

# LIST OF CHARACTERS

## David Copperfield

The protagonist and narrator of the novel. David is innocent, trusting, and naïve even though he suffers abuse as a child. He is idealistic and impulsive and remains honest and loving. Though David's troubled childhood renders him sympathetic, he is not perfect. He often exhibits chauvinistic attitudes toward the lower classes. In some instances, foolhardy decisions mar David's good intentions.

## Clara Copperfield

David's mother. The kind, generous, and goodhearted Clara embodies maternal caring until her death, which occurs early in the novel. David remembers his mother as an angel whose independent spirit was destroyed by Mr. Murdstone's cruelty.

## Peggotty

David's nanny and caretaker. Peggotty is gentle and selfless, opening herself and her family to David whenever he is in need. She is faithful to David and his family all her life, never abandoning David, his mother, or Miss Betsey. In her kind motherliness, Peggotty contrasts with the cruel and unloving Miss Murdstone

## Miss Betsey Trotwood

David's eccentric, kind-hearted aunt. Although Miss Betsey's intentions are mysterious at the beginning of the novel, her generosity toward David soon becomes clear, and she acts as David's second mother.

## Mr. Edward Murdstone and Miss Jane Murdstone

The cruel second husband of David's mother, and Murdstone's sister. The Murdstones are strict and brutal not only toward David, but to his mother as well. Together, they crush David's mother's spirit.

## Creakle and Tungay

The cruel and unsympathetic characters running bottle factory where David works as a child.

## Mr and Mrs Micawber

An unlucky couple crippled by constantly precarious finances. Although Mr. Micawber never succeeds at supporting his own family, he is generous and industrious in serving others. Mrs. Micawber stands by her husband despite his flaws and regardless of the hardships they suffer.

## Mr Dick

An eccentric but highly intelligent distant cousin of Betsey Trotwood, who is afflicted with voices in his head. David and Mr Dick become firm friends and David helps Mr Dick with his afflictions.

## Agnes Wickfield

David's true love and daughter of Mr. Wickfield. The calm and gentle Agnes admires her father and David. Agnes always comforts David with kind words or advice when he needs support.

## Mr Wickfield

Mr. Wickfield is a lawyer and business manager for both Miss Betsey and Mrs Strong, David's new headmaster. Mr Wickfield is a kind and generous man, but suffers from an alcohol addiction. This taste for alcohol later becomes increasingly difficult to control, leaving Mr Dick and his clients vulnerable to the manipulation of others.

## Mrs Strong

The kind and straight talking headteacher of the school in Canterbury that David later joins, arranged by his aunt and Mr Wickfield.

## James Steerforth

A condescending, self-centred villain. From his boyhood, Steerforth possesses a restless energy that he can neither satisfy nor divert. He charms both women and men for the feeling of power it gives him. He also abuses David, although David is too enraptured with him and too grateful for his patronage to notice.

## Uriah Heep

A two-faced, conniving villain who puts on a false show of humility and meekness to disguise his evil intentions. Uriah is motivated by his belief that the world owes him something for all the humiliations he suffered as a young man. Ultimately, Uriah's veneer of humility proves as empty as his morals.

### Additional supporting characters:

## Mick Walker and Mealy Potatoes

Boys working at the bottle factory

## Baliff and creditor

Chasing Micawber for money owed

## Janet

Betsey's housekeeper

## Micawber children