

## 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

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**Characterization:** The representation of a character by imitating or describing actions, gestures or speeches.



**Character analysis: the Murdstones**  
Dickens' vivid characterization of the Murdstones is the chief feature of this section of the novel. Describe what they are like.

David and Mr. Murdstone