Core Standards**

##### **ELA Literacy**

- W.7-12.2
- W.7-12.3
- W.7-12.4
- W.7-12.5
- SL.7-12.1
- SL.7-12.7

**Content Advisory:** *Nicholas Nickleby* contains scenes of stage choreographed beatings and other physical violence. The play is best suited for ages 13 and up.

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# A Letter from the Director of Education About Nicholas Nickleby in the Classroom

Teachers:

First, thank you for supporting Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. We appreciate how challenging it can be to bring your classes here, given your scheduling and financial challenges. We hope you'll agree that the benefits of sharing live professional theatre with your students is well worth jumping through all those hoops!



We understand, however, that bringing your classes to both parts of Nicholas Nickleby may be prohibitive. It's hard to take a one day field trip, let alone two! So, our Curriculum Guide is designed to make this unique theatrical experience user friendly for you and your school.

Charles Dickens wrote *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* as a serial, with one chapter published each month. "A full length novel was out of the price range of most of his readers (a novel cost 31 shillings in 1836, the average worker earned 6 to 20 shillings per week) but a monthly installment, 32 pages with 2 illustrations and advertisements, could be sold for a shilling." (<http://charlesdickenspage.com>) This structure served to urge the reader on to the next chapter, or installment. The play adaptation, however, is designed for Part One to be a satisfying theatrical experience on its own. Certainly the story is incomplete. The unraveling of Ralph, vindication for Kate, resolution for Smike and triumph of Nicholas over his circumstances are not presented until Part Two. But Part One ends on a happy note, with Kate thwarting Hawk's advances (albeit temporarily) and Nicholas and Smike bidding farewell to the Crummies Theatrical troupe.

With that in mind, we encourage you to consider bringing your students to Part One and studying the remainder of the novel in class. In the section, "For Teachers: Studying Part Two as a Class" on page 17, you'll find quizzes and lesson plans to assist you in teaching the parts of the novel covered in Part Two. We hope that this will enable us to share the wonders of this event with more students. Additionally, please don't hesitate to contact us if you need further resources. It is truly our pleasure to help in any way we can.

Curtain Up!!

Anne Hering  
Director of Education

# Pre-Performance

## About the Book

*Nicholas Nickleby* is Charles Dickens' third published novel. He returned to his favourite publishers and to the format that was considered so successful with *The Pickwick Papers*. The story first appeared in monthly parts, after which it was issued in one volume. The style is considered to be episodic and humorous. Dickens began writing '*Nickleby*' while still working on *Oliver Twist* and while the mood is considerably lighter, his depiction of the Yorkshire school run by Wackford Squeers is as moving and influential as those of the workhouse and criminal underclass in *Twist*.

'*Nickleby*' marks a new development in a further sense as it is the first of Dickens' romances. When it was published the book was an immediate and complete success, and established Dickens's lasting reputation.

The cruelty of a real Yorkshire schoolmaster named William Shaw became the basis for Dickens's brutal character of Wackford Squeers. Dickens visited his school and based the school section of *Nicholas Nickleby* on his visit.

### Major themes

Like many of Dickens' works, the novel has a contemporary setting. Much of the action takes place in London, with several chapters taking place in Dickens' birthplace of Portsmouth, as well as settings in Yorkshire and Devon.

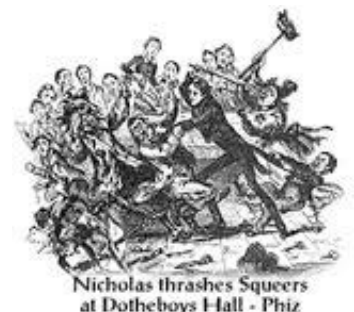
The tone of the work is that of ironic social satire, with Dickens taking aim at what he perceives to be social injustices. Many memorable characters are introduced, including Nicholas' malevolent Uncle Ralph, and the villainous Wackford Squeers, who operates an abusive all-boys boarding school at which Nicholas temporarily serves as a tutor.

## PLOT SUMMARY

### Containing a Faithful Account of the Fortunes, Misfortunes, Uprisings, Downfallings and Complete Career of the Nickelby Family

Nicholas Nickleby's father dies unexpectedly after losing all of his money in a poor investment. Nicholas, his mother and his younger sister, Kate, are forced to give up their comfortable lifestyle in Devonshire and travel to London to seek the aid of their only relative, Nicholas's uncle Ralph Nickleby. Ralph, a cold and ruthless businessman, has no desire to help his destitute relations and hates Nicholas, who reminds him of his dead brother, on sight. He gets Nicholas a low-paying job as an assistant to Wackford Squeers, who runs the school Dotheboys Hall in Yorkshire. Nicholas is initially wary of Squeers (a very unpleasant man with one eye) because he is gruff and violent towards his young charges, but he tries to quell his suspicions. As Nicholas boards the stagecoach for Greta Bridge, he is handed a letter by Ralph's clerk, Newman Noggs. A once-wealthy businessman, Noggs lost his fortune, became a drunk and had no other

recourse but to seek employment with Ralph, whom he loathes. The letter expresses concern for the innocent young man and offers assistance if Nicholas ever requires it. Once he arrives in Yorkshire, Nicholas comes to realise that Squeers is running a scam: he takes in unwanted children (most of whom are illegitimate, crippled or deformed) for a high fee, and starves and mistreats his charges while using the money sent by their parents to pad his own pockets. Squeers and his monstrous wife whip and beat the children regularly while spoiling their own son rotten. While he is there, Nicholas befriends a simple boy named Smike, who is



Nicholas thrashes Squeers at Dotheboys Hall - Phiz



# Pre-Performance

## Read the Plot Summary

older than the other “students” and now acts as an unpaid servant. Nicholas attracts the attention of Fanny Squeers, his employer's plain and shrewish daughter, who deludes herself into thinking that Nicholas is in love with her. She attempts to disclose her affections during a game of cards, but Nicholas doesn't catch her meaning. Instead he ends up flirting with her friend Tilda Price, to the consternation of both Fanny and Tilda's friendly but crude-mannered fiancé John Browdie. After being accosted by Fanny again, Nicholas bluntly tells her he does not return her affections and wishes to be free of the horrible atmosphere of Dotheboys Hall, earning her enmity.

Fanny uses her new-found loathing of Nicholas to make life difficult for the only friend he has at the school: Smike, whom Squeers takes to beating more and more frequently. One day Smike runs away, but is caught and brought back to Dotheboys. Squeers begins to beat him, but Nicholas intervenes. Squeers strikes him across the face and Nicholas snaps, beating the schoolmaster violently. Quickly packing his belongings and leaving Dotheboys Hall, he meets John Browdie on the way. Browdie finds the idea that Squeers himself has been beaten uproariously funny, and gives Nicholas money and a walking staff to aid him on his trip back to London. At dawn, he is found by Smike, who begs to come with him. Nicholas and Smike set out towards London.

Meanwhile, Kate and her mother are forced by Ralph to move out of their lodgings in the house of the kindly portrait painter Miss LaCreevy and into a cold and drafty house Ralph owns in a London slum. Ralph finds employment for Kate working for a fashionable milliner, Madame Mantalini. Her husband, Mr Mantalini, is a gigolo who depends on his (significantly older) wife to supply his extravagant tastes and offends Kate by leering at her. Kate proves initially clumsy at her job, which endears her to the head of the showroom, Miss Knagg, a vain and foolish woman who uses Kate to make herself look better. This backfires when a client prefers to be served by the young and pretty Kate rather than the ageing Miss Knagg. Kate is blamed

for the insult, and as a result, Kate is ostracised by the other milliners and left friendless.

Nicholas seeks out the aid of Newman Noggs, who shows him a letter that Fanny Squeers has written to Ralph viciously exaggerating the events of the beating. Noggs tells Nicholas, who is intent on confronting his uncle, that Ralph is out of town and advises him to find a job. Nicholas goes to an employment office, where he encounters a strikingly beautiful girl. His search for employment fails, and he is about to give up when Noggs offers him the meagre position of French teacher to the children of his neighbours, the Kenwigs family, and Nicholas is hired under the assumed name of “Johnson” to teach the children French.

Ralph asks Kate to attend a dinner he is hosting for some business associates. When she arrives she discovers she is the only woman in attendance, and it becomes clear Ralph is using her as bait to entice the foolish nobleman Lord Frederick Verisopht to do business with him. The other guests include Verisopht's mentor and friend, the disreputable nobleman Sir Mulberry Hawk, who humiliates Kate at dinner by making her the subject of an offensive bet. She flees the table, but is later accosted by Hawk. He attempts to force himself on her but is stopped by Ralph. Ralph shows some unexpected tenderness towards Kate but insinuates that he will withdraw his financial help if she tells her mother about what happened.

The next day, Nicholas discovers that his uncle has returned. He visits his mother and sister just as Ralph is reading them Fanny Squeers' letter and slandering Nicholas. He confronts his uncle, who vows to give no financial assistance to the Nicklebys as long as Nicholas stays with them. His hand forced, Nicholas agrees to leave London, but warns Ralph that a day of reckoning will one day come between them.

The next morning, Nicholas and Smike travel towards Portsmouth with the intention of becoming sailors. At an inn, they encounter the theatrical manager Vincent Crummles, who hires Nicholas (still going under the name of Johnson) on sight as his new juvenile lead and

# Pre-Performance

## Read the Plot Summary

playwright with the task of adapting French tragedies into English and then modifying them for the troupe's minimal dramatic abilities.

Nicholas and Smike join the acting company and are warmly received by the troupe, which includes Crummles's formidable wife, their daughter, "The Infant Phenomenon", and many other eccentric and melodramatic thespians. Nicholas and Smike make their debuts in *Romeo and Juliet*, as *Romeo* and *the Apothecary* respectively, and are met with great acclaim from the provincial audiences. Nicholas enjoys a flirtation with his *Juliet*, the lovely Miss Snevellici



Back in London, Mr Mantalini's reckless spending has bankrupted his wife. Madame Mantalini is forced to sell her business to Miss Knagg, whose first order of business is to fire Kate. She finds employment as the companion of the social-climbing Mrs Wittiterly. Meanwhile, Sir Mulberry Hawk begins a plot to humiliate Kate for refusing his advances. He uses Lord Frederick, who is infatuated with her, to discover where she lives from Ralph. He is about to succeed in this plot when Mrs Nickleby enters Ralph's office, and the two rakes switch their attentions from Kate's uncle to her mother, successfully worming their way into Mrs Nickleby's company and gaining access to the Wittiterly house. Mrs. Wittiterly grows jealous and admonishes Kate for flirting with the noblemen. The unfairness of this accusation makes Kate so angry that she rebukes her employer, who flies into a fit of hysterics. With no other recourse, Kate goes to her uncle for assistance, but he refuses to help her, citing his business relationships with Hawk and Verisopht. It is left to Newman Noggs to come to her aid, and he writes to Nicholas, telling him in vague terms of his sister's immediate need for him. Nicholas immediately quits the Crummles troupe and returns to London.

Noggs and Miss La Creevy confer, and decide that delay telling Nicholas Kate's plight until it is too late at night for him to seek out Hawk and take violent action. So, when Nicholas arrives, Both Noggs and Miss La Creevy are out.

Nicholas is about to search the city for them when he accidentally overhears Hawk and Lord Frederick rudely toasting Kate in a coffeehouse. He is able to glean from their conversation what has happened, and confronts them. Hawk refuses to give Nicholas his name or respond to his accusations. When he attempts to leave, Nicholas follows him out, and leaps onto the running board of his carriage, demanding his name. Hawk strikes him with a riding crop, and Nicholas loses his temper, returning the blow and spooking the horses, causing the carriage to crash. Hawk is injured in the crash and vows revenge, but Lord Verisopht, remorseful for his treatment of Kate, tells him that he will attempt to stop him. Later, after Hawk has recovered, they quarrel over Hawk's insistence on revenging himself on Nicholas. Verisopht strikes Hawk, resulting in a duel. Verisopht is killed, and Hawk flees to France. As a result, Ralph loses a large sum of money owed to him by the deceased lord.

Nicholas collects Kate from the Wittiterlys, and with their mother and Smike, they move back into Miss LaCreevy's house. Nicholas pens a letter to Ralph refusing, on behalf of his family, a penny of his uncle's money or influence. Returning to the employment office, Nicholas meets Charles Cheeryble, a wealthy and extremely benevolent merchant who runs a business with his twin brother Ned. Hearing Nicholas's story, the brothers take him into their employ at a generous salary and provide his family with a small house in a London suburb.

Ralph encounters a beggar, who recognises him and reveals himself as Brooker, Ralph's former employee. He attempts to blackmail Ralph with a piece of unknown information, but is driven off. Returning to his office, Ralph receives Nicholas's letter and begins plotting against his nephew in earnest. Wackford Squeers returns to London and joins Ralph in his plots.

Smike has the misfortune to run into Squeers on a London street, who kidnaps him. Luckily for Smike, John Browdie is honeymooning in London with his new wife Tilda and discovers his predicament. When they have dinner with Squeers, Browdie fakes an illness and takes the opportunity to rescue Smike and send him back to Nicholas. In gratitude, Nicholas invites the Browdies to dinner. At the party, also attended

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## Read the Plot Summary

by the Cheerybles's nephew Frank and their elderly clerk Tim Linkinwater, Ralph and Squeers attempt to reclaim Smike by presenting forged documents that he is the long-lost son of a man named Snawley (who, in actuality, is a friend of Squeers with children at Dotheboys Hall). Smike refuses to go, but the threat of legal action remains.

While at work, Nicholas encounters the beautiful young woman he had seen in the employment office and realises he is in love with her. The brothers tell him that her name is Madeline Bray, the penniless daughter of a debtor, Walter Bray, and enlist his help in obtaining small sums of money for her by commissioning her artwork, the only way they can help her due to her tyrannical father.

Arthur Gride, an elderly miser, offers to pay a debt Ralph is owed by Walter Bray in exchange for the moneylender's help. Gride has illegally gained possession of the will of Madeline's grandfather, and she will become an heiress upon the event of her marriage. The two moneylenders convince Bray to bully his daughter into accepting the disgusting Gride as a husband with the promise of paying off his debts. Ralph is not aware of Nicholas' involvement with the Brays, and Nicholas does not discover Ralph's scheme until the eve of the wedding. He appeals to Madeline to cancel the wedding, but despite her feelings for Nicholas, she is too devoted to her dying father to go against his wishes. On the day of the wedding, Nicholas attempts to stop it once more but his efforts prove academic when Bray, guilt-ridden at the sacrifice his daughter has made for him, dies unexpectedly. Madeline thus has no reason to marry Gride and Nicholas and Kate take her to their house to recover.

Smike has contracted tuberculosis and become dangerously ill. In a last attempt to save his friend's health, Nicholas takes him to his childhood home in Devonshire, but Smike's health rapidly deteriorates. On his deathbed, Smike is startled to see the man who brought him to Squeers' school. Nicholas dismisses it as an illusion but it is later revealed that Smike was right. After confessing his love for Kate, Smike dies peacefully in Nicholas's arms.

When they return to Gride's home after the aborted wedding, Ralph and Gride discover that Peg Sliderskew, Gride's aged housekeeper, has robbed Gride, taking, amongst other things, the will. To get it back, Ralph enlists Wackford Squeers's services to track down Peg. Noggs discovers this plot, and with the help of Frank Cheeryble, he is able to recover the will and have Squeers arrested.

The Cheeryble brothers confront Ralph, informing him that his various schemes against Nicholas have failed. They advise him to retire from London before charges are brought up against him, as Squeers is determined to confess all and implicate Ralph. He refuses their help, but is summoned back to their offices that evening and told that Smike is dead. When he reacts to the news with vicious glee, the brothers reveal their final card. The beggar Brooker emerges, and tells Ralph that Smike was his own son. As a young man, Ralph had married a woman for her fortune, but kept it secret so as to not forfeit her inheritance. She eventually left him after bearing him a son, whom he entrusted to Brooker, who was then his clerk. Brooker, taking the opportunity for vengeance, took the boy to Squeers' school and told Ralph the boy had died. Brooker now repents his action, but a transportation sentence kept him from putting the matter right. Devastated at the thought that his only son died as the best friend of his greatest enemy, Ralph commits suicide.

Squeers is sentenced to transportation to Australia, and, upon hearing this, the boys at Dotheboys Hall rebel against the Squeers family and escape with the assistance of John Browdie. Nicholas becomes a partner in the Cheerybles' firm and marries

Madeline. Kate and Frank Cheeryble also marry, as do Tim Linkinwater and Miss LaCreevy. Brooker dies penitent. Noggs recovers his respectability. The Nicklebys and their now extended family return to Devonshire, where they live in peace and contentment.





# Pre-Performance

## Meet the Characters

### The Nickleby family

**Nicholas Nickleby:** The hero of the novel. His father has died and left Nicholas and his family penniless. Nicholas is honest and steadfast, but his youth and inexperience with the world can lead him to be violent, naive, and emotional. In his preface to the novel, Dickens writes "There is only one other point, on which I would desire to offer a remark. If Nicholas be not always found to be blameless or agreeable, he is not always intended to appear so. He is a young man of an impetuous temper and of little or no experience; and I saw no reason why such a hero should be lifted out of nature." He devotes himself primarily to his friends and family and fiercely defies those who wrong the ones he loves.



**Ralph Nickleby:** The book's principal antagonist, Nicholas's uncle. He seems to care about nothing but money and takes an immediate dislike to the idealistic Nicholas; however, he does harbour something of a soft spot for Kate. Ralph's anger at Nicholas's beating of Wackford Squeers leads to a serious rift with his Nephew, and after Nicholas interferes with his machinations several more times, Ralph schemes to deliberately hurt and humiliate his nephew. but the only man Ralph ends up destroying is himself. When it is revealed that Smike was his son, and that the boy died hating him, he takes his own life. He dies without a will, and his family refuses to take his property, so his hard-earned fortune is given back to the Crown and lost.

**Catherine "Kate" Nickleby:** Nicholas's younger sister. Kate is a fairly passive character, typical of Dickensian women, but she shares some of her brother's fortitude and strong will. She does not blanch at hard labour to earn her keep and defends herself against the lecherous Sir Mulberry Hawk. She finds well-deserved happiness with Frank Cheeryble.

**Mrs. Catherine Nickleby:** Nicholas and Kate's mother, who provides much of the novel's comic relief. The muddleheaded Mrs. Nickleby often

does not see the true evil her children encounter until it is directly pointed out to her, and her obtuseness occasionally worsens her children's predicaments. She is stubborn, prone to long digressions on irrelevant or unimportant topics and unrealistic fantasies, and displays an often vague grasp of what is going on around her.

### Associates of Ralph Nickleby

**Newman Noggs:** Ralph's clerk, who becomes Nicholas's devoted friend. He was once a businessman of high standing but went bankrupt. He is an alcoholic, and his general good nature and insight into human nature is hidden under a veneer of irrational tics and erratic behaviour.

**Sir Mulberry Hawk:** Is a lecherous nobleman who has taken Lord Verisopht under his wing. One of the most truly evil characters in the novel, he forces himself upon Kate and pursues her solely to humiliate her after she rejects him. He is beaten by Nicholas, and swears revenge, but is prevented by Lord Verisopht. He kills Verisopht in a duel and must flee to France, putting a stop to his plans of revenge. He lives abroad in luxury until he runs out of money, and eventually returns to England and dies in debtors' prison.

**Lord Frederick Verisopht:** Hawk's friend and dupe, a rich young nobleman. He owes both Ralph and Sir Mulberry vast sums of money. He becomes infatuated with Kate and is manipulated by Hawk into finding her whereabouts. After Nicholas confronts them in a coffeehouse, Lord Frederick realises the shame of his behaviour and threatens Hawk if he attempts retaliation for the injuries Nicholas caused him. This quarrel eventually leads to a physical fight, which results in a duel in which Lord Frederick is killed. In death, he manages to ruin both Ralph and Sir Mulberry as he dies unmarried, which in the terms of his father's will, disinherits him and forces his creditors to lose massive amounts of money.

**Mr Pluck and Mr Pyke:** Hangers-on to Hawk and Verisopht. They are never seen apart and are quite indistinguishable from one another. Pluck and Pyke are intelligent, sly and dapper, perfect to do Hawk's dirty work for him.



# Pre-Performance

## Meet the Characters

**Arthur Gride:** An elderly associate of Ralph. Miserly to a fault, he lives in a large, empty house extremely frugally, despite his vast wealth. He gains possession of the will of Madeline's grandfather, and attempts to cheat her out of her fortune by marrying her. He is cowardly, servile and greedy, with no redeeming characteristics whatsoever. He alone among Ralph's conspirators escape legal punishment but is eventually murdered by burglars, who hear rumours of his vast wealth.

**Peg Sliderskew:** Gride's elderly housekeeper. Illiterate, Very deaf and going senile, she ends up playing a large part in the denouement when she steals a number of papers from Gride, including Madeline's grandfather's will.

**Brooker:** An old beggar. A mysterious figure who appears several times during the novel, we eventually find out that he was formerly Ralph's clerk. He was responsible for bringing Ralph's son (Smike) to Dotheboys Hall. An ex-convict, he returns to extort money from Ralph with the information his son is alive. When that fails, he goes to Noggs, and eventually brings his story to light. In the epilogue, it is mentioned that he dies repentant of his crimes.

### Yorkshire

**Smike:** A poor drudge living in Squeers's "care". About 18 years old, Smike is a pathetic figure, perpetually ill and dim-witted, who has been in Squeers's care since he was very young. Nicholas gives him the courage to run away, but when that fails Nicholas saves him and the two become travelling companions and close friends. He falls in love with Kate, but his heart is broken when she falls in love with Frank Cheeryble. After Smike dies peacefully of "a dread disease" (tuberculosis), it is revealed that he is Ralph Nickleby's son.



Wackford Squeers, Wackford Jr, Smike

**Wackford Squeers:** A cruel, one-eyed, Yorkshire "schoolmaster". He runs Dotheboys Hall, a boarding school where unwanted children can be sent. He mistreats the boys

horribly, starving them and beating them regularly. He gets his comeuppance at the hands of Nicholas when he is beaten in retaliation for the whipping of Smike. He travels to London after he recovers and partakes in more bad business, fulfilling his grudge against Nicholas by becoming a close partner in Ralph's schemes to fake Smike's parentage and later to obfuscate the will that would make Madeline Bray an heiress. He is arrested during the last of these tasks and sentenced to transportation to Australia.

**Mrs Squeers:** Squeers' formidable wife. She is even more cruel and less affectionate than her husband to the boys in their care. She dislikes Nicholas on sight and attempts to make his life at Dotheboys Hall as difficult as possible.

**Fanny Squeers:** The Squeers' daughter. She is 23, unattractive, ill-tempered and eager to find a husband. She falls in love with Nicholas until he bluntly rebuffs her affections, which causes her to passionately and openly antagonise him. Tilda Price is her best friend, but the relationship is strained by Fanny's pride and spitefulness. She is haughty, self-important and is under severe delusions about her own beauty and station.

**Young Wackford Squeers:** The Squeers' loutish son. His parents dote on him, and he is very fat as a result of their spoiling him. He is mainly preoccupied with filling his belly as often as he can and bullying his father's boys, to his father's great pride. When the boys revolt, they dip his head several times in a bowl of the disgusting treacle mix they are regularly fed.

**John Browdie:** A bluff Yorkshire corn merchant, with a loud, boisterous sense of humour. At the start of the novel, he is engaged to Tilda Price, and he marries her about halfway through the book. Although he and Nicholas get off on the wrong foot, they become good friends when John helps Nicholas escape from Yorkshire. He later comes to London on his honeymoon and rescues Smike from Squeers' captivity, proving himself a resourceful and intelligent ally.

**Matilda "Tilda" Price (Browdie):** Fanny's best friend and Browdie's fiancée. A pretty miller's daughter of 18, Tilda puts up with Fanny's pettiness because of their childhood

# Pre-Performance

## Meet the Characters

friendship, but later breaks off their friendship after she realises the extent of Fanny's selfishness. She is rather coquettish, but settles down happily with John Browdie.

**Phib (Phoebe):** The Squeers' housemaid, who is forced to endure Mrs Squeers' foul temper and Fanny's scorn in order to keep her job.

### Around London

#### **Miss La Creevy:**

The Nicklebys' landlady. A small, kindly (if somewhat ridiculous) woman in her fifties, she is a miniature-portrait painter. She is the first friend the Nicklebys make in London, and one of the truest. She is rewarded for her good-heartedness when she falls in love with Tim Linkinwater.



**Hannah':** Miss La Creevey's faithful but noticeably stupid maid.

**Mr Snawley:** An oil merchant who puts his two stepsons in Squeers's "care". He pretends to be Smike's father to help Squeers get back at Nicholas but, when pursued by the Cheerybles, cracks under the pressure and eventually confesses everything.

**Mr and Madame Mantalini:** Milliners, Kate's employers. Alfred Mantalini (whose real name is Muntle; he changed it for business purposes) is a handsome man, with a large bushy black moustache, who lives off his wife. He is not above stealing from his wife and dramatically threatens to kill himself whenever he does not get his way. Madame Mantalini is much older than her husband and equally prone to dramatics. She eventually gets wise and divorces him, but not until he has ruined her with extravagant spending and she is forced to sell the business to Miss Knag. Mantalini is seen again at the end of the book living in much reduced circumstances, romantically tied to a washerwoman, but still up to his old tricks.

**Miss Knag:** Mrs Mantalini's right-hand woman and the chief assistant in the showroom. Miss Knag is well into middle age but is under the impression that she is exceptionally beautiful. When Kate begins her employment with the Mantalins, Miss Knag is quite kind to her because the younger woman is clumsy, making herself look more accomplished. When her age is insulted by a disgruntled customer who prefers Kate, she blames Kate and ostracises her. She takes over the business when the Mantalins go bankrupt, immediately firing Kate. A spinster, she lives with her brother Mortimer, a failed novelist.

**The Kenwigs family:** Newman Noggs's neighbours. Mr and Mrs Kenwigs are dependent on the latter's wealthy uncle Mr Lillyvick, and everything they do is designed to please him so he will not write their children (including their baby, named Lillyvick) out of his will. Their daughter Morleena is an awkward child of seven. The family and their acquaintances are described by Dickens as "exceptionally common."

**Mr Lillyvick:** Mrs Kenwigs' uncle. He is a collector of the water rate, a position which gives him great importance among his poor relatives. They bend over backwards to please him, and he is completely used to getting his way. He falls in love with Miss Petowker and marries her, to the Kenwigs' great distress. When she elopes with another man, he comes back to his family a sadder but wiser man.

**Henrietta Petowker:** Of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. A minor actress with a prestigious company and a major star with the significantly less prestigious Crummles troupe. Mrs Crummles' protégée. She marries Mr Lillyvick after meeting him at the Kenwigs' wedding anniversary party, but leaves him within a year for another man.

**Henry and Julia Witterly:** A wealthy, social-climbing couple who employ Kate as a companion to Mrs Witterly. Mrs Witterly is a hypochondriac who acts as if a feather would knock her over, but she has a fierce temper when she does not get her way. Mr Witterly flatters his wife and toadies to her every whim. They are oblivious to the degradation Kate is

# Pre-Performance

## Meet the Characters

submitted to under their noses, only concerned that they are being visited by noblemen.

**Charles and Ned Cheeryble:** A pair of Identical Twin brothers, wealthy German-merchants (a term meaning merchants who trade internationally) who are as magnanimous as they are jovial. Remembering their humble beginnings, they spend much of their time doing charity work and helping those in need. This generosity leads them to give Nicholas a job and provide for his family, and almost single-handedly revive his faith in the goodness of man. They become key figures in the development of Ralph's defeat and the *Nickleby's* happy ending.

**Frank Cheeryble:** Ned and Charles's nephew, who is just as open-hearted as his uncles. He shares Nicholas's streak of anger when his sense of chivalry is roused; Nicholas first meets him after he has punched a man for insulting a barmaid. He falls in love with Kate and later marries her.

**Madeline Bray:** A beautiful but destitute young woman. Proud and dutiful to her dying father, she is willing to throw her life away if it means ensuring his comfort. Nicholas falls in love at first sight, and she comes to feel the same way.

**Walter Bray:** Madeline's father, formerly a handsome gentleman. He is an extremely selfish man who has wasted his wife's fortune and is dying in a debtor's prison, owing vast sums of money to both Ralph and Gride. He fools himself that he is acting for the benefit of his daughter by agreeing to her marriage with Gride, but when he realises what he has done, he dies of grief before the marriage goes through, freeing Madeline from her obligations.

**Tim Linkinwater:** The Cheerybles' devoted clerk. An elderly, stout, pleasant gentleman, he is jokingly referred to by the Brothers as "a Fierce Lion". He is prone to hyperbole and obstinately refuses to go into retirement. He finds happiness with Miss La Creevy.

### The Crummles troupe

**Mr Vincent Crummles:** Head of the Crummles theatre troupe, a larger-than-life actor-manager who takes Nicholas under his wing. He takes great pride in his profession, but also sometimes yearns for a quieter life settled down with his wife and children. Eventually, he and his family take their act to America to pursue greater success on the theatrical stage.

**Mrs Crummles:** Mr Crummles's wife. A formidable but loving presence in the company, she is a great diva, but Dickens leaves the question of her actual ability up to the reader.

**Miss Ninetta Crummles,** The "Infant Phenomenon":, Mr and Mrs Crummles daughter. She is a very prominent member of the Crummles troupe, and a dancing part is written for her in every performance, even if there is no place for it. She is supposedly ten years old, but is actually closer to eighteen, having been kept on a steady diet of gin to keep her looking young.

**Mr Folair:** A pantomimist with the Crummles company. He is an apt flatterer but does not hesitate to say exactly what he thinks of people once their backs are turned.

**Miss Snevellicci:** The talented leading lady of the Crummles troupe. She and Nicholas flirt heavily, and there is a mutual attraction, but nothing comes of it. She eventually leaves the troupe to get married.

**Mr Lenville:** A melodramatic, self-centred tragedian, who becomes jealous of the attention Nicholas is getting as an actor, and attempts to pull his nose in front of the company, an act which results in the actor himself being knocked down and his cane broken by Nicholas.



# Pre-Performance Historical Context



## Charles Dickens Biography

Charles Dickens is much loved for his great contribution to classic English literature. He was the quintessential Victorian author. His epic stories, vivid characters and exhaustive depiction of contemporary life are unforgettable.

His own story is one of rags to riches. He was born in Portsmouth on 7 February 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. The good fortune of being sent to school at the age of nine was short-lived because his father, inspiration for the character of Mr Micawber in 'David Copperfield', was imprisoned for bad debt. The entire family, apart from Charles, were sent to Marshalsea along

with their patriarch. Charles was sent to work in Warren's blacking factory and endured appalling conditions as well as loneliness and despair. After three years he was returned to school, but the experience was never forgotten and became fictionalised in two of his better-known novels 'David Copperfield' and 'Great Expectations'.

Like many others, he began his literary career as a journalist. His own father became a reporter and Charles began with the journals 'The Mirror of Parliament' and 'The True Sun'. Then in 1833 he became parliamentary journalist for The Morning Chronicle. With new contacts in the press he was able to publish a series of sketches under the pseudonym 'Boz'. In April 1836, he married Catherine Hogarth, daughter of George Hogarth who edited 'Sketches by Boz'. Within the same month came the publication of the highly successful 'Pickwick Papers', and

from that point on there was no looking back for Dickens.

As well as a huge list of novels he published autobiography, edited weekly periodicals including 'Household Words' and 'All Year Round', wrote travel books and administered charitable organizations. He was also a theatre enthusiast, wrote plays and performed before Queen Victoria in 1851. His energy was inexhaustible and he spent much time abroad - for example lecturing against slavery in the United States and touring Italy with companions Augustus Egg and Wilkie Collins, a contemporary writer who inspired Dickens' final unfinished novel 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood'.

He was estranged from his wife in 1858 after the birth of their ten children, but maintained relations with his mistress, the actress Ellen Ternan. He died of a stroke in 1870. He is buried at Westminster Abbey.

## Selected Works by Charles Dickens

*The Pickwick Papers*, 1837

*Nicholas Nickleby*, 1839

*Master Humphreys' Clock*, 1841

*A Christmas Carol*, 1843

*Martin Chuzzlewit*, 1844

*Oliver Twist*, 1846

*Dombey and Son*, 1848

*David Copperfield*, 1850

*Bleak House*, 1853

*Little Dorrit*, 1857

*A Tale of Two Cities*, 1859

*Our Mutual Friend*, 1865

*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, 1870



# Pre-Performance

## Romeo and Juliet in Nicholas Nickleby



### The Crummles Theatre Company Adaptation

In *Nicholas Nickleby*, The Crummles Theatre Company presents their adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, modeled after Nahum Tate's similar adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

Shakespeare wrote *King Lear* around 1605. His version held the stage until 1681. In that year Nahum Tate introduced a radical rewrite to satisfy changing stage fashion. Tate struck many lines and the Fool, rewrote many others, added a love affair between Cordelia and Edgar, and fashioned a happy ending. With a few exceptions Tate's version and versions of it held the English and American stages until 1838, more than 150 years.

Similarly, the Crummles' version includes a happy ending for the star crossed lovers and eliminates all deaths by virtue of a too weak potion, less than fatal poison and a simply stunned-but not dead Paris, with the result of turning Shakespeare's most beloved tragedy into a comedy.

<http://www.pbs.org>

### Plot Summary of Romeo and Juliet

This drama is one of the great tragedy themed plays by William Shakespeare. Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet are "star-crossed" young teenagers who fall deeply in love but their families are bitter enemies. Regardless of the feud between their families they marry in secret. They make every effort to conceal their actions but the story ends in tragedy when Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, Mercutio and Paris all die.

<http://www.bardstage.org>



### Summary of the Final Scene of Romeo and Juliet

Friar Lawrence has furnished Juliet with a potion to make her appear dead. In Mantua, Romeo learns of Juliet's death, and decides to risk his own life by returning to Verona at once to see Juliet one last time. Romeo also



buys some poison from a local Apothecary.

In Juliet's tomb, Paris, the man Juliet's father wishes her to marry, mourns his bride that never was. Romeo arrives, opening Juliet's coffin to look at his love one last time. Paris fights Romeo whom he believes is desecrating Juliet's grave. Paris is fatally wounded. Romeo takes the poison, kisses Juliet and dies. Friar Laurence arrives too late. Juliet, now awakens, asking for her Romeo. Friar Laurence leaves, leaving Juliet alone. Juliet kisses Romeo and stabs herself, dying. The Prince, Capulets, and Montagues arrive, Balthasar and Friar Laurence explaining all. Escalus scolds the two families who finally end their feud. The play ends with the Prince summarizing this tragic love story.

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com>



# Performance

## Theater is a Team Sport (“Who Does What?”)

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author’s words and the director’s ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director’s vision.



Stage Manager Amy Nicole Davis  
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.

The **Shop and Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer’s plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

**The Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

### Mission/Vision:

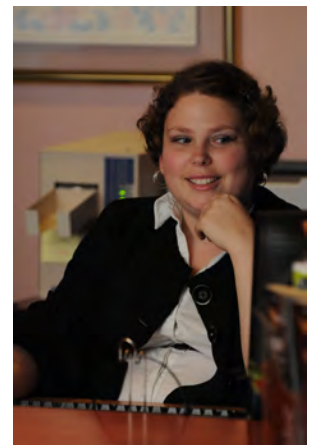
With Shakespeare as our standard and inspiration, the Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF produces bold professional theater, develops new plays, and provides innovative educational experiences that enrich our community. Our vision is to create theater of extraordinary quality that encourages the actor/audience relationship, embraces the passionate use of language, and ignites the imagination.



Sound Designer Bruce Bowes  
Photo: Rob Jones



Costume Designers  
Denise Warner and Mel Barger  
Photo: Rob Jones



Box Office Manager Gina Yolango  
Photo: Rob Jones

# Performance

## The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!



Photo: Rob Jones

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Try to use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.

# Performance

## Enjoying the Production

### Background and Themes

1. **Education:** Dickens visited a school in the north of England and was so shocked by the cruel treatment given to the pupils by the schoolmaster, William Shaw, that he used the school as a model for Dotheboys Hall. The description of Dotheboys Hall caused shock and consternation. Questions were asked in Parliament and the government was forced to investigate the problem.
2. **The class system:** The members of the establishment with power and/or money, such as Squeers, Sir Mulberry, Ralph, Mrs Witterly and Gride in the story, are cynical, vain, cruel, selfish manipulators and exploiters of those more disadvantaged than themselves, such as Nicholas, Kate, Madeline and Smike.
3. **Poverty:** In Dickens's previous novel, *Oliver Twist*, poverty dehumanises the characters. In *Nicholas Nickleby*, however, the harshness of injustice and poverty is not allowed to vanquish the basic qualities of the human spirit. People such as Kate and Nicholas, Smike, Newman Noggs and Madeline, retain fundamental decency and kindness, and they are allowed to enjoy, to varying degrees, a sense of peace and justice by the end of the story.
4. **Fate:** Chance and fate always seem to play a major part in Dickens's novels. Without the timely intervention of the Cheeryble brothers, it is unlikely that the forces of good, represented by Nicholas, Kate, Newman Noggs and Madeline, would have overcome the forces of evil, embodied in Squeers, Ralph, Gride and Sir Mulberry.

# Post-Performance

## Reflect, Connect, Expand

### Talkback

After the performance, the actors will stay on stage for about 10 minutes to hear your comments and answer any questions you have about the play, the production and what it means to be a professional actor. We'd love to hear what you felt about the play, what things were clear or unclear to you, and hear your opinions about what the play means. This last portion of the Actor/Audience Relationship is so important to help us better serve you!

### Discussion

1. Why do you think the scene of Romeo and Juliet is interjected with the scene of Kate, Hawk and Ralph? How are the situations of Juliet and Kate similar? How are they different?
2. What is the effect of actors watching scenes they are not in? How does it change the impact of the scenes?
3. Why does Ralph introduce Hawk to Kate? How does he react to Hawk's advances towards Kate? Given this scene, what do you predict about Ralph and Kate's relationship in Part Two?
4. Other than Nicholas Nickleby, who is (are) the most admirable character(s) in the novel?
5. Who is the most memorable character, good or bad?
6. Does Nickleby undergo significant changes by the end of the novel? Explain your answer.

### Supplemental Resources & Bibliography

*Nicholas Nickleby*, directed by Douglas McGrath, film, 2002

*The Life and Times of Nicholas Nickleby*, adapted by David Edgar. Directed by John Caird and Trevor Nunn, stage adaptation, 1982

The Nicholas Nickleby Story: The making of the historic Royal Shakespeare Company production by Leon Rubin

charlesdickenspage.com

www.online-literature.com

www.penguinreaders.com

[www.charles-dickens.com](http://www.charles-dickens.com)



# Post-Performance

## Chapter Descriptions

### Part One On Stage

Chapter 1— *Introduces all the Rest*

Chapter 2— *Of Mr Ralph Nickleby, and his Establishments, and his Undertakings, and of a great Joint Stock Company of vast national Importance*

Chapter 3— *Mr Ralph Nickleby receives Sad Tidings of his Brother, but bears up nobly against the Intelligence communicated to him. The Reader is informed how he liked Nicholas, who is herein introduced, and how kindly he proposed to make his Fortune at once.*

Chapter 4— *Nicholas and his Uncle (to secure the Fortune without loss of time) wait upon Mr Wackford Squeers, the Yorkshire Schoolmaster*

Chapter 5— *Nicholas starts for Yorkshire. Of his Leave-taking and his Fellow-Travellers, and what befell them on the Road*

Chapter 6— *In which the Occurrence of the Accident mentioned in the last Chapter, affords an Opportunity to a couple of Gentlemen to tell Stories against each other*

Chapter 7— *Mr and Mrs Squeers at Home*

Chapter 8— *Of the Internal Economy of Dotheboys Hall*

Chapter 9— *Of Miss Squeers, Mrs Squeers, Master Squeers, and Mr Squeers; and of various Matters and Persons connected no less with the Squeerses than Nicholas Nickleby*

Chapter 10— *How Mr Ralph Nickleby provided for his Niece and Sister-in-Law*

Chapter 11— *Newman Noggs inducts Mrs and Miss Nickleby into their New Dwelling in the City*

Chapter 12— *Whereby the Reader will be enabled to trace the further course of Miss Fanny Squeer's Love, and to ascertain whether it ran smooth or otherwise*



Chapter 13— *Nicholas varies the Monotony of Dotheboys Hall by a most vigorous and remarkable proceeding, which leads to Consequences of some Importance*

Chapter 14— *Having the Misfortune to treat of none but Common People, is necessarily of a Mean and Vulgar Character*

Chapter 15— *Acquaints the Reader with the Cause and Origin of the Interruption described in the last Chapter, and with some other Matters necessary to be known*

Chapter 16— *Nicholas seeks to employ himself in a New Capacity, and being unsuccessful, accepts an engagement as Tutor in a Private Family*

Chapter 17— *Follows the Fortunes of Miss Nickleby*

Chapter 18— *Miss Knag, after doting on Kate Nickleby for three whole Days, makes up her Mind to hate her for evermore. The Causes which led Miss Knag to form this Resolution.*

Chapter 19— *Descriptive of a Dinner at Mr Ralph Nickleby's, and of the Manner in which the Company entertained themselves, before Dinner, at Dinner, and after Dinner*

Chapter 20— *Wherein Nicholas at length encounters his Uncle, to whom he expresses his Sentiments with much Candour. His Resolution*

Chapter 21— *Madam Mantalini finds herself in a Situation of some Difficulty, and Miss Nickleby finds herself in no Situation at all*

# Post-Performance Chapter Descriptions



Chapter 22— *Nicholas, accompanied by Smike, sallies forth to seek his Fortune. He encounters Mr Vincent Crummles; and who he was, is herein made manifest*

Chapter 23— *Treats of the Company of Mr Vincent Crummles, and of his Affairs, Domestic and Theatrical*

Chapter 24— *Of the Great Bespeak for Miss Snellicci, and the first Appearance of Nicholas upon any Stage*

Chapter 25— *Concerning a young Lady from London, who joins the Company, and an elderly Admirer who follows in her Train; with an affecting Ceremony consequent on their Arrival*

Chapter 26— *Is fraught with some Danger to Miss Nickleby's Peace of Mind*

Chapter 27— *Mrs Nickleby becomes acquainted with Messrs Pyke and Pluck, whose Affection and Interest are beyond all Bounds*

Chapter 28— *Miss Nickleby, rendered desperate by the Persecution of Sir Mulberry Hawk, and the Complicated Difficulties and Distresses which surround her, appeals, as a last resource, to her Uncle for Protection*

Chapter 29— *Of the Proceedings of Nicholas, and certain Internal Divisions in the Company of Mr Vincent Crummles*

Chapter 30— *Festivities are held in honour of Nicholas, who suddenly withdraws himself from the Society of Mr Vincent Crummles and his Theatrical Companions*

## Part Two On Stage

Chapter 31— *Of Ralph Nickleby and Newman Noggs, and some wise Precautions, the success or failure of which will appear in the Sequel*

Chapter 32— *Relating chiefly to some remarkable Conversation, and some remarkable Proceedings to which it gives rise*

Chapter 33— *In which Mr Ralph Nickleby is relieved, by a very expeditious Process, from all Commerce with his Relations*

Chapter 34— *Wherein Mr Ralph Nickleby is visited by Persons with whom the Reader has been already made acquainted*

Chapter 35— *Smike becomes known to Mrs Nickleby and Kate. Nicholas also meets with new Acquaintances. Brighter Days seem to dawn upon the Family*

Chapter 36— *Private and confidential; relating to Family Matters. Showing how Mr Kenwigs underwent violent Agitation, and how Mrs Kenwigs was as well as could be expected*

Chapter 37— *Nicholas finds further Favour in the Eyes of the brothers Cheeryble and Mr Timothy Linkinwater. The brothers give a Banquet on a great Annual Occasion. Nicholas, on returning Home from it, receives a mysterious and important Disclosure from the Lips of Mrs Nickleby*

Chapter 38— *Comprises certain Particulars arising out of a Visit of Condolence, which may prove important hereafter. Smike unexpectedly encounters a very old Friend, who invites him to his House, and will take no Denial*

Chapter 39— *In which another old Friend encounters Smike, very opportunely and to some Purpose*

Chapter 40— *In which Nicholas falls in Love. He employs a Mediator, whose Proceedings are crowned with unexpected Success, excepting in one solitary Particular*

Chapter 41— *Containing some Romantic Passages between Mrs Nickleby and the Gentleman in the Small-clothes next Door*

# Post-Performance Chapter Descriptions

Chapter 42— *Illustrative of the convivial Sentiment, that the best of Friends must sometimes part*

Chapter 43— *Officiates as a kind of Gentleman Usher, in bringing various People together*

Chapter 44— *Mr Ralph Nickleby cuts an old Acquaintance. It would also appear from the Contents hereof, that a Joke, even between Husband and Wife, may be sometimes carried too far*

Chapter 45— *Containing Matter of a surprising Kind*

Chapter 46— *Throws some Light upon Nicholas's Love; but whether for Good or Evil the Reader must determine*

Chapter 47— *Mr Ralph Nickleby has some confidential Intercourse with another old Friend. They concert between them a Project, which promises well for both*

Chapter 48— *Being for the Benefit of Mr Vincent Crummies, and positively his last Appearance on this Stage*

Chapter 49— *Chronicles the further Proceedings of the Nickleby Family, and the Sequel of the Adventure of the Gentleman in the Small-clothes*

Chapter 50— *Involves a serious Catastrophe*

Chapter 51— *The Project of Mr Ralph Nickleby and his Friend approaching a successful Issue, becomes unexpectedly known to another Party, not admitted into their Confidence*

Chapter 52— *Nicholas despairs of rescuing Madeline Bray, but plucks up his Spirits again, and determines to attempt it. Domestic Intelligence of the Kenwigses and Lillyvicks*

Chapter 53— *Containing the further Progress of the Plot contrived by Mr Ralph Nickleby and Mr Arthur Gride*

Chapter 54— *The Crisis of the Project and its Result*

Chapter 55— *Of Family Matters, Cares, Hopes, Disappointments, and Sorrows*

Chapter 56— *Ralph Nickleby, baffled by his Nephew in his late Design, hatches a Scheme of Retaliation which Accident suggests to him, and takes into his Counsels a tried Auxiliary*

Chapter 57— *How Ralph Nickleby's Auxiliary went about his Work, and how he prospered with it*

Chapter 58— *In which one Scene of this History is closed*

Chapter 59— *The Plots begin to fail, and Doubts and Dangers to disturb the Plotter*

Chapter 60— *The Dangers thicken, and the Worst is told*

Chapter 61— *Wherein Nicholas and his Sister forfeit the good Opinion of all worldly and prudent People*

Chapter 62— *Ralph makes one last Appointment--and keeps it*

Chapter 63— *The Brothers Cheeryble make various Declarations for themselves and others. Tim Linkinwater makes a Declaration for himself*

Chapter 64— *An old Acquaintance is recognised under melancholy Circumstances, and Dotheboys Hall breaks up for ever*

Chapter 65— *Conclusion*



# Post-Performance Quizzes

Penguin Readers Factsheets - Published and distributed by Pearson Education

Factsheet written by Christopher Rice Factsheet series developed by Louise James

[http://www.pearson.ch/download/media/9780582829961\\_fs.pdf](http://www.pearson.ch/download/media/9780582829961_fs.pdf)

## Part Two Quiz - Put the two halves together.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (a) ___ Ralph is surprised ...         | (1) .... to be Smike's father.       |
| (b) ___ Mrs Nickleby is persuaded ...  | (2) ... to see Smike again.          |
| (c) ___ The twins decide ...           | (3) ... to escape.                   |
| (d) ___ The twins offer ...            | (4) ... to find a girl.              |
| (e) ___ John Browdie pretends ...      | (5) ... to offer Nicholas a job.     |
| (f) ___ John Browdie helps Smike ...   | (6) ... to accept Smike.             |
| (g) ___ Smike refuses ...              | (7) ... to lend the Nicklebys money. |
| (h) ___ The Nicklebys are relieved ... | (8) ... to see Wackford Squeers.     |
| (i) ___ Newman Noggs promises ...      | (9) ... to be ill.                   |
| (j) ___ Snawley pretends ...           | (10) ... to be left alone.           |

## True or False?

- (a) \_\_\_ Charles Cheeryble is Madeline Bray's uncle.
- (b) \_\_\_ Madeline's father hates Charles Cheeryble.
- (c) \_\_\_ Madeline knows that the money comes from the twins.
- (d) \_\_\_ Madeline's father owes Ralph money.
- (e) \_\_\_ Arthur Gride is in love with Madeline.
- (f) \_\_\_ Madeline doesn't know she owns a house.
- (g) \_\_\_ Bray feels sorry for his daughter.
- (h) \_\_\_ Ralph thinks Bray and Gride will die soon.
- (i) \_\_\_ Ralph wants Madeline's house.
- (j) \_\_\_ Smike is in love with Kate.



# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture

### *Write an Adaptation*

#### Lesson Plan 1, page 1

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

**Grade levels appropriate:** 7-12

**Objectives:**

The student will identify characters, settings, events and themes of a chosen chapter from a novel.

The student will decide which characters, settings, events and themes are essential to their adaptation of the chapter.

The student will collaborate on an adaptation following defined criteria.

The student will compare and contrast their groups' adaptation with that of their peers.

**Common Core Standards:**

The student will:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. ELA-Literacy.W.7-12.2
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. ELA-Literacy.W. 7-12.3
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.) ELA-Literacy.W. 7-12.4
- With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6 here.) ELA-Literacy.W. 7-12.5
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. ELA-Literacy.SL. 7-12.1
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.) ELA-Literacy.RL.7-12.7

**Sunshine State Standards:**

The student will:

- Analyze, criticize, and construct meaning from formal and informal theater, film, television, and electronic media. TH.D.1.4
- Write monologues, scenes, and/or short plays using principles and elements of writing found in dramatic literature TH.S.1.5
- Interpret dramatic texts, organize and conduct rehearsals, and justify directorial choices for formal and informal productions TH.S.1.7
- Exercise artistic discipline and collaboration to achieve ensemble in rehearsal and performance TH.S.3.2
- Develop acting skills and techniques in the rehearsal process TH.S.3.3

**Materials needed:**

- Copies of Handout 1, *Nicholas Nickleby, Chapter 33* by Charles Dickens

# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture *Write An Adaptation* Lesson Plan 1, page 2

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

### Lesson process:

Split students into small groups. After reading *Chapter 33 of Nicholas Nickleby* instruct each group to:

- List the characters
- List the settings
- List all events anyone in the group deems important
- List the themes

Instruct the students to write a scene adaptation of the chapter. Tell students that their play may not exceed six total scenes/events and six total characters.

Suggest that students:

1. Select the most important events in the chapter.
2. Select which characters are vital to their interpretation of the story
  - Can characters that only appear in a small part of the story be replaced by more central characters?
  - Can their purpose be served by someone else?
3. Decide which settings are vital
  - Can any of these events take place in other locations?
  - Which events are absolutely married to their locations and which can be relocated?

Have each group write and present their version of the adapted chapter. Afterwards, discuss how the adaptations varied.

# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture *Write An Adaptation* Lesson Plan 1, page 3

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

### **Assessment:**

The students successfully:

- Identified the characters, settings, events and themes of the chapter.
- Decided which characters, settings, events and themes are essential to the chapter.
- Collaborated on an adaptation following defined criteria.
- Successfully presented their group's adaptation.
- Compared and contrasted their groups' adaptation with that of their peers.

### **Reflection:**

- What plays or films have you seen that were adaptations of a novel or story?
- Did the adaptation maintain the thematic essence of the original?
- Was there anything in the original that you felt was missing in the adaptation?
- Can you think of any adaptations that were significantly different from the original and yet just as good?

### **Connections to other learning:**

Visual Arts: The students will film their adaptation and compare to others in class

- VA.912.S.3.12: Develop competence and dexterity, through practice, in the use of processes, tools, and techniques for various media.
- VA.912.F.3.11: Demonstrate proficiency in creating individual and sequential images, animation, or media in motion with sound to solve visual problems.
- VA.912.F.1.4 : Use technological tools to create art with varying effects and outcomes.

Reading: The student will compare and contrast the importance of peripheral characters in other literature.

Social Studies: The student will recognize the importance of collaboration when working in a group.

# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture

### *Page to Stage*

#### Lesson Plan 2, page 1

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

**Grade levels appropriate:** 7-12

#### **Objectives:**

The student will identify characters, settings, events and themes of an excerpt from a novel.

The student will decide which characters, settings, events and themes are essential to their adaptation of the excerpt.

The student will collaborate on staging the scenes following defined criteria.

The student will compare and contrast their groups' staging with that of their peers.

#### **Common Core Standards:**

The student will:

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. ELA-Literacy.SL. 7-12.1
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.) ELA-Literacy.RL.7-12.7

#### **Sunshine State Standards:**

- The student will:
  - Analyze, criticize, and construct meaning from formal and informal theater, film, television, and electronic media. TH.D.1.4
  - Interpret dramatic texts, organize and conduct rehearsals, and justify directorial choices for formal and informal productions TH.S.1.7
  - Exercise artistic discipline and collaboration to achieve ensemble in rehearsal and performance TH.S.3.2
  - Develop acting skills and techniques in the rehearsal process TH.S.3.3

#### **Materials needed:**

- Copies of Handout 2, *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens, *Excerpt from Chapter 62*.



# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture *Page to Stage* Lesson Plan 2, page 2

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

### Lesson process:

Split students into groups of five or six. After reading the excerpt from *Chapter 62 of Nicholas Nickleby* instruct each group to:

- List the characters
- List the settings
- List all events anyone in the group deems important
- List the themes

Instruct the students to stage the action in the excerpt, in the style of Orlando Shakespeare Theater's performance of Part One. One student will read the excerpt as narration, while the others depict the action.

Suggest that students:

1. Portray settings (buildings, trees, etc.) as well as characters.
2. Select one person to portray Ralph.
3. Select the most important events in the narration.
4. Select which characters are vital to their interpretation of the action.
5. Decide which settings are vital
6. Depict the psychological events in the narration as well as the physical.

Have each group rehearse and present their version of the excerpt. Afterwards, discuss how the stagings varied.

# Post-Performance Lesson Plans

## Journeys Into Arts & Culture *Page to Stage* Lesson Plan 2, page 3

**Name of organization:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF

**Event title:** *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*

### **Assessment:**

The students successfully:

- Identified the characters, settings, events and themes of an excerpt from a novel.
- Decided which characters, settings, events and themes are essential to the excerpt.
- Collaborated on a staging following defined criteria.
- Successfully presented their group's staging.
- Compared and contrasted their groups' staging with that of their peers.

### **Reflection:**

- What plays or films have you seen that were adaptations of a novel or story?
- Did the adaptation maintain the thematic essence of the original?
- Was there anything in the original that you felt was missing in the adaptation?
- Can you think of any adaptations that were significantly different from the original and yet just as good?

### **Connections to other learning:**

Visual Arts: The students will film their adaptation and compare to others in class

- VA.912.S.3.12: Develop competence and dexterity, through practice, in the use of processes, tools, and techniques for various media.
- VA.912.F.3.11: Demonstrate proficiency in creating individual and sequential images, animation, or media in motion with sound to solve visual problems.
- VA.912.F.1.4 : Use technological tools to create art with varying effects and outcomes.

Reading: The student will compare and contrast the importance of peripheral characters in other literature.

Social Studies: The student will recognize the importance of collaboration when working in a group.