

## PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION IN CH.DICKENS' WORKS

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### ABSTRACT

One of the central themes in Charles Dickens' work is the critique of society, particularly focusing on the poor education and harsh labor conditions faced by children. This article indeed provides essential information on the harsh conditions of childhood and the inadequacy of education in the writer's work, highlighting how these themes are intricately woven into the fabric of his narratives.

**Keywords:** Charles Dickens, Childhood, education, poor condition

### INTRODUCTION

Charles Dickens is renowned for his vivid portrayal of childhood and the educational system of his time, often highlighting the harsh realities faced by children in 19th-century England. His works frequently address themes of poverty, child labor, and the inadequacy of the educational system, offering a critique that remains relevant in discussions about child welfare and education today. His exploration of childhood and education is not only a significant aspect of his work but also offers a critical lens through which we can examine societal attitudes towards these themes during the Victorian era. His personal experiences deeply influenced his writing; having endured hardship and child labor himself, Dickens was uniquely positioned to critique the social injustices of his time.

### FINDINGS

The theme of childhood and education in Dickens' works explores the impact of poverty, neglect, abuse, and social class on the development of children and their chances for a better life. Dickens' portrayal of the struggles and hardships of children and their education aims to raise awareness of the need for social and educational reforms.

Dickens showed sympathy and compassion for the powerless and prevented sections of English society, and added some significant changes. Dickens deep social responsibility and familiarity with social problems are incorporated in their horrible youth meetings when his father was arrested in debtor's prison Marshalsea under the

law of bad debtors in 1813, and twelve years he worked in a plant processing blacking shoe. In his adult life Dickens builds a strong thread of social voice, still.[1 ]

In "David Copperfield," we see a reflection of Dickens' own struggles, with the character's early experiences in a bottle factory and the challenges he faces in an indifferent world. Similarly, "Oliver Twist" highlights the brutality of the workhouse system and the criminal underworld of London, emphasizing the vulnerability of children to exploitation. In Oliver Twist Charles Dickens describes the life in the workhouses. Oliver was born in a workhouse. His mother, whose name no one knows is found on the street and dies just after Oliver's birth. Oliver spends the first nine years of his life in a badly run home for young orphans and then is transferred to a workhouse for adults. Here Oliver and other children are employed with hard considerably in factory. They are given very little food to eat and treaded very bad. [2]

Indeed, His stories evoke empathy and outrage, pushing readers to confront uncomfortable truths about society. Oliver Twist had the serious purpose of mitigating the evils under which the poor were suffering. Its hero was a poor child, the unfortunate victim of society; and, in order to draw attention to the real need, Dickens exaggerated the woeful condition of the poor, and filled his pages with sentiment which easily slipped over into sentimentality.[3]

### **CONCLUSION**

Absolutely, Dickens' works often place a spotlight on children and their adverse conditions, serving as a powerful commentary on the neglect and abuse prevalent in Victorian society. His narratives are filled with young characters who endure great hardships, from poverty and exploitation to emotional and physical abuse. These portrayals were groundbreaking at the time, as they brought attention to the plight of children, who were often invisible in discussions about social reform. These narratives were not merely stories; they were Dickens' way of shining a light on the dark corners of society, advocating for change. His work prompts us to consider the impact of our own societal structures on the young and vulnerable.

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