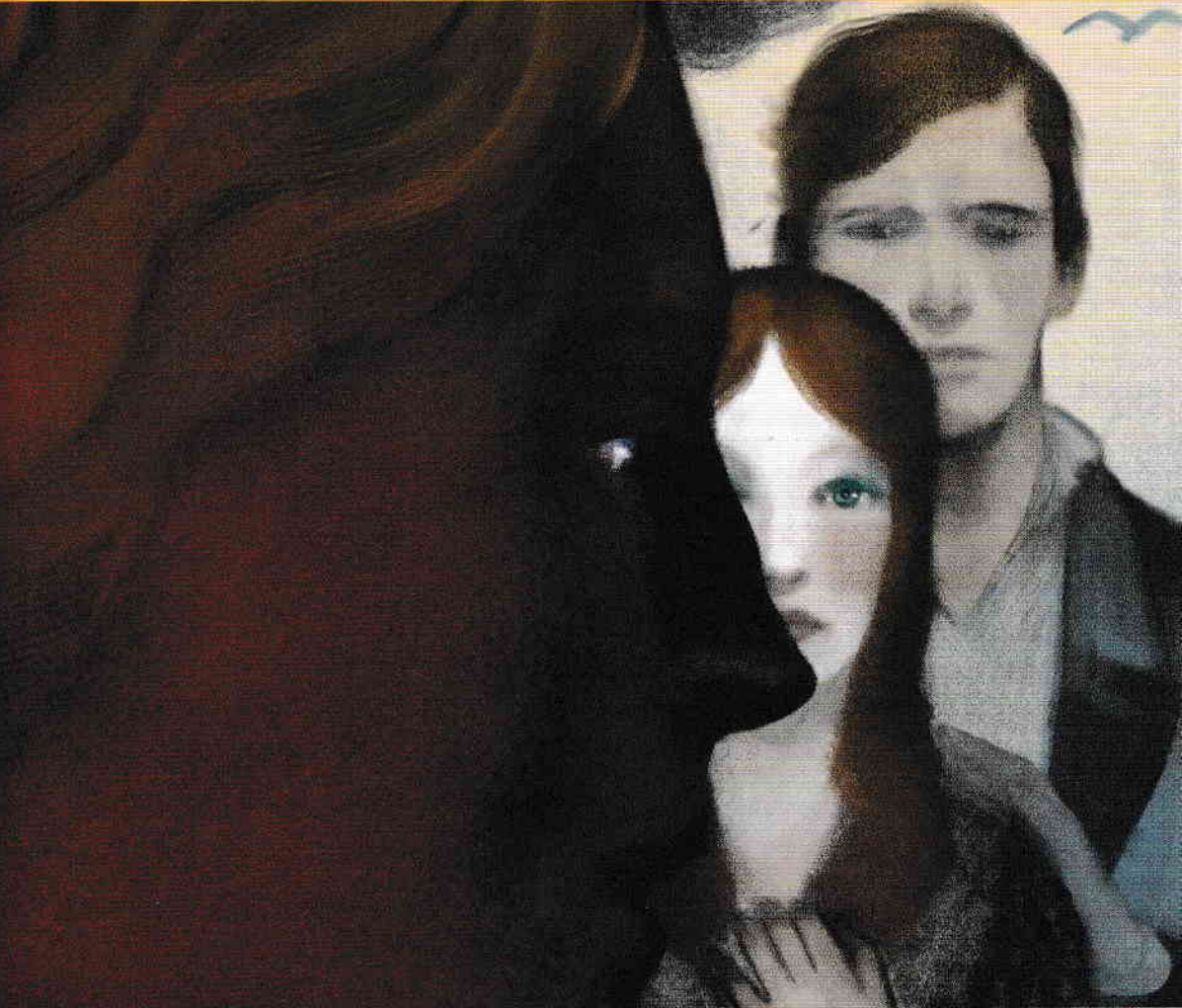


LBRIS

We know
books

David Copperfield

Charles **Dickens**



Illustrated by **Paolo D'Altan**

Text adaptation and activities by **Gina D. B. Clemen**

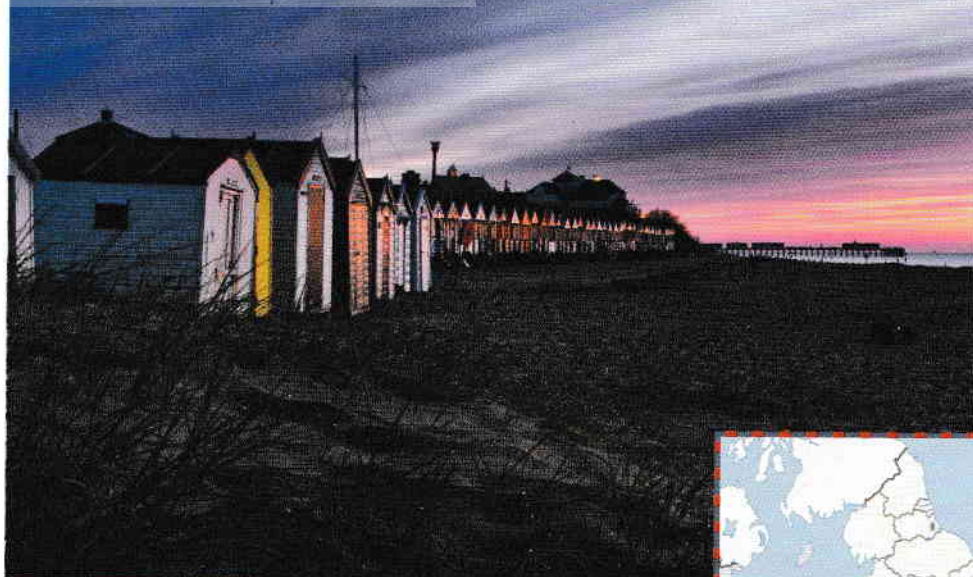
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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Introduction

 David Copperfield was born in Blunderstone, in Suffolk County, in east England. Suffolk is a beautiful county with a long, interesting history. It is famous for its beautiful 45-mile¹ coast with sandy beaches and tourist attractions.

Suffolk is well known for its castles, too. Framlingham Castle was built in the twelfth century and was the home of Mary Tudor before she became Queen of England in 1553. Orford Castle, on the coast of Suffolk, was built by King Henry II in the twelfth century. Today you can visit these magnificent castles.

Two of England's most important painters were born in Suffolk, Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) and John Constable (1776-1837). Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), a world-famous musician, composer and orchestra director was also born in Suffolk.

1. **one mile** : 1.6 kilometres

BEFORE YOU READ**1 VOCABULARY**

Match the words with their meanings. Use a dictionary if necessary.

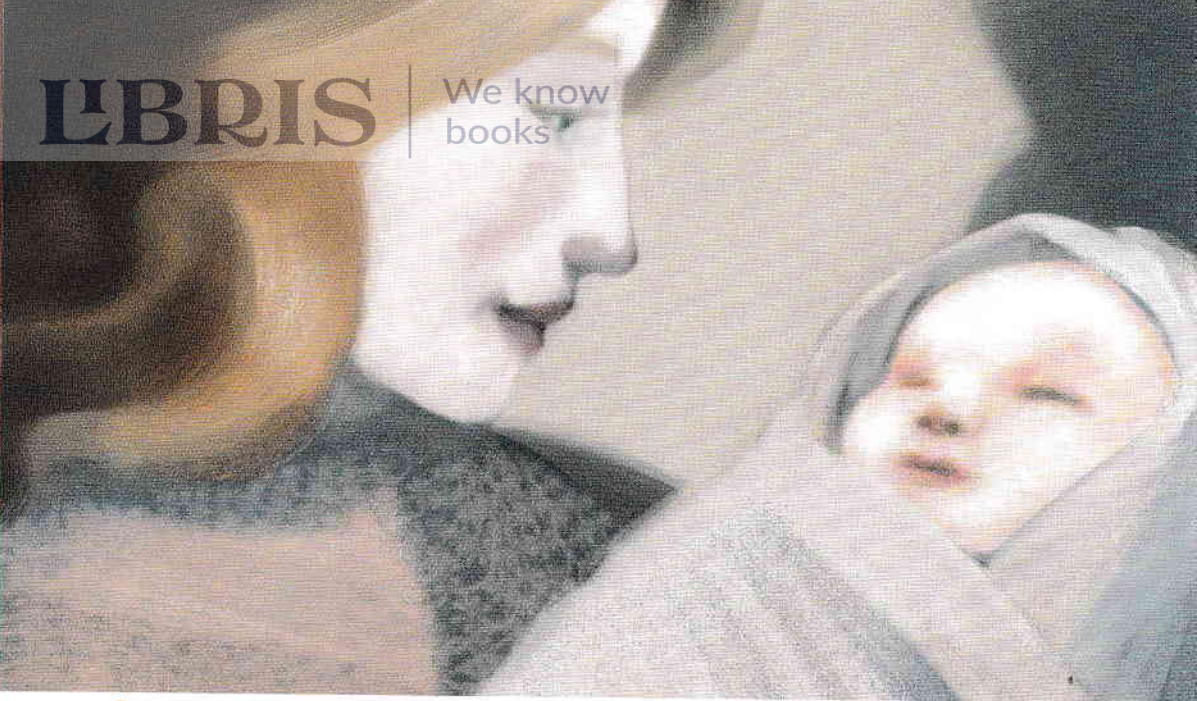
- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|---|--------------------------|------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cart | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adopt |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Orphan | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Plain |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Confused | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stepfather |

- A** a child who has no parents to look after him/her
B a vehicle using two wheels, normally pulled by animals
C not pretty; not attractive
D a man who marries a woman with a child from another marriage
E not understanding something
F take a child into your family and make him/her legally your son/daughter

PET**2 LISTENING**

Listen to the first part of Chapter One and choose the correct answer – A, B, or C.

- 1 Who died before David Copperfield was born?
A his mother
B his servant
C his father
- 2 What did Betsey Trotwood do when she heard that the baby was a girl?
A She laughed because she was happy.
B She left the house because she was angry.
C She went upstairs to see the baby.
- 3 Who started to come to David's house when he was eight?
A Mr Murdstone
B Peggotty
C Mr Barkis
- 4 Where did Peggotty's family live?
A in a cottage by the sea
B in a castle
C in an old boat



CHAPTER ONE

My Childhood**M**

My name is David Copperfield and I was born in Blunderstone, in Suffolk, in the east of England. My father died before I was born and his death made my young mother very unhappy. She knew that life with a new baby and without a husband was difficult. A kind servant called Peggotty lived with us.

One day before I was born one of my father's aunts, Miss Betsey Trotwood, came to visit. She was a strange, rich lady who lived alone with a servant in a cottage by the sea. Because her previous marriage was unhappy, she hated all men. My mother was not happy to see her.

'Well, Mrs Copperfield,' said Miss Betsey, 'when will the baby girl be born?'

My mother was quite surprised and said, 'Perhaps it'll be a boy.'

'Don't be stupid!' said Miss Betsey angrily. 'Of course it'll be a girl, and I'm going to send her to the best schools and educate her well. I don't want her to make the same mistakes I made in my life.'

My mother suddenly felt ill and Peggotty helped her go upstairs to her room. The doctor came and stayed with my mother all evening. At about midnight the doctor came downstairs to the sitting room, where Miss Betsey was waiting nervously.

'Well, doctor, what's the news?' she asked nervously.

'The young mother is well,' said the doctor smiling.

'But the baby, how is *she*?' she insisted.

The doctor looked strangely at Miss Betsey and said 'It's a *boy*.'

Miss Betsey said nothing. She walked out of the house angrily and never came back.

And that is the story of the day when I was born!

My early childhood was very happy because my beautiful mother and kind Peggotty looked after me and we did lots of things together. But when I was about eight, things changed for the worse. A gentleman called Mr Murdstone started to come to our house. He had black hair and black eyes and wore black clothes. He was unfriendly and never smiled, and Peggotty and I didn't like him, but my mother did.

A few months later my mother decided to go on a short holiday with Mr Murdstone and Peggotty took me to stay with her family in the town of Yarmouth, on the sea. Mr Barkis, who was the local driver, took us with his horse and cart. He was a good man, and he liked Peggotty a lot. I was very excited about this holiday because I loved Peggotty and I wanted to see the sea. But at the same time I