

A Dickens of a Celebration

Take the challenge!

In honor of the bicentennial of Charles Dickens' birth, we hereby challenge your literary mettle with a quiz about the great Victorian writer. Will this be your best of times, or worst of times? *Good luck!*

1 This novel was the first of Dickens' romances.

- (a) *David Copperfield*
- (b) *Martin Chuzzlewit*
- (c) *Nicholas Nickleby*

2 Many of Dickens' books were cliffhangers, published in monthly installments. In 1841, readers in Britain and the U.S. anxiously awaited news of the fate of the pretty protagonist in this novel.

- (a) *Little Dorrit*
- (b) *A Tale of Two Cities*
- (c) *The Old Curiosity Shop*

3 This was an early pseudonym used by Dickens.

- (a) O. Henry
- (b) *Oliver Twist*
- (c) Boz

4 Dickens is said to have suffered from this disease.

- (a) Epilepsy
- (b) Polio
- (c) Rickets

5 Dickens and his wife, Catherine, had this many children; some were named after his favorite authors.

- (a) Ten
- (b) Five
- (c) Nine

6 The conditions of the working class are a common theme in Dickens' books. Why?

- (a) He had to work in a warehouse as a boy to help get his family out of debtor's prison.
- (b) His father worked in a livery and was mistreated there.
- (c) His mother worked as a maid as a teenager and told him stories about the hard life.

7 This is Dickens' final novel, which was not completed before he died.

- (a) *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*
- (b) *Our Mutual Friend*
- (c) *Barnaby Rudge*

8 This famous writer was a good friend of Dickens and dedicated a book to him.

- (a) Mark Twain
- (b) Emily Bronte
- (c) Hans Christian Andersen

9 Where was Dickens buried?

- (a) Portsmouth, England (where he was born)
- (b) Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, London
- (c) Isles of Scilly

10 This amusement park in Chatham, England, is named after Dickens.

- (a) *Great Expectations*
- (b) Dickens World
- (c) Old Curiosity Park

Check out the answers!

- 1 - C 4 - A 7 - A 10 - B
- 2 - C 5 - A 8 - C
- 3 - C 6 - A 9 - A