

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**™

Charles Dickens



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Isobel Ross

Little People, BIG DREAMS[™]
CHARLES DICKENS

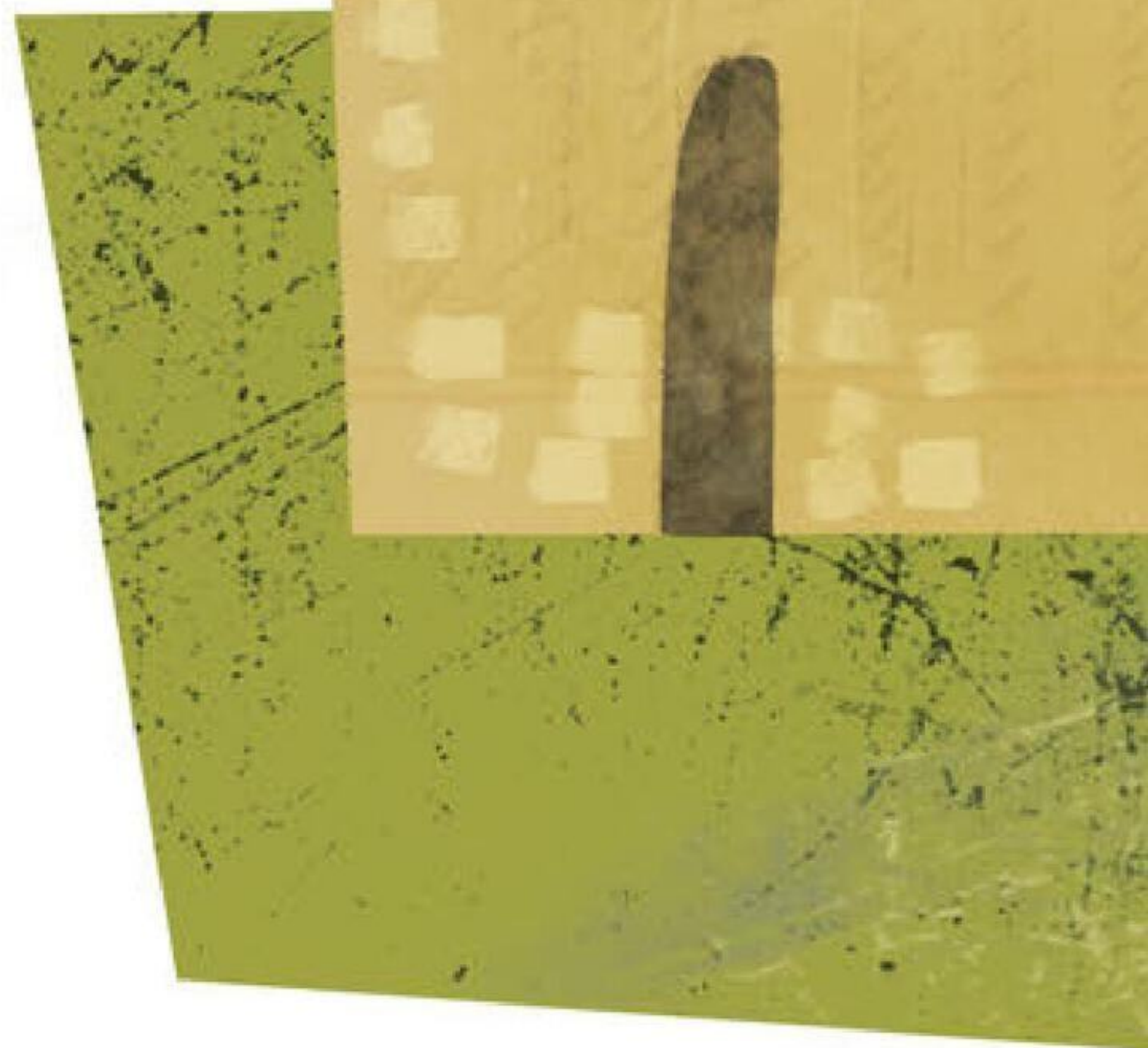
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Frances Lincoln
Children's Books

Little Charles was the second child of the Dickens family. He was born in England, at a time when there was no such thing as movies. He made up his own adventures, playing at a nearby castle with his older sister Fanny.







Charles was lucky enough to attend school, something many children didn't have the chance to do at the time. Soon, he was devouring books as if they were candy. Hungry for more, he started observing people and made up stories about them.





But there was a twist in his own tale the day his father was sent to prison because of his debts. Charles was forced to leave school and work in a factory, labeling pots for ten hours every day—even on weekends!





He found his way out of the factory by working at a law firm as a junior clerk. Maybe it wasn't the most exciting job ever, but Charles never missed a chance to make everybody laugh.



He had a gift for performing mime and a passion for theater.



He even had an audition at the Royal Opera House. Charles spent days memorizing an entire monologue from his favorite actor. He was ready to prove his talent, when he caught a terrible cold and missed his chance.







Instead of complaining, Charles decided to try his luck as a writer, and he reported for two newspapers. Still, he much preferred making up stories inspired by ordinary people he met on the streets. And his readers loved them, too!





Charles's first work of fiction—*The Pickwick Papers*—told the adventures of the eccentric members of a Gentlemen's Club. It became a success overnight! Everyone wanted to meet Mr. Pickwick and his friends.



He was a pioneer! Charles released his work serially—instead of publishing a whole book at once, it was published chapter by chapter. This made his stories affordable for everyone.



In America, people waited for their copies at the harbor, eager to know what happened next.





Aware of the power of a good tale, Charles used his next story to give poor children a voice.



It was about an orphan called Oliver Twist, who was living on the streets. Even the Queen was touched by his story!



It was a cold December when Charles finished writing a story about Mr. Scrooge, a man with a frosty heart that no warmth could melt.



One Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by three ghosts that make him change his mind...



The story became an instant classic! It encouraged people to keep the Christmas spirit alive all year long—which Charles did too. When he was asked to give a reading to raise money for a hospital, he didn't think twice.





FILM
CAST

ACT	SCENE	SET



His work inspired hundreds of movies and plays, staged in huge opera houses and tiny school theaters. Every year, kids around the globe dress like ghosts, Tiny Tim, or Mr. Scrooge to play in Charles's *A Christmas Carol*.



And by encouraging readers to open their hearts to those who struggle, little Charles became one of the world's most beloved authors—uniting entire generations of readers who believe that every day can be Christmas, if we want it to be.

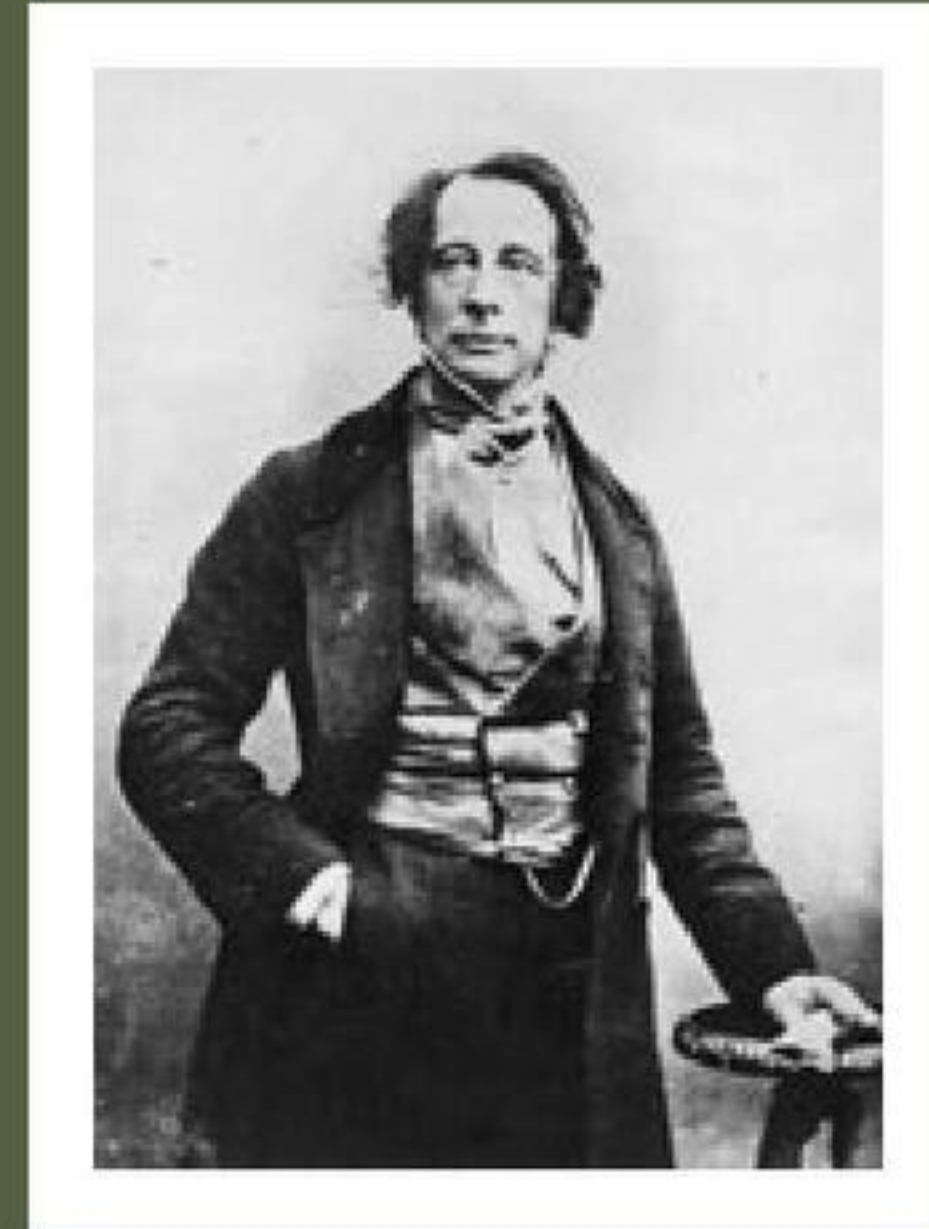


CHARLES DICKENS

(Born 1812 – Died 1870)



1839

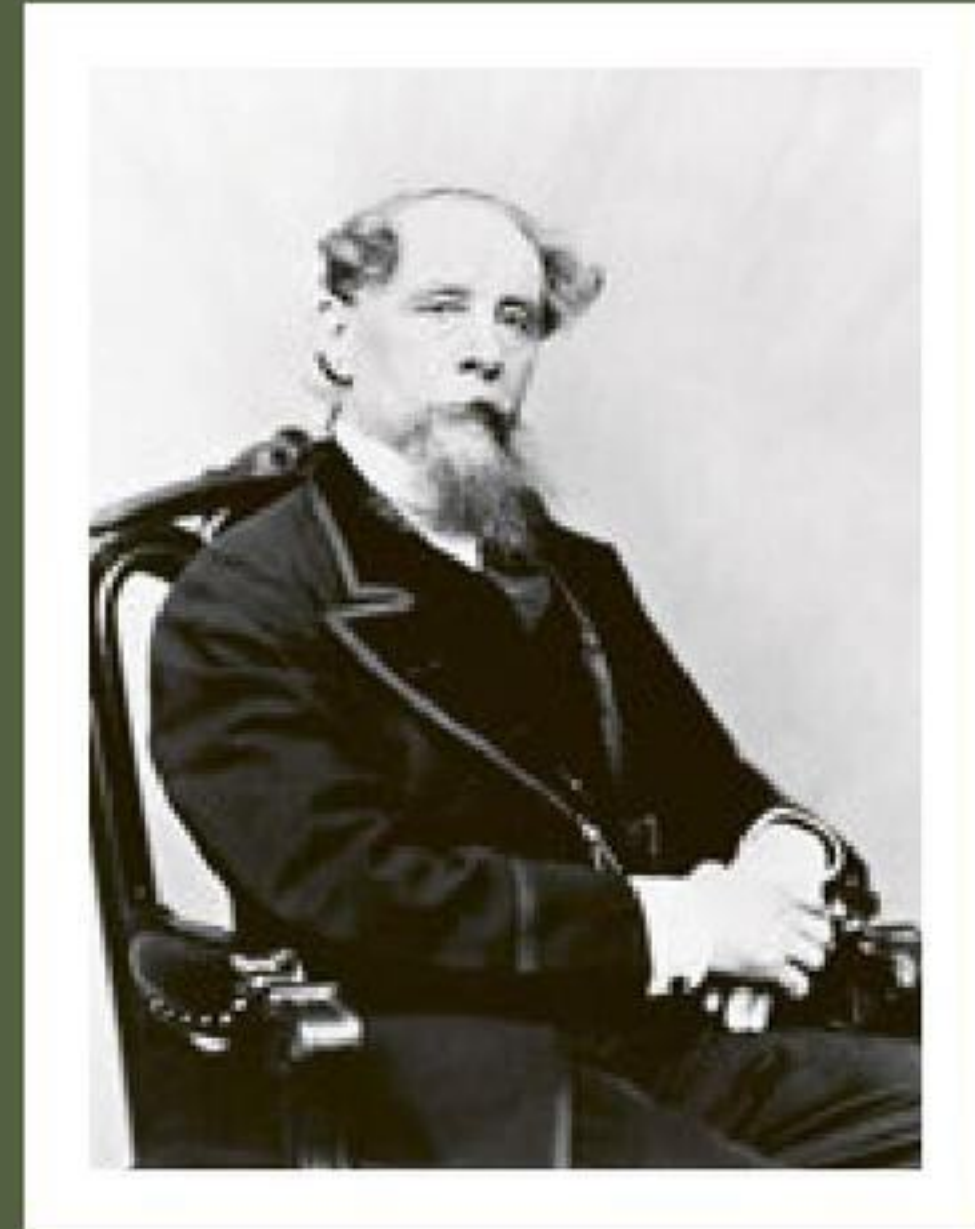


1852

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born on February 7th, 1812, in Portsmouth, on the south coast of England. He was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, was a naval clerk and his mother, Elizabeth, dreamed of being a teacher. Money was tight and Charles's childhood was difficult. At the age of 12, his father was sent to prison for his debts, and Charles was forced to leave school to work at a factory on the River Thames. At the run-down, rodent-ridden factory, Dickens earned six shillings a week, labeling pots of "blacking," a substance used to clean fireplaces. His time spent there was a great influence on his future work. To make his way out of factory life, he started to spend time in the London courts, working as a clerk. Just a few years later, he was writing



c. 1860



1867

for two major London newspapers. In 1833, he began writing his own stories, submitting them to magazines and newspapers and in 1836, he started publishing *The Pickwick Papers*. This series was released in monthly installments. Dedicated readers eagerly anticipated the next issue. It was so popular that Charles started to publish more things this way, including the book about his impoverished hero, *Oliver Twist*. Next, he wrote *A Christmas Carol*, the story of a mean old man who finds the spirit of Christmas. Charles went on to write beloved classics that are still cherished around the world today. Over the course of his life, he wrote many novels as well as plays and essays. His characters are people who persevered through struggle to make the most out of life—just as Charles did.

Want to find out more about **Charles Dickens?**

Have a read of this great book:

Charles Dickens: Scenes from an Extraordinary Life

by Mick Manning and Brita Granström



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Little People, **BIG DREAMS**™

Charles Dickens

Discover the lives of outstanding people,
from designers and artists to scientists. All of
them achieved incredible things, yet each began
life as a child with a dream.

As a little boy, Charles was fascinated by everyday people
and loved to make up stories about them. But when his
father was sent to prison, Charles had to leave school to
start work in a factory before he was even a teenager.
He soon began writing, and started on a path to become
one of the most pioneering writers and publishers of
all time. This inspiring story features a facts
and photos section at the back.



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Children's Books



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