

5:1 *David Copperfield*, Chapter 1

Summary:

Six months after his father's death, David Copperfield is born in Suffolk, England. He is attended to by his mother, Clara, her servant, Peggotty, and his aunt, Betsey Trotwood. Betsey insists that the child be born a girl, and when David is delivered, she storms out never to return, leaving Clara bereft of relatives.



Dickens

Characters Introduced:

David Copperfield: the hero, also called "Trotwood," "Trot," "Doady," and "Daisy."

Clara Copperfield: his mother.

Mr. Chillip: the doctor who delivers David.

Peggotty: Clara Copperfield's servant.

Ham Peggotty: her nephew.

Miss Betsey Trotwood: David's aunt.

Bildungsroman: a coming of age novel whose subject is the upbringing of a young person.

Foreshadowing: an action or an event early in a story that implies how a future situation will evolve.

Tone: a manner of expression in a literary work; the approach of a speaker to a subject.

5:2 *David Copperfield*, Chapters 2 and 3

Summary:

Clara is courted by Edward Murdstone, a severe and humorless man. David goes to visit Peggotty's relations in East Anglia, who live in an overturned boat. Peggotty's relations are all warm, friendly and hospitable. It is here that David meets his first love, Em'ly. When he returns, he learns that his mother has married Mr. Murdstone.

Characters Introduced:

Mr. and Mrs. Grayper:

neighbors.

Mr. Peggotty: Peggotty's brother.

Mrs. Grummidge: widow of Peggotty's father.

Em'ly: an innocent young girl, niece of Peggotty, engaged to Ham.

Edward Murdstone: Clara Copperfield's husband, noted for his firmness.

Mr. Quinion: manager of Murdstone's counting house.

Dickens carefully juxtaposes the Murdstone family with the Peggotty family in these scenes.



Em'ly and David

5:3a *David Copperfield*, Chapters 4 and 5

Summary:

Mr. Murdstone is joined by his humorless sister, Jane, and the two seem to torture David's every move. They strip Clara of any control she has in the house, even over her own child. David is beaten when he cannot learn under their "guidance" and bites Mr. Murdstone in self-defense. He is sent away to school, to Salem House, which is a tyrannical institution run by cruel men.

Characters Introduced:

Mr. Barkis: a carrier, who is willing to marry Peggotty.

Jane Murdstone: Edward's sister, equally as firm as her brother.

James Steerforth: a friend of David's.

Mr. Creakle: the severe principal of Salem House, with **Mrs. Creakle** and **Miss Creakle**.

Mr. Mell: subordinate teacher, with his mother **Mrs. Mell**.



Mr. Mell