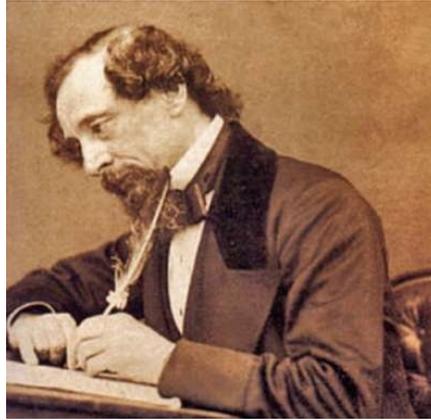


# MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT

by Charles Dickens



## THE AUTHOR

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was the second of eight children in a family plagued by debt. When he was twelve, his father was thrown into debtors' prison (the very Marshalsea prison described in *Little Dorrit*), and Charles was forced to quit school and work in a shoe-dye factory. These early experiences gave him a sympathy for the poor and downtrodden, along with an acute sense of social justice. At the age of fifteen, he became a clerk in a law firm, and later worked as a newspaper reporter. He published his first fiction in 1836 - a series of character sketches called *Sketches by Boz*. The work was well-received, but its reception was nothing compared to the international acclaim he received with the publication of *The Pickwick Papers* the next year.

After this early blush of success, Dickens took on the job as editor of *Bentley's Miscellany*, a literary magazine in which a number of his early works were serialized, including *Oliver Twist* (1837-9) and *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-9). He left to begin his own literary magazine, *Master Humphrey's Clock*, in 1840, and over the next ten years published many of his most famous novels in serial form, including *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1840-1), *A Christmas Carol* (1844), and *David Copperfield* (1849-50), perhaps the most autobiographical of all his novels. Other works were serialized in *Household Words* between 1850 and 1859, including *Bleak House* (1852-3), which was then succeeded by *All the Year Round*, which he edited until his death in 1870, publishing such novels as *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), *Great Expectations* (1860-1), and *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-5). A workaholic to the end, Dickens died of a stroke in 1870 after having penned a chapter of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, his final (and unfinished) novel, the previous day.

As far as his personal life was concerned, Dickens was a tireless writer and speaker, but his own personal insecurities made him very difficult to live with. He married Catherine Hogarth in 1836 and, though they had ten children together, their relationship grew increasingly strained until they finally divorced in 1859. He traveled extensively, including making several trips to America (he never much liked the country or its people), and was frequently called upon to read from his own writings, drawing large and enthusiastic crowds. Dickens also spoke out on a variety of social issues, including American slavery and the lack of copyright laws that made it far too easy for unscrupulous

people to steal his writings, as well as the abuses of industrial society that play such a prominent role in his novels.

*Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843-4), like most of Dickens' work, was written in serial form. Though it sold relatively poorly in that format, it eventually did very well when published as a complete novel. Dickens intended the story to be a satire on the human condition, focusing primarily on selfishness, greed, and their consequences; it is no accident that he took a short break in the middle of composing the novel to write a short work called *A Christmas Carol*. While the tale, written shortly after Dickens' return from a visit to the United States that left him badly disillusioned with the new republic, incorporates the author's well-known dislike for America in many of its episodes, it is primarily a critique of English society.

## **PLOT SUMMARY**

Chapter 1 - Introductory, concerning the pedigree of the Chuzzlewit family

This tongue-in-cheek chapter traces the heritage of the Chuzzlewits back to Adam and Eve, in the process tying them to vagabonds and murderers like Cain, carpetbaggers like those who came over during the Norman Conquest, traitors like those who were involved in the Gunpowder Plot, paupers, pawnbrokers, and even going so far as to trace their ancestry to orangutans, according to the theory of evolution then current.

Chapter 2 - Wherein certain persons are presented to the reader, with whom he may, if he please, become better acquainted

On a windy fall day, Mr. Pecksniff falls down the steps when his elder daughter inadvertently slams the door in his face, after which his two daughters bring him inside and tend to his minor injuries. Pecksniff is an architect who has never built anything, but makes his money by taking in pupils, whom he leaves to their own devices as they attempt to draw buildings he assigns to them. After dinner, Pecksniff announces to his daughters that, the previous pupil, John Westlock, having finished his term, a new pupil is expected momentarily. Westlock then returns from dinner with Tom Pinch, Pecksniff's assistant, and seeks to leave on good terms despite the fact that Pecksniff has cheated him out of his tuition money and taught him nothing whatsoever, but Pecksniff refuses to shake his hand. As Tom accompanies his friend to the mail coach, they argue about Pecksniff, Westlock verbally skewering him while Pinch staunchly defends him.

Chapter 3 - In which certain other persons are introduced; on the same terms as the last chapter

The next evening, a coach arrives at the Blue Dragon bearing Martin Chuzzlewit, who is ill, and his companion Mary Graham. He refuses to have anyone sent for, so the landlady, a widow named Mrs. Lupin, and Mary take care of him as best they can. The landlady assumes that Mary is related to the old gentleman, but she assures her that such is not the case. Soon Chuzzlewit goes to sleep while Mary reads quietly in the corner. Before long Pecksniff arrives and Mrs. Lupin tells him of the sick stranger accompanied by a young person who was not his relation. He shares her suspicions of the unusual arrangement. They quietly enter the bedroom and Pecksniff sits down beside the old man's bed, waiting for him to wake up. When Chuzzlewit awakens, Pecksniff

recognizes him, for they are distant relatives. Chuzzlewit is angry at having his sleep disturbed and is convinced that Pecksniff, like all his relatives, is only out for his money. Pecksniff smoothly denies it and insists that he has no more interest in Martin than he would have in any other sick stranger passing through the village. When Martin and Pecksniff are alone, the old man confides that money makes him miserable, yet he has no idea to whom he might reasonably entrust his fortune because everyone with whom he comes into contact turns out to be corrupted by the desire to possess his wealth. Only Mary is free of such corruption because, after taking her from the orphanage, he made sure she understood that he would never leave her any of his money, so she cares for him with no hope of gain or motivation to wish him dead. The old man then throws Pecksniff out of the room and tells him never to return, but before he leaves, Pecksniff tells Martin that he should never have disinherited his grandson, whose name also is Martin. He leaves, and Martin wonders at the universal selfishness that corrupts all of humanity.

Chapter 4 - From which it will appear that if union be strength, and family affection be pleasant to contemplate, the Chuzzlewits were the strongest and most agreeable family in the world

Pecksniff waits for three days, hoping Martin will relent and summon him once more, but when that does not happen, he begins hanging around the Blue Dragon and listening at the old man's door. One day he encounters a scoundrel engaged in the same form of spying, a con artist named Montague Tigg. Tigg introduces himself as the representative of Chevy Slyme, a distant relative of Martin Chuzzlewit and undoubtedly another seeker after the old man's fortune. Worse yet, other relations have gathered, including Mr. and Mrs. Spottletoes, Martin's brother Anthony, and his son Jonas Chuzzlewit. After unsuccessfully attempting to wangle a loan from Pecksniff, Tigg advises him that the first task of the gathered relations is to undermine the influence of Mary Graham on the old man, after which the relatives can enter into a full-scale competition for the legacy. While the relatives jockey for position, Martin refuses to see any of them. Finally all agree to a family council at the home of Mr. Pecksniff. No sooner does Pecksniff call the meeting to order than quarreling breaks out throughout the crowd. Once he regains control, he reminds them that their chief purpose must be to make poor sick Martin aware of the designs on his fortune by his female companion. Suggestions for accomplishing their goal range from poison to prison to exile to flogging, all of which are without question too good for the malefactor in question. As Pecksniff is about to propose that they join in advocating that Martin restore his grandson to his good graces, thus appearing disinterested despite the fact that they know such a thing will never happen, news arrives that the old man has left the village while they have been busy plotting against him, after which the council quickly disbands.

Chapter 5 - Containing a full account of the installation of Mr. Pecksniff's new pupil into the bosom of Mr. Pecksniff's family. With all the festivities held on that occasion, and the great enjoyment of Mr. Pinch

One winter morning, Pecksniff sends Tom Pinch to Salisbury to retrieve his new pupil. As he drives the gig, he is greeted by one and all. On the road he encounters Mark Tapley, the cheerful hostler of the Blue Dragon, who is also on his way to Salisbury, so the two decide to travel together. Mark announces that he is leaving the Blue Dragon in order to find a place where his jolly disposition is needed to cheer the place up, perhaps as a gravedigger. Mark dismounts near Salisbury, and when Tom arrives in the town he spends hours wandering through the market and looking in the shop

windows; the bookshop was to him the most fascinating. Later he stops by the cathedral and, because he knows the assistant organist, takes a turn at the organ keyboard. When he returns to the tavern for his dinner, he meets Pecksniff's new pupil, none other than Martin Chuzzlewit, the estranged grandson of the wealthy old man introduced earlier. After dinner they head home, all the while talking of Pecksniff, with Tom painting for the new pupil a glowing picture of the Pecksniff household. When they pass the village church, Tom slows down and tells Martin of his pleasure in playing the organ; in particular, he relates an incident where a beautiful young lady came into the church while he was practicing and stood listening to him in the back of the sanctuary. Day after day she returned, but her visits suddenly stopped. Tom has no idea who this lovely woman is and doubts that he will ever see her again. When they arrive at the Pecksniff domicile, they find a very unusual scene, as Pecksniff is busy with obscure diagrams and instruments, Charity is sewing bonnets for the poor, and Mercy is dressing dolls for village children; these are by no means their normal occupations. Pecksniff gives Martin a tour of the house and shows him to his bedroom, which he is to share with Tom Pinch. They then go down to dinner, which, as Tom realizes, is a highly uncharacteristic feast, after which Pecksniff sees his young guest off to bed.

Chapter 6 - Comprises, among other important matters, Pecksniffian and architectural, an exact relation of the progress made by Mr. Pinch in the confidence and friendship of the new pupil

The next morning, Tom Pinch is startled to find that Charity is not tormenting him at breakfast as she usually does and that the new pupil is actually treating him with kindness and respect. Under such circumstances, he hardly knows how to behave. After breakfast, Pecksniff announces that he and the girls will be going to London for a week on business. Before they leave, he assigns Martin the task of making up architectural drawings for a grammar school. Unknown to Martin, Pecksniff has a habit of making minor alterations to his students' drawings and passing them off as his own while keeping the profits for himself. He draws Martin aside for a private conference, after which the apprentice is observed to be exceedingly downcast. Tom spends all morning packing and hauling the family's luggage, and before they leave he entrusts Pecksniff with a letter for his sister Ruth, who is a governess in Camberwell. After the Pecksniffs leave, Tom asks Martin what is wrong, but gets no response. Back at home, they are faced with the leftovers of the previous night's dinner, which Pinch finds delightful but Martin thinks appalling. As they sit by the fire, Martin tells Tom that he was raised with expectations of being rich, but had been disinherited by his strong-willed grandfather because of his love for Mary Graham, Old Martin's companion. The grandfather wished to dispose of Young Martin in marriage according to his own designs and had no intention of disrupting the disinterested state of his companion. Given the choice between his grandfather and Mary, Young Martin had chosen the latter, and had therefore been banished from the house and disinherited. In fact, Young Martin had signed on with Pecksniff precisely because he knew that his grandfather despised the man. He then tells Tom that the lovely young lady who had listened to his organ music was in fact his beloved, Mary Graham. Having described the stubbornness and selfishness of his grandfather, Young Martin clearly is completely unaware that he possesses those very same traits.

Chapter 7 - In which Mr. Chevy Slyme asserts the independence of his spirit; and the Blue Dragon loses a limb

As Martin works on the drawings for the grammar school, he and Pinch grow increasingly close. That afternoon a stranger intrudes on their labors. He introduces himself as Montague Tigg,

the agent for Chevy Slyme. Apparently Mr. Slyme is being detained at the Blue Dragon for failure to pay his bill, and Tigg implies that Pecksniff had promised to supply the needed funds. Pinch refuses to act without Pecksniff's express direction, but Martin convinces him that it might well be worth three or four pounds to get rid of Tigg and Slyme, so they go to the Blue Dragon and arrange for the necessary payments. They find Slyme, who chooses to pass himself off as a Professor of Taste, in a drunken condition, boasting about his superior knowledge. After Slyme passes out, Tigg takes Pinch aside and borrows more money from him, which he has no intention of repaying. When Pinch returns to the main room of the tavern, he finds Mark Tapley discussing his plans to leave the place the next morning. After they leave, Mark bids farewell to Mrs. Lupin, and the following morning he finds a crowd from the village waiting to say goodbye.

Chapter 8 - Accompanies Mr. Pecksniff and his charming daughters to the City of London; and relates what fell out upon their way thither

When Pecksniff and his daughters depart for London, they find the inside of the coach empty and enjoy the warmth and comfort while those who could not afford the cost sat atop the coach and suffered from the cold. At a later stop, an old man and his son join them on the inside, though they are willing to pay only outside prices; the two are Anthony Chuzzlewit, Old Martin's brother, and his son Jonas. Jonas cares for nothing but money and fervently wishes his father in the grave so he could have more of it, but he determines to use the journey to London to advance his fortune. In order to do so, he strikes up a conversation with the Pecksniff girls. He flirts with Mercy but insists on sitting by Charity. They finally fall asleep in the coach, and by morning they arrive in London, where Pecksniff promptly escorts his daughters to Mrs. Todgers' boardinghouse, a smelly and dingy establishment. Soon Mrs. Todgers appears and welcomes them warmly, quickly agreeing that she can find a place for the girls despite the fact that she normally restricts the house to gentlemen only.

Chapter 9 - Town and Todgers's

Two days after their arrival in London, Pecksniff and his daughters pay a visit to Ruth Pinch, Tom's sister, who is employed as a governess by a wealthy foundry owner and his wife to tutor their thirteen-year-old daughter, who is a snob and tattletale. Much to the disappointment of Charity and Mercy, Ruth is not ungainly like her brother, but this does not keep the Pecksniff sisters from looking down their noses at her. Pecksniff gives her a letter from Tom, which she gratefully receives, having heard nothing but good things about her brother's employer in previous missives. On their way out of the house, Pecksniff attempts to show off his knowledge of architecture, but is accused of trespassing by the owner and is thrown off the property. After they leave, his wife chastises Ruth for having such vulgar acquaintances. That Sunday, the Pecksniffs have dinner with the other boarders, all of whom are men of business in some form or other. The fare is plentiful and the men give constant attention to the young ladies in their midst. After they adjourn upstairs, the boarders flirt with the girls, mostly with Mercy, while the drunken Pecksniff makes a pass at Mrs. Todgers and then passes out, after which the men put him unceremoniously to bed.

Chapter 10 - Containing strange matter; on which many events in this history may, for their good or evil influence, chiefly depend

Five days later, Old Martin Chuzzlewit visits the Pecksniffs at the Todgers establishment. He asks to meet Charity and Mercy and expresses a desire for reconciliation, setting the hypocritical architect apart from the rest of his ravenous relations. Pecksniff, however, has taken Young Martin into his home as a pupil, and Old Martin demands that he dismiss him immediately on account of his desire to contract a forbidden marriage with Mary Graham. The old man asks Pecksniff to watch over Mary should the need arise, then gives him money for his expenses in London and takes his leave, indicating that he intends shortly to call on them in Salisbury. After he leaves, the Pecksniffs hear Mrs. Todgers in heated conversation with her youngest boarder, who is complaining of his treatment by a fellow lodger. Mrs. Todgers mollifies him with some trivial untruths, but after he exits, Pecksniff says she should be ashamed of herself for her dissimulation for the sake of a mere eighteen shillings per week.

Chapter 11 - Wherein a certain gentleman becomes particular in his attentions to a certain lady; and more coming events than one, cast their shadows before

A few days before the Pecksniffs are to leave London, Charity receives a male visitor. The caller is none other than Jonas Chuzzlewit, who invites Charity and her sister to take a walk with him, and afterwards to have dinner at their home. Mercy, who has already taken an intense dislike to Jonas, spends the afternoon insulting him. At dinner, Jonas is very rude to his father and his clerk, an elderly man named Chuffey. Surprisingly, Anthony is proud of Jonas for his rudeness and his greed, convinced that he will never squander his father's fortune, such as it is. After dinner, Jonas gives all his attention to Charity and ignores Mercy, which is fine with her. At the end of the evening, Jonas walks the girls back to the boardinghouse. Two nights later, as the Pecksniffs prepare to leave, the commercial gentlemen serenade the girls - a most unpleasant experience, given the fact that they were all thoroughly drunk. The gentlemen, along with Anthony and Jonas Chuzzlewit, say farewell to the Pecksniffs the following day, but not before Anthony and Pecksniff discuss mutual advantage in the prospective union of their offspring.

Chapter 12 - Will be seen in the long run, if not in the short one, to concern Mr. Pinch and others, nearly. Mr. Pecksniff asserts the dignity of outraged virtue. Young Martin Chuzzlewit forms a desperate resolution

While the Pecksniffs are in London, Young Martin is busy working on his design for the grammar school while he and Tom Pinch grow daily in their admiration for one another. Martin vows that when he becomes a famous architect, he will take Tom under his wing as his assistant, and that, once he and Mary marry and start a family, their children would surely love Tom like all the children in Salisbury do. They would even buy an organ so Tom could play for them in the evenings. One day Tom receives a letter from John Westlock, former pupil of Pecksniff. He has come into his inheritance and wishes to come to Salisbury to take Tom and Martin to dinner. The two men walk to Salisbury and enjoy a delightful dinner with Westlock. After dinner, Tom leaves for a few minutes to speak to the assistant organist, during which time John and Martin praise his virtues and deplore the ways in which others take advantage of him, Pecksniff in particular. Westlock makes no secret of the fact that he despises Pecksniff, and Martin readily acknowledges that he is a hypocrite and a

scoundrel. When Pinch returns, he begins to praise his employer and becomes angry when Westlock refuses to share his opinion, though the two quickly make up. The next morning the three have breakfast together, after which Tom and Martin return to the Pecksniff residence. After a quiet day at home, the two rise before dawn the next morning and wait in the pouring rain at the coach stop to meet the Pecksniffs. When the coach arrives, Pecksniff tells Tom to unload the luggage while ignoring Martin completely. He then drives off with his daughters, leaving Tom and Martin to struggle home with the luggage on foot. When they arrive home, Pecksniff invites Tom to sit by the fire and warm himself while continuing to ignore Martin. Finally Martin asks the meaning of his employer's behavior, upon which Pecksniff accuses him of being a deceiver, both of him and his grandfather, and casts him out of the house. Martin denounces Pecksniff as the lowest of vermin and promises that even Pinch will one day recognize his true character. He then storms out, responding to Pinch's inquiry by telling him he plans to go to America.

Chapter 13 - Showing what became of Martin and his desperate resolve after he left Mr. Pecksniff's house; what persons he encountered; what anxieties he suffered; and what news he heard

As Martin trudges toward London in the rain, he has no real clear idea of what he should do next. He is penniless and chilled to the bone, but for some reason he opens a book that Pinch had given him and finds a half-sovereign wrapped inside. He stops at a tavern for breakfast and meets a wagon driver who offers to take him within ten miles of London in exchange for a crown and his silk handkerchief. After leaving the driver, he walks the rest of the way into London, then pawns his gold watch in order to have something on which to live. While in the pawnshop he encounters Montague Tigg, who is as usual trying to coerce money from anyone he encounters. The pawnbroker gives Martin three pounds for the watch, though it is worth much more. Tigg then manages to extract half a crown from Martin before the two part company. Thereafter Martin takes a room at a local pub and writes Tom Pinch, requesting that his possessions be sent to London. For the next three days, he searches out information about vessels leaving for America. Hoping for a job on a vessel that would allow him free passage, he reduces his belongings by pawning most of his clothes. Five weeks later, he has still found nothing and his money is almost gone. In desperate straits, he is surprised to find a letter waiting for him at the boardinghouse containing a draft for twenty pounds. He treats himself to a decent meal, and while he is eating, Mark Tapley knocks on his door. He invites Tapley to join him, and Mark, being informed of Martin's circumstances, offers to come with him to America as his manservant. As they talk, Tapley tells Martin that Mary and his grandfather are in London. Martin then dictates a letter for Mark to take to his beloved.

Chapter 14 - In which Martin bids adieu to the lady of his love; and honors an obscure individual whose fortune he intends to make, by commending her to his protection

Mark delivers the letter to Mary and she agrees to meet Martin the next morning. When the lovers come together, Martin tells Mary that he intends to travel to America to make his fortune. She, in turn, indicates that she and Old Martin plan to live with the Pecksniffs, though Martin warns her that he is a scoundrel and that his daughters are chips off the old block. They arrange to correspond through the intermediaries of Mrs. Lupin at the Blue Dragon and Tom Pinch, and Martin asks Tom to watch over Mary as best he is able. Before they part, Mary begs Martin to forgive his grandfather, but he shows no inclination to do so. When Mark escorts her back to her home, she gives him a

diamond ring for Martin, who supposes it to have been a gift to her from his grandfather; Mark knows, however, that she bought it herself with all the savings she possessed.

#### Chapter 15 - The burden whereof is, Hail, Columbia!

After two weeks at sea, Martin, Mark, and all the other passengers are thoroughly seasick, though Mark maintains his customary jollity throughout the voyage. Despite their suffering, the passengers do their best to care for one another, especially Mark, though Martin remains aloof from those he considers his inferiors. A week later, they arrive in New York Harbor.

Chapter 16 - Martin disembarks from that noble and fast-sailing line-of-packet ship, The Screw, at the port of New York, in the United States of America. He makes some acquaintances, and dines at a boarding-house. The particulars of those transactions

When Martin and Mark disembark in New York, they find that a local election has just concluded, accompanied by violence on the part of the disappointed losers. They are deluged with newsboys touting their wares, mostly focused on the latest gossip. Martin's first acquaintance in America is Colonel Diver, the editor of the New York Rowdy Journal. The colonel invites Martin to his office to enjoy a glass of champagne, then offers to show him around the city and direct him to a local boardinghouse. At the office, Diver introduces Martin to Jefferson Brick, the Journal's war correspondent. The two men praise the virtues of their scandal rag while Martin observes that their newspaper appears not to be bothered by either slavery or forgery. They then walk with Martin along Broadway to the boardinghouse run by Major Pawkins, a businessman and aspiring politician whose greatest talent is swindling people out of their money. When dinnertime arrives, Martin is astounded to find that the twenty boarders devour the food with which the table is laden before he even has a chance to begin his meal. He soon learns that most of the men at the table have titles, largely military, and each and every one is "one of the most remarkable people in the country." After dinner, the entire conversation is about money and how to make as much of it as possible, even to the point of violence, with little care given to honesty and integrity. When Martin tries to turn the conversation to literature and the arts, they insist that they are too busy for such trifles. By the time the evening is over, Martin is thoroughly disillusioned with his new country. One boarder remains, and he, noticing Martin's discouragement, commiserates with him.

Chapter 17 - Martin enlarges his circle of acquaintance; increases his stock of wisdom; and has an excellent opportunity of comparing his own experiences with those of Lummy Ned of the Light Salisbury, as related by his friend Mr. William Simmons

Martin and his new friend Bevan, a doctor from Massachusetts, go out for a stroll and find that they share many of the same opinions about America and its evident faults. Martin soon realizes that he has completely forgotten about Mark Tapley, who was told to meet him at the Journal office. Mark has busied himself by escorting a woman and her three daughters he met onboard the ship to meet her husband, who is dreadfully ill and has managed to purchase a farm that is completely under water. Back at the office, Mark meets and entertains Cicero, an old former slave and hears about his trials and tribulations, finding that after saving for many years to purchase his own freedom, he is now saving to buy his daughter out of slavery. While Cicero takes their luggage to the boardinghouse, the other three spend several hours walking around the city, after which Bevan invites them to the home

of Mr. Norris, a relative of his. Martin soon finds that the Norris family has not only been to England, but also is on familiar terms with much of the aristocracy (which, of course, Martin is not). They are also abolitionists, which pleases Martin greatly, but he soon discovers that they consider Africans to be vastly inferior creatures. Soon they are joined by General Fladdock, who has just returned from Europe on the same ship as Martin. He begins immediately to disparage the class-consciousness of the Europeans, but as soon as he finds that Martin traveled in steerage rather than in a cabin, the atmosphere cools considerably, and Martin, fearful of embarrassing the Norrises, takes his leave. He is furious, but Bevan follows him and calms him down, reminding him that such attitudes are found in England as well as America, though in England they may not be accompanied with such pretensions to equality. They return to the boardinghouse, and before Martin goes to bed, Bevan warns him that if he seeks employment as an architect, he will need to go somewhere other than New York. Mark tries to cheer him up, but both go to bed longing for England; Martin misses his friend Tom Pinch and Mark longs for the Blue Dragon.

Chapter 18 - Does business with the house of Anthony Chuzzlewit and son, from which one of the partners retires unexpectedly

The chapter begins at the home of Anthony Chuzzlewit. He, his son Jonas, and his ancient clerk Chuffey are having dinner. Anthony is complaining about the cold, and Jonas is accusing him of wasting money because he wants to stir up the fire. While the two old men doze by the fire, Jonas goes into the next room and opens a secret drawer containing Anthony's will, in which he leaves thirty pounds per year to Chuffey and everything else to his son. As he opens the secret door, Pecksniff is peeking in the window. When he enters the house, he is invited to share what is left of their evening repast. Pecksniff had come up to London at Anthony's request, and when Jonas leaves to run an errand, Anthony draws Pecksniff aside and tells him that Jonas is sweet on Miss Pecksniff. He then advises Pecksniff to arrange the marriage as soon as possible before Jonas finds a richer candidate. Anthony soon falls asleep, and when Jonas returns and asks Pecksniff about his daughters, he is careful to praise Charity to the skies. They are interrupted by a startling scream from Chuffey and turn to find Anthony on the floor experiencing a seizure. They summon the doctor, but to no avail; Anthony dies the next morning. Jonas expresses his gratitude for Pecksniff because he needs a witness to prove that he was not complicit in his father's demise.

Chapter 19 - The reader is brought into communication with some professional persons, and sheds a tear over the filial piety of good Mr. Jonas

Jonas sends Pecksniff to find someone to attend to the corpse, and he seeks out Mrs. Gamp, a drunken midwife and all-purpose medical personage. When they arrive, they meet Mould the undertaker, who has been instructed by Jonas to spare no expense on the funeral. Mrs. Gamp asks that Chuffey, who is the only one really mourning Anthony's death, be removed from the bedside so she can accomplish her appointed task. For the next week, Pecksniff, Mrs. Gamp, and Mould's men eat and drink their fill at Jonas' expense while Jonas fears a ghost at every random noise and poor Chuffey can force himself to eat very little. At the end of the week the funeral procession passes through London on the way to the churchyard with only four in attendance, only one of whom is truly mourning the passing of Anthony Chuzzlewit.

## Chapter 20 - Is a Chapter of Love

On the way back from the funeral, Jonas asks Pecksniff how much money he intends to give his daughters when they marry. After considerable hemming and hawing, he admits he is willing to offer four thousand pounds. Pecksniff has invited Jonas to spend a few days with his family, but has not warned the girls that they are coming. They sneak in the back door and catch Cherry doing the household accounts. Merry is upstairs reading, but as soon as she comes down she begins to banter with Jonas in a fairly insulting fashion. After dinner, Pecksniff leaves to attend to business and Jonas pulls both girls down onto the couch next to him. He then in a rather abrupt fashion proposes to Merry, which sends Cherry off to her room in angry tears. Merry rushes after her, but Jonas grabs her and refuses to let her go until she accepts his proposal. She refuses him, insists that she hates him, and finally slaps his face when he tries to kiss her, after which he lets her go to her sister. Cherry is furious and Merry is confused, but when Pecksniff enters the room, he chastises Cherry for her envious nature and congratulates Merry. When he goes downstairs to seal the bargain with Jonas, the latter demands an extra thousand pounds for taking the less-favored daughter off of Pecksniff's hands. At that moment, Tom Pinch enters and apologizes for interrupting. He announces that Old Martin Chuzzlewit and Mary Graham stopped by the chapel while he was practicing the organ and were on their way to the house at that very moment. Pecksniff hardly knows what to do, knowing that Old Martin detests Jonas, his daughters are in no state to receive anyone, and he must at all costs retain the favor of the old man. At that point he hears a knock on the door.

Chapter 21 - More American experiences. Martin takes a partner, and makes a purchase. Some account of Eden, as it appeared on paper. Also of the British Lion. Also of the kind of sympathy professed and entertained by the Watertoast Association of United Sympathizers

The scene shifts back to America, where Martin and Mark are traveling by train from New York to the Valley of Eden. They are surrounded by American citizens who insist on interrupting their conversation, in the process demonstrating the arrogance of the American character and their complete ignorance of all things British. One of the men is General Cyrus Choke, who had been recommended to Martin by Bevan, the Massachusetts physician. He is a member of the Eden Land Corporation and is eager for Martin to invest in it, so he promises to introduce him to the land agent. When they stop for the evening, Martin and Mark discuss their plans. They decide that if they invest in Eden, they will do so as equal partners rather than master and servant, though Mark will supply the bulk of the funds and Martin will supply the skill and knowledge. The next morning, General Choke introduces Martin and Mark to Zephaniah Scadder, the land agent, who at first seems reluctant to do business with the Englishmen unless they are true "Aristocrats of Nature," but Choke vouches for them. Scadder then takes them into his office, where a map of Eden is displayed on the wall. It appears to be a thriving community, complete with a wide variety of homes and public buildings. Martin is impressed, but worries that in such a place nothing remains for him to do with his architectural skills. Scadder assures him that not everything on the map has as yet been completed, and that the settlement is much in need of a professional architect. Martin finally agrees to purchase a fifty-acre lot in the middle of the settlement, which he pays for with Mark's money. General Choke then escorts them to a meeting of the Watertoast Sympathizers. After several lengthy and heated speeches, Martin still has no idea with what the Watertoasters sympathized, but he finally discerns that they sympathize with Irish independence and roundly despise the British. As the meeting proceeds, the train arrives with the mail, containing a letter indicating that the very Irish leader with

whom they sympathize also favors emancipation. This they cannot tolerate, so the Watertoast Association declares itself dissolved forthwith and votes to use its funds to support judges and legislators who are firm advocates of slavery and enemies of the abolitionists.

Chapter 22 - From which it will be seen that Martin became a lion on his own account. Together with the reason why

Having invested in the Eden settlement, Martin suddenly finds himself popular; he is invited to speak about the Tower of London at a local gathering and is asked for names of English "members of Congress" who might be willing to sponsor a young man by paying his way to England and supporting him for six months. He is then told that he must receive visitors in the hotel dining room that afternoon or else be subject to excoriation at the hands of the local rag. When the appointed time arrives, a long, continuous stream of people flow through the room to shake Martin's hand, leaving him exhausted by the ordeal. When the crowd finally dissipates, Martin is introduced to Mrs. Hominy, a noted American writer, who is to travel westward with him on his way to Eden. She refuses to leave Martin alone for the remainder of his stay in Watertoast and talks incessantly. Mark spends the time gathering the necessary provisions, which almost completely exhausts their funds. As the steamboat prepares to leave, he asks the owner of the hotel why everyone was making such a fuss over Martin, and is told that no one who has gone to Eden has ever returned alive.

Chapter 23 - Martin and his partner take possession of their estate. The joyful occasion involves some further account of Eden

On board the steamboat, Martin finds several honest and sociable young men with whom to spend his time, delivering him from the tender mercies of Mrs. Hominy. As they travel westward, the number of passengers declines until only a few pathetic travelers remain. Mrs. Hominy disembarks at New Thermopylae, which turns out to be a barn of a hotel and a few pitiful sheds. She assures Martin that her town is far superior in every way to Eden. By this time Mark has discerned the truth of the matter, but wants to break it to Martin gently. They are the only two passengers bound for Eden, and when they finally arrive, they find it nothing but a fetid swamp. When they go ashore, they meet an old man sick of the fever who tells them that most of the settlers have died and that the log structures they see constitute the town in its entirety. Martin and Mark's "estate" consists of a rundown log cabin with a broken door and no furniture; the old man tells them that he buried the previous owner a week before. Seeing the true state of affairs, Martin breaks down in tears and begs Mark's forgiveness for his folly, but Mark, as cheerful as ever, unpacks their goods and prepares dinner. The next morning Mark posts a sign advertising their architectural firm, but Martin, beginning to feel ill, falls into despair and is convinced that he will die in Eden.

Chapter 24 - Reports progress in certain homely matters of Love, Hatred, Jealousy, and Revenge

The story returns to England, where Pecksniff, responding to a knock on his door, finds Old Martin and Mary waiting for him. He invites them in, steering them as far away from Jonas as possible and meanwhile sending Tom Pinch upstairs to alert his daughters. Martin asks Pecksniff about Anthony's death, and Pecksniff informs him that he received nothing from the old man's will and that Jonas, far from being greedy, truly mourned the death of his father. On finding that Jonas is in that very house, Martin asks to see him. This creates an extremely difficult situation for

Pecksniff. He busily attempts to conciliate Martin, keep Jonas from losing his temper, prevent Charity from tearing Merry's eyes out, and show hospitality to Mary all at the same time. When the evening is over, Martin asks if Tom Pinch can be spared to escort him and Mary back to the Blue Dragon - an errand Tom is anxious to undertake. On the way to the Dragon, Martin asks Tom about his relationship to Pecksniff, and Tom is, as usual, fulsome in his praise of his employer. Old Martin misunderstands his enthusiasm and takes it for hypocrisy, which spoils his previous good opinion of Tom's honesty. Jonas meets Tom on the way home, insults him, and warns him not to do anything to ruin his chances with either Pecksniff or Old Martin. He raises his stick to strike Tom, but in the struggle the stick opens a cut on Jonas' head. When they get back, the Pecksniffs make a huge fuss over him, but he tells them that he ran into a tree in the darkness. After everyone goes to bed, Charity, who had not moved a muscle to help Jonas, goes to Tom's room and congratulates him for striking her erstwhile lover, insisting that she is his fast friend from this day forward. Tom understands none of what has gone on and dreams that night of running away with Mary Graham. As the days pass, Tom falls more and more in love with Mary. One day Old Martin approaches Merry alone and asks if she loves Jonas. She freely admits that he is a monster, that she hates him, and that if she marries him, it is only because she intends to torment him all his days. He warns her that, once she marries Jonas, no escape will be possible and that he will make her life miserable, and he encourages her to break off the engagement if she has any doubts. After Martin leaves, Jonas comes to her and asks if the old man promised to leave her any money. She says he made no such promise. Jonas then asks if they may be married the following week, but Merry refuses, saying that she has no intention of marrying for at least a month. After she leaves, Jonas swears that he will pay her back in spades after they are married.

Chapter 25 - Is in part professional; and furnishes the reader with some valuable hints in relation to the management of a sick chamber

We now turn to Mould the undertaker in his home in Cheapside, where he lives with his plump wife and two plump daughters. Soon Mrs. Gamp arrives and informs that undertaker that Mr. Chuffey, who had been placed under her care by Jonas, was much the same as usual, but that another invalid needed watching at night. She asks for Mould's recommendation for the job and assures him that, should the man die, she would speak a word about his undertaking establishment. When she arrives at her new job, she finds that John Westlock is the man paying for her services and that the patient is a young man who shows no awareness of his surroundings. Once she gets settled, she orders a substantial dinner and makes sure she is well-supplied with liquor for the evening. She pours the medicine down the unconscious man's throat and takes his pillow for herself, reasoning that he won't know the difference anyway, and promptly goes to sleep. At midnight the patient begins to talk in his sleep, waking Mrs. Gamp. He speaks nothing but nonsense, but at one point shouts out the name of Jonas Chuzzlewit, though Mrs. Gamp has no idea what to make of this.

Chapter 26 - An unexpected meeting, and a promising prospect

Mrs. Gamp rents an apartment from Paul (also known as Poll) Sweedlepipe, a barber and bird fancier. His shop is filled with birds of all sorts and smells precisely as one would expect under such circumstances. One day he goes to fetch his lodger, who is no longer needed to care for Chuffey now that Jonas Chuzzlewit has married Mercy Pecksniff and has given her the charge of his father's faithful clerk. On the way he meets young Bailey, who formerly shined boots at the Mrs. Todgers'

boardinghouse but now has a new employer. The two walk to the Chuzzlewit residence and arrive just in time for Jonas and Mercy to return from their honeymoon. Mercy looks anything but merry; in fact, she is quite miserable. When Jonas goes to take his boots off, Chuffey asks Mercy if they are married, and when she affirms it, he pronounces woe on the wicked house of his new master.

Chapter 27- Showing that old friends may not only appear with new faces, but in false colors. That people are prone to bite; and that biters may sometimes be bitten

Bailey's new employer is none other than Montague Tigg, who now chooses to be known as Tigg Montague, the Chairman of the Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company, a fraudulent concern that is about to have a meeting of the Board, which consists of Tigg, David Crimple, secretary, and John Jobling, medical officer. At the meeting a new recruit is introduced - Jonas Chuzzlewit, who heard of the company through Jobling, who had ministered to his father in his final days. Jobling and Crimple leave forthwith and Jonas is alone with Tigg. The Chairman knows his mark and manipulates Jonas with flattery and supposed confidences. Jonas admits that he wants to take out a life insurance policy on his new bride without her knowing anything about it. When Jonas asks about the company's security, Tigg explains that it is basically a pyramid scheme, with policies paid out of the fees of newly-enrolled customers. Jonas thinks this is remarkably clever, and Tigg asks if he would be willing to invest in the company and become a member of the Board. When Jonas says he will think about it, Tigg summons Nadgett, a private investigator in his employ, to look into Chuzzlewit's background and finances.

Chapter 28 - Mr. Montague at home. And Mr. Jonas Chuzzlewit at home

Jonas is attracted by Tigg's offer, not only because of his greed, but also because of his desire for power and social status, though he has no notion that Tigg is seeking to take advantage of his credulity. The next day Jonas joins Tigg for dinner. The spread is elegant and sumptuous, and Tigg has invited several friends designed to make a good impression. Jonas gets quite drunk, and by the time the evening is over Tigg is confident that he has hooked his fish. Bailey delivers Jonas to his home, where he is surprised at the altered appearance of Merry, who looks anything but merry. Soon Jonas is screaming at his wife, reducing her to tears, which is often her condition since her marriage. As Bailey leaves the house, he hears Jonas strike his wife.

Chapter 29 - In which some people are precocious, others professional, and others mysterious: all in their several ways

The next afternoon, Bailey visits his friend Poll Sweedlepipe and demands a shave, despite the fact that he is far too young to have anything resembling a beard. After the phantom shave is completed, Mrs. Gamp comes down to the barbershop and begins to speak about her patient, an invalid named Lewsome, after which Bailey tells them about the dinner with Jonas at the home of Tigg Montague. They then accompany Mrs. Gamp to check on Lewsome, who is soon to travel to the country to take advantage of the air. After they do a pitiful job of preparing the patient to travel, John Westlock arrives to take charge of him. Before Lewsome leaves, he draws Westlock aside and says he has a secret to confide, but will tell him about it later. Soon Lewsome and Mrs. Gamp are packed into the coach. Before they embark, Mould arrives and wants a good look at the man whom

he hopes will soon be his customer. The coach then pulls out. All of this is closely observed by Nadgett, who is seated unobtrusively in the tavern.

Chapter 30 - Proves that changes may be rung in the best-regulated families, and that Mr. Pecksniff was a special hand at a Triple-bob-major

Meanwhile, all is not well in the Pecksniff domicile. Cherry is wallowing in self-pity and jealousy and doing everything possible to make her father's life miserable. One morning after a quarrel at the breakfast table, she asks her father to provide another home for her and suggests that he arrange for her to live at the Todgers boardinghouse. He immediately agrees, seeing the opportunity of regaining peace in his house. Furthermore, he observes in Old Martin Chuzzlewit the same sort of decline that took his brother off earlier and hopes to use it to his advantage, getting the old man under his control and even marrying Mary Graham. The plan had the additional advantage of wreaking vengeance on Young Martin for his rudeness when departing from the Pecksniff home. The next time he meets Old Martin, he proposes that he and Mary move in with him instead of living at the Blue Dragon. When Martin readily agrees, Pecksniff is even more convinced that the old man is getting senile and can be wound around his little finger. Later he encounters Mary, who violently shuns his company, then breaks down in tears. He tries to comfort her, then professes his love for her, which she rejects in no uncertain terms. He refuses to release her, and she openly affirms that she hates him, not only for his cowardly advances, but also because of the malign influence he is exerting over her benefactor. Pecksniff is not deterred, and threatens to turn Old Martin even more against his grandson if she refuses to cooperate. He even goes so far as to suggest that, after they are married and he has inherited the Chuzzlewit fortune, he may see fit to assist Young Martin in some trifling respects. He finally releases her and goes home to find Charity preparing to leave the next morning. Tom Pinch is sad at her departure, but she assures him that she will always think well of him.

Chapter 31 - Mr. Pinch is discharged of a duty which he never owed to anybody; and Mr. Pecksniff discharges a duty which he owes to society

A week later, Pecksniff goes out for a walk in the churchyard and hears Tom playing the organ. He goes inside to rest and soon falls asleep in his favorite pew. When he wakes up, he hears voices; Tom and Mary are engaged in intense conversation near the organ. She is asking if he has received any letters from Martin in America. He assures her that he has not, but tries to comfort her by suggesting that no news is good news. She expresses her gratitude for his help and support and is glad that she has someone in whom she can confide. The conversation soon turns to Pecksniff, whom Tom insists is the best of men, contrary to Mary's observations. She finally bares her soul to him, telling him every detail of Pecksniff's manipulations of Old Martin and his advances to her in the woods, including his threat to harm Young Martin if she refused to marry him. Finally, Tom is convinced of Pecksniff's true nature. After Tom leaves, Pecksniff makes his way home and immediately seeks out Old Martin, telling him that Pinch has betrayed him. He quickly summons Tom and sends him to make sure the church is locked while he details his crimes to Old Martin. When Tom returns, Pecksniff accuses him of professing love for Mary, which Tom does not deny despite the fact that he has made no such profession, pays him off, and casts him out of the house. Tom remains silent, unwilling to betray Mary and Young Martin or even to denounce Pecksniff for his treatment of Mary. Tom goes upstairs and packs his few belongings, and as he leaves he is greeted by many friends from the town who are sorry to see him go. Having no other means of

transportation, he walks the ten miles to Salisbury in the pouring rain. He arrives at the inn with no idea of what he might do on the morrow.

Chapter 32 - Treats of Todgers's again; and of another blighted plant besides the plants upon the leads

When Charity arrives at the Todgers boardinghouse, she frankly admits to Mrs. Todgers that her father intends to marry again. Much to her surprise, the landlady is indignant at the news, swearing that all men are a faithless lot. She informs Cherry that her youngest boarder, Augustus Moddle, had been inconsolable since the news of Merry's marriage, and that Bailey was with her no more. In the weeks that follow, Cherry encourages Moddle and he gradually shifts his affections from her sister to her. Finally her efforts pay off and Moddle proposes marriage.

Chapter 33 - Further proceedings in Eden, and a proceeding out of it. Martin makes a discovery of some importance

After ten chapters, the story returns to Eden, where Martin is in despair and Mark, cheerful as ever, is seeking ways to alter their circumstances. When Mark goes abroad to look for work for the newly-established architectural firm, he knocks on the door of a ramshackle cabin nearby and is astounded to find inside the poor family he had assisted onboard the ship during their voyage. They greet him gladly, but he can see that they are in desperate straits. The husband visits Martin and gives Mark advice on how to minister to his fever, though his own youngest daughter is on death's door. In spite of the misery of the place, the American-born denizens remain boastful and obnoxious, insisting in their ignorance that their country is in every way superior to all others. Despite Mark's constant attentions, Martin's condition worsens and for several weeks he is on the point of death. He finally begins to recover, but then Mark takes ill and Martin cares for him. During these difficult days, Martin, having observed the selflessness of Mark and his neighbors, begins to examine himself and sees what a selfish wretch he has been. He learned selfishness at his grandfather's knee and had for his entire life been unaware of his principal vice. After Mark recovers, Martin decides to write to their friend Bevan from Massachusetts to ask him for a loan that would enable them to return to England. While they wait for an answer, they try as best they can to work their land, and Mark cannot help but see a difference in Martin's attitude. Finally a letter arrives from Bevan containing a roll of bills, which they use to secure passage away from Eden once and for all.

Chapter 34 - In which the travelers move homeward, and encounter some distinguished characters upon the way

As they travel eastward on the steamboat, Martin and Mark encounter Congressman Elijah Pogram, who does nothing but criticize the British because they deplore the rudeness and bad manners of their American fellow-travelers. At a stop on the way to New York, the landlord of the place where they stayed on the westward journey is amazed and somewhat offended that they did not both die in Eden. The denizens of the hotel host a public meeting for Pogram in which he becomes involved in nonsensical conversations with three literary ladies. When the company arrives in New York, Pogram asks Martin to take a copy of his oration and disseminate it in England. In New York they meet Bevan, who informs them that the ship they had taken to America is now in port preparing to depart for England. Bevan offers to pay for their passage, but Mark finds that the ship needs a cook

and that his wages will pay the cost of Martin's ticket. The friends then part and the ship begins its voyage homeward.

Chapter 35 - Arriving in England, Martin witnesses a ceremony, from which he derives the cheering information that he has not been forgotten in his absence

Martin and Mark finally arrive in England after a year's absence and are delighted at the sights, sounds, and smells of home. As they refresh themselves in a tavern and plan the next stage of their journey, none other than Mr. Pecksniff passes the window of the establishment where they are relaxing. The owner of the tavern informs them that Pecksniff is a great architect who has come to London to lay the cornerstone of a new building of his own design. Martin and Mark attend the ceremony, and Martin is shocked to discover that the new building is his old design for a grammar school, to which Pecksniff has made only minor alterations in order to claim it for his own. Mark successfully restrains Martin, and the two set off on their journey homeward.

Chapter 36 - Tom Pinch departs to seek his fortune. What he finds at starting

Tom Pinch's disillusionment with Pecksniff has colored the whole world for him, and the town of Salisbury, which was once so exciting, now appears barren and gray. His friend the assistant organist advises him to go to London in order to find the change of scenery he so obviously needs. Tom readily agrees, looking forward to seeing his sister and John Westlock. When he arrives in London after a long journey through the night, he sleeps in an inn, then goes in search of Westlock, who receives him gladly. As they eat breakfast, Tom tells John in general terms about his rift with Pecksniff without going into detail. John invites him to send to the inn for his baggage and stay with him while he is in London, then makes plans to take Tom to visit his sister that very morning. When Tom arrives at Camberwell, his sister rushes into his arms, but he quickly finds that she is being horribly abused by her employers, who treat her as less than a servant and believe everything said about her by their spoiled daughter. Tom quickly comprehends the situation and immediately removes Ruth from the offending house. They need a place to stay and soon arrange to rent a flat in Islington. While Ruth goes shopping for food, Tom makes his way back to John Westlock's home to explain what has happened.

Chapter 37 - Tom Pinch, going astray, finds that he is not the only person in that predicament. He retaliates upon a fallen foe

Tom, as he walks through the city, fears falling into the hands of rogues, but while he avoids that dreadful end, he soon gets lost. He eventually finds himself near the Todgers boardinghouse, where he encounters none other than Charity Pecksniff. They find common ground immediately in having been treated shabbily by her father. Cherry offers to have her friend Augustus Moddle guide Tom back to Westlock's part of town, but first brings him inside to see Merry, who is clearly suffering the consequences of her unfortunate marriage. When Cherry leaves them alone to find Augustus, Merry bursts into tears and gives Tom a brief insight into the misery she is experiencing. Later Tom meets Mrs. Todgers, who has become poor Merry's confidante. Moddle then escorts Tom to his destination, and Tom soon finds that he is a pessimistic young man who lives in a constant state of depression. Despite being two hours late for dinner, Tom explains everything to John, who insists on taking him in a cab back to Islington. When he drops him off, he for the first time sees Ruth, with

whom he is instantly taken. That night, Tom and Ruth enjoy a time of happiness unlike any they have ever known before in their lives.

#### Chapter 38 - Secret service

Nadgett, the private detective, has been following Jonas Chuzzlewit, who is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Anglo-Bengalee Assurance Company, all around London for days. In the process, he makes the acquaintance of Sweedlepipe the barber, Mould the undertaker (along with Mrs. Gamp), and Jobling the doctor, all of whom have contact with Jonas. Nadgett reports to Tigg Montague and shows him his voluminous notes. As he reads them, Jonas himself appears at the door. Jonas is furious because, while he is supplying money to the company, he has little say in how it is spent. When he demands more power on the Board, Tigg whispers in his ear something that horrifies him - clearly some kind of threat or information that could be used for blackmail. Tigg then suavely warns Jonas that more investors are needed and encourages him to bring Pecksniff, his father-in-law, into the fold.

#### Chapter 39 - Containing some further particulars of the domestic economy of the Pinches; with strange news from the City, narrowly concerning Tom

Tom and Ruth are now settled in their tiny apartment, and Ruth takes delight in serving as her brother's housekeeper. One morning Tom writes out a resumé in preparation for a visit that afternoon by John Westlock, who has promised to help him find a job. Ruth bustles around so busily preparing dinner that Tom is too distracted to write, and then Westlock shows up earlier than expected. Tom is amazed when John tells him about an early-morning visitor who appeared at his house and offered employment to Tom; he cannot imagine who in London would even know who he is. Westlock didn't know the man either, but he offered Tom a post as secretary and librarian to a wealthy old man at a salary that exceeded Tom and Ruth's wildest expectations. The messenger refused to give any explanations, but he clearly was familiar with Tom's history and accomplishments; he even mentioned the Blue Dragon. Tom and John were to visit the man, whose name was Fips, that very morning. Fips is an odd little man who refuses to identify his employer, but gives Tom a description of the job and shows him the place where he is to work, which is a dusty old house in great disorder. His first task is to take the thousands of books piled on the floor and catalogue them and arrange them on the vacant shelves. When they return to the little apartment in Islington, Ruth has dinner waiting for them. Their evening is delightful, spent teasing Ruth about her steak pudding and discussing the plight of the Pecksniff girls. Anyone watching them could guess that John and Ruth are becoming increasingly attracted to one another.

#### Chapter 40 - The Pinches make a new acquaintance, and have fresh occasion for surprise and wonder

Tom daily becomes more wrapped up in his task in the dusty library. He enjoys it thoroughly, but can't help wondering who his mysterious employer might be. His curiosity only grows when Fips warns him not to tell anyone about his employment. Tom and Ruth soon fall into the habit of taking long walks around the market and down to the docks each morning before he is due at his workplace. One day they encounter Mrs. Gamp by the docks. With great difficulty they discern that she is looking for a young lady, who finally arrives on the arm of a man completely covered by a large cloak, who is forcing her onto a steamboat headed for Antwerp. At the same time Tom's landlord

appears and asks Tom to give a letter to the very same man. Tom rushes to do so and finds that the man is none other than Jonas Chuzzlewit and that the veiled lady is Merry. When Jonas reads the letter, he scowls and angrily drags Merry off the boat, demanding to know where the author of the letter has gone. Jonas is then confronted with Tigg Montague, who clearly is threatening him about his attempt to flee the country. Jonas goes off with Montague and sends Merry home with Mrs. Gamp while Tom and Ruth look on in utter confusion. All of this is observed from a distance by Nadgett, the private investigator, who is also Tom's landlord.

Chapter 41 - Mr. Jonas and his friend, arriving at a pleasant understanding, set forth upon an enterprise

Montague drives Jonas straight to the office of the Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company. Montague rebukes Jonas for trying to flee the country, but is willing to forgive him if he draws Pecksniff into their scheme. They plan to meet him that night, though, contrary to Montague's wishes, Jonas insists that he come along to the meeting. Before traveling to see Pecksniff, Jonas has lunch and dinner with Jobling, the doctor, and shows particular interest in his scalpel.

Chapter 42 - Continuation of the enterprise of Mr. Jonas and his friend

The night is dark and stormy as Montague and Jonas go to the Pecksniff domicile. During one flash of lightning, Montague imagines that Jonas is raising his bottle to strike him, but soon realizes that the man is merely drinking to calm his nerves in the thunderstorm. Still he is afraid of Jonas, and determines that as soon as he gets all he can from him, he will leave the country with his ill-gotten gains. Near dawn, the horses panic and overturn the carriage. Jonas struggles to his feet and finds that Montague is unconscious in the road. He begins to stir up the horses, hoping that they will trample the prone man, but the driver rushes in and rescues him. Montague soon recovers, having suffered nothing more than a few cuts and bruises. Bailey, on the other hand, had been thrown from the top of the carriage and was seriously injured. They walk the three or four miles to the nearest inn, where a doctor pronounces that Bailey has suffered a concussion and may not survive. That night Montague has nightmares, but in the morning prepares to fleece the unsuspecting Pecksniff.

Chapter 43 - Has an influence on the fortunes of several people. Mr. Pecksniff is exhibited in the plenitude of power, and wields the same with fortitude and magnanimity

In the midst of the storm, Mrs. Lupin sits alone in the Blue Dragon. Her reverie is interrupted by a man covered in rain gear and soaking wet. He demands a beer, then asks after Mark Tapley. Mrs. Lupin can no longer hold back her tears, for she has no idea what has become of him, but she is overjoyed when the traveler removes his hat and coat and reveals himself as none other than the long-lost Mark himself, who promptly overwhelms her with hugs and kisses. Young Martin is waiting outside, and the two ask Mrs. Lupin to catch them up on the news after making sure that no one knows of their presence. She informs them of the fact that both Pecksniff girls have left their father and that Tom Pinch has been dismissed and is living quietly with his sister, then tells them that Pecksniff has gained control over Old Martin and has designs on Mary Graham. At this Martin leaps up, prepared to take action immediately despite the fact that it is the middle of the night, but Mark calms him down. They then consider what is to be done next. Mark advises Martin to seek

reconciliation with his grandfather, certainly for Mary's sake, without worrying about what Pecksniff might do. The next morning Mark delivers a letter for Old Martin, but Pecksniff meets him at the door and rips the letter into small pieces. An hour later, Mark and Martin appear at the door in person and march directly into the parlor, where they find Old Martin, Pecksniff, and Mary. Martin approaches his grandfather, but Pecksniff blocks his way, insisting that he will not allow his venerable guest to be disturbed by so unworthy a personage. As Martin explains his situation, apologizes to his grandfather for his past behavior, and begs his forgiveness, Pecksniff interrupts constantly to warn Old Martin not to be swayed by one undeserving of his attention. The old man, concealing his emotions, then allows Pecksniff to speak for him. Not surprisingly, the result is that Young Martin is utterly rejected and cast out. The only word Old Martin has for his grandson is to ask the name of the man in America who paid for his passage; he intends to cover the debt. When Pecksniff escorts the old man from the room, Young Martin seizes the opportunity to embrace Mary and assure her that his affections are unaltered. She tells him of Pecksniff's domination of Old Martin and his advances to her, but he is comforted to know that her guardian refuses to pressure her to accept the hypocrite's suit. They part all too soon, but Martin promises to write from London. As they leave the house, they pass Jonas, who has arrived at the Blue Dragon with Tigg Montague.

Chapter 44 - Further continuation of the enterprise of Mr. Jonas and his friend

Pecksniff greets Jonas with his usual hypocritical effusiveness, but Jonas quickly brushes him off. He immediately gets down to business, inviting Pecksniff to dine at the Blue Dragon with him and his business partner Montague. Pecksniff smells profit in the air and is drawn in, hoping to raise his stature in the world. Jonas' rudeness only convinces Pecksniff even more of his sincerity, since he clearly is not putting on an act for his father-in-law's benefit. At dinner, Montague openly confides in Pecksniff that their profits are gained by taking advantage of human weakness and Jonas warns him not to get involved in such a chancy endeavor. This is all reverse psychology, for Pecksniff takes neither of them seriously and soon has agreed to invest his entire personal wealth in the Anglo-Bengalee. He considers the risk minimal since he believes he will soon be in possession of the Chuzzlewit fortune. Jonas has now repaid his debt and leaves Montague to finish the business.

Chapter 45 - In which Tom Pinch and his sister take a little pleasure; but quite in a domestic way, and with no ceremony about it

After the events at the wharf in the morning, both Tom and Ruth go straightway to work, eager to discuss the strange proceedings when they get home. While Ruth waits for Tom to meet her at their customary rendezvous, who should appear but John Westlock. They converse for a few minutes until Tom arrives, after which John invites the two of them to his flat for dinner. What appeared to be a spur-of-the-moment invitation was obviously planned ahead of time, for John places before them a veritable feast served by white-garbed cooks and waiters. After dinner, Tom tells John about the strange happenings of the morning. John is certain that something foul is afoot and urges Tom to contact Mercy at Mrs. Todgers' boardinghouse, both to gain more information and to distance himself from whatever is going on. Meanwhile, John intends to look into the matter himself. Later Ruth plays and sings for them. John is enchanted, and offers to walk the siblings home, after which he returns to his chambers and sketches a portrait from memory.

Chapter 46 - In which Miss Pecksniff makes love, Mr. Jonas makes wrath, Mrs. Gamp makes tea, and Mr. Chuffey makes business

Tom and Ruth go to Todgers' boardinghouse after work on the following day. On the way, they encounter Cherry, who is dragging her fiancé, Augustus Moddle from store to store looking for furniture to furnish their house. Cherry is embarrassed at the rudeness with which she had treated Ruth at their last meeting, and now speaks very kindly to her. When she discovers that they are looking for Merry, she directs them to Jonas' house, assuring them that Merry's husband is not at home. When they arrive, they find that Merry sitting in the company of Mrs. Todgers, Mrs. Gamp, and Mr. Chuffey. Mrs. Gamp is talking incessantly and is very unkind to old Chuffey, but Merry now treats him with great consideration, recognizing in him an ally against her vicious husband. Merry, wishing to keep her occupied, asks her to make tea for the company. Chuffey largely keeps quiet, though at one point he rambles about someone being dead upstairs. Tom, after assuring Merry that he had no knowledge of the letter he had been asked to give to Jonas on the wharf, takes Ruth and makes for home. Before they can leave the room, Jonas enters and immediately begins quarreling with Cherry. The conversation gets so heated that Moddle is on the verge of assaulting Jonas, but Cherry pulls him away and they and Mrs. Todgers leave the house. Tom then calmly assures Jonas that he knew nothing of the letter, but Jonas threatens him with grievous bodily harm and is only prevented from following through on his words by the intervention of Merry. Tom and Ruth rush from the building before he has an opportunity to mention Nadgett, the private detective who had entrusted him with the letter. After they leave, Jonas orders Merry never to see Tom again, then demands his dinner, after which he is not to be disturbed, even if he sleeps all through the following day. After preparing the bed, Mrs. Gamp tells Jonas about Chuffey's strange behavior; he seemed to be remembering the death of old Anthony Chuzzlewit, but in his ramblings spoke of foul play. Jonas finds this troubling, but concludes that Chuffey is mad and hires Mrs. Gamp and one of her fellow nurses to care for him. After dinner, Jonas ruffles his bedclothes to make his bed appear slept in, dresses like a common workman, then quietly slips out the back door of the house.

Chapter 47 - Conclusion of the enterprise of Mr. Jonas and his friend

Jonas travels all night by foot and by coach, at one point dreaming that the Last Judgment had arrived. When he disembarks from the coach at daybreak, he finds a stout stick and shapes it into a club with his knife. When he arrives at his destination, he has no trouble locating Pecksniff and Montague. After eavesdropping on their plans for the evening, he waits outside the city. Pecksniff accompanies Montague to the outskirts of town, then leaves him to go his way. Montague's journey takes him through a shadowy dale in the woods at sunset, where Jonas leaps upon him and murders him, after which he returns to London, filled not with remorse, but with fear of being caught. When he gets home, he removes his disguise and comes down to breakfast, convinced that sooner or later the world must know what he did.

Chapter 48 - Bears tidings of Martin, and of Mark, as well as of a third person not quite unknown to the reader. Exhibits filial piety in an ugly aspect; and casts a doubtful ray of light upon a very dark place

Tom and Ruth are enjoying their breakfast on a beautiful summer morning. Ruth is delighted because she is now able to bring some money into the house, having acquired two pupils and begun

selling her handiwork to a local store. As they sit together, Tom wonders about their landlord, who has not appeared since the bizarre morning when he asked Tom to take a message to the docks for him. Suddenly they hear a knock at the door and open it to find Martin Chuzzlewit and Mark Tapley standing there. He has not seen them since their departure for America, and he is so excited he introduces them to Ruth at least three times while rushing around cutting slices of bread for them. Once they settle down, Martin thanks Tom for carrying his messages to Mary and asks Tom if he has any advice to give as to how he might make a living. Tom counsels him to talk to John Westlock and offers to take him there on the way to the library where he labors. When they arrive at John's office, they find him already engaged with another person. Martin offers to come back later, but John tells him that he might offer insight into the problem posed by his mysterious visitor. Mark walks with Tom toward his place of business and confides in him that he is considering marrying Mrs. Lupin, the proprietress of the Blue Dragon. Back at Westlock's office, he and Martin begin to clear the air between them. John has a poor estimate of Martin's character because of the way he acted toward Tom in their days at Pecksniff's, but Martin assures him that he is entirely changed and deeply regrets his pride and arrogance. Both now agree that Tom is the best of them all and deserves all the praise they can give him. John is now prepared to trust Martin and introduces him to his guest, a young man named Lewsome. He was the patient placed under the care of Mrs. Gamp. He had formerly been a surgeon's assistant, and through gambling had fallen into debt to Jonas Chuzzlewit. Jonas offered to forgive the debt if Lewsome would obtain for him drugs that would hasten his father Anthony's demise; in essence, Jonas murdered his father. John and Martin have no doubt that the man's story is true, but have no idea what to do about it. Finally they decide to consult old Chuffey, but how can they speak to him without alarming Jonas? They determine that the best means is to use Mrs. Gamp as an intermediary while Tom consults Nadgett. Martin also takes the time to write a letter denouncing Pecksniff for stealing his architectural design.

Chapter 49 - In which Mrs. Harris, assisted by a teapot, is the cause of a division between friends

Mrs. Gamp is expecting a visit from her fellow nurse Betsey Prig, but before Betsey arrives, Sweedlepipe mournfully reports that young Bailey has died from the injuries received when he was thrown from the coach. Furthermore, Montague is nowhere to be found. When Betsey arrives, the two nurses begin gossiping. Mrs. Gamp says she has been hired to care for Chuffey and wants Mrs. Prig to assist her. She then speaks, as she always does, about her friend Mrs. Harris, whom no one of her acquaintance has ever seen. Mrs. Prig, after imbibing too much wine, expresses her belief that Mrs. Harris doesn't exist; this causes a rift between the two old friends and Mrs. Prig leaves in a huff, telling Mrs. Gamp that she can take care of Chuffey all by herself. No sooner does Betsey leave than John Westlock and Martin arrive. In her drunken state, she lets slip that Jonas has hired her, not to care for Chuffey, but to see that he slipped peacefully out of this life. As she speaks, the liquor overcomes her and she falls fast asleep. John and Martin have the information they need, however, and are confident that they can manipulate Mrs. Gamp for their own advantage to bring Jonas down once and for all.

Chapter 50 - Surprises Tom Pinch very much, and shows how certain confidences passed between him and his sister

The next evening, as Tom and Ruth sit quietly talking in their parlor, Martin knocks at the door and accuses Tom of turning against him. Tom has no idea what he is talking about and firmly

denies any such thing. After further ranting, Martin reveals the cause for his disappointment - he has discovered the identity of Tom's employer. Tom, of course, has no idea himself who has hired him to organize the library, but Martin stalks out before Tom is able to say so. After Martin leaves, Ruth confesses that she knows Tom's secret; she has discovered his love for Mary Graham, but is aware that he has done nothing to act on his feelings. The next morning, Tom goes to the library as usual. He has finished organizing the books and is in the process of preparing a catalogue of the collection. Much to his surprise, Old Martin Chuzzlewit climbs the stairs to the library. He is not the weak and feeble man Tom had seen at Pecksniff's, but is firm and vigorous. Tom now realizes who his employer is. Martin assures Tom that he now knows Pecksniff's true character and is about to take steps to bring him to account.

Chapter 51 - Sheds new and brighter light upon the very dark place; and contains the sequel of the enterprise of Mr. Jonas and his friend

Jonas is preparing to turn Chuffey over to the tender mercies of Mrs. Gamp, expecting thereby to eliminate any possibility of the old man telling what he knows about the death of Jonas' father. He decides that Chuffey must be prevented from either speaking or writing and trusted Mrs. Gamp to see to both. He has other problems as well, however. Not only is Montague dead, but Crimple has absconded with the firm's ill-gotten gains, including the funds invested by Jonas and Pecksniff, and Jonas fears he will be held accountable by the authorities for the crimes committed in the name of the Anglo-Bengalee. Increasingly paranoid, he fears that Merry might be aware of his crimes and sends a servant girl to fetch her from her visit to Mrs. Todgers, but the girl reports that she left the boardinghouse three hours earlier for an unknown destination. Chuffey, fearing that Merry has come to some harm at the hands of her husband, threatens to tell what he knows if he has touched a hair of her head. At that point Mrs. Gamp arrives and takes Chuffey upstairs to his bed. When she comes back down, Jonas asks if her companion is with Chuffey upstairs, and she insists that the nonexistent Mrs. Harris is there. Soon, however, Old Martin and John Westlock come down the stairs with Chuffey in tow and order Jonas to stay where he is and keep quiet. Martin then opens the door to admit Lewsome, escorted by Mark Tapley. Jonas makes weak protestations, but knows the game is up. Both Lewsome and Chuffey tell what they know; the latter testifies that Jonas mixed the poison that killed his father, but that his father actually discovered it and realized with horror the greed and covetousness he had ingrained in his only son. Anthony intended to tell Jonas what he knew, forgive him, and in the process hopefully make him a better man, but he died of natural causes before he could carry out his purpose, begging Chuffey with his last words to spare Jonas. Jonas is now convinced that he has nothing to fear from his guests and orders them to leave. At that moment Nadgett arrives and orders the police who accompany him to arrest Jonas for the murder of Tigg Montague, whose body has been found in the woods. Nadgett followed him the night of the murder and had witnesses who saw him in his disguise; he also had recovered the blood-stained garments Jonas had thrown into the river. One of the policemen is Chevy Slyme, and Jonas offers him a hundred pounds if he uncuffs him and gives him five minutes alone in the back room; he intends to poison himself. After five minutes, Slyme opens the door and finds that Jonas lacked the courage to follow through on his intention. He is then rearrested, but takes the poison in the coach on the way to the prison.

## Chapter 52 - In which the tables are turned completely upside down

Old Martin's plans are postponed only temporarily by the demise of his nephew Jonas. He is determined to mete out justice to Pecksniff and his victims. He arranges for all the principals to meet at the Temple on the following morning - John Westlock, Mark Tapley, Mrs. Lupin, Mary Graham, Tom and Ruth Pinch, Young Martin, and Pecksniff, none of whom knows what to expect and all of whom are surprised at the presence of the others. Pecksniff is the last to arrive and immediately begins accusing the others of gathering like vultures to pick the carcass of a helpless old man who has already decided whom to make his heir. As he reaches out to embrace his supposed benefactor, Old Martin strikes him over the head with his cane and knocks him to the ground. Tapley immediately drags Pecksniff out of Old Martin's reach, and the old man turns to his grandson, acknowledging that their estrangement was to a large extent his own fault. Next he calls for Mary and praises her goodness and selflessness, which his own example had done little to cultivate. He then rants against Pecksniff's sniveling attempts to win his favor, first by attempting to marry Young Martin to one of his daughters, then to take his place in his grandfather's affections by encouraging his exile. The old man then admits that he had hoped long ago that his grandson and Mary would marry, and in the process care for him in his old age as the benefactor who had brought them together, but when he saw that they had chosen one another on their own, he realized that he could gain neither credit nor benefit from their love and moved to crush it. After Young Martin left for America, Old Martin began to find himself gradually softening by witnessing the selfless virtue of Mary and Tom Pinch. He had then begun to put his plans into motion, first soliciting the help of John Westlock to find employment for Tom and Mrs. Lupin to watch over Mary and keep her out of Pecksniff's clutches. Unable to keep away from his favorite theme, he turns again to Pecksniff and reminds him of how he played a role in preventing Young Martin from reconciling with his grandfather and casting Tom out of the house with no visible means of support. He then blesses the love of Young Martin and Mary, after which Mark asks the same favor for his union with Mrs. Lupin. All of this happiness for those he has tried to deceive and supplant is too much for Pecksniff, who tries to make a dignified exit while retaining some measure of self-respect, insisting that he has been mistreated and misrepresented, but that he forgives all who have committed these heinous offenses against him. As he leaves, he collides with three people rushing up the stairs - Paul Sweedlepipe, Mrs. Gamp, and Bailey, who is not dead after all. Old Martin slips some money to the barber to take care of Bailey, who is still more than a little confused, and warns him to keep Mrs. Gamp away from the liquor bottle and out of trouble so she doesn't wind up having an appointment at the Old Bailey. After they leave, Old Martin asks to see Tom and Ruth's lodgings; he suggests that John Westlock escort Ruth home while he and Tom take a private stroll.

Chapter 53 - What John Westlock said to Tom Pinch's sister; what Tom Pinch's sister said to John Westlock; what Tom Pinch said to both of them; and how they all passed the remainder of the day

John walks Ruth home by the scenic route, and when they get there, he speaks of his love for her and proposes marriage. They quickly agree that Tom should live with them after they marry, and Ruth confides in John the secret of Tom's hopeless love for Mary Graham. When Tom and Old Martin arrive, Ruth rushes up to him and tells him the good news, which delights him. Martin presents her with a set of jewelry, identical to the set he and Tom chose for Mary on their walk. They soon returned to the Temple, where Martin had arranged a banquet for the two couples and Tom, prepared and served by Mark and Mrs. Lupin, who could not be persuaded to sit down and join them.

Ruth later tells Tom about their offer to have him live with them, John promises to find him employment, and Tom is, if possible, happier than any of them.

Chapter 54 - Gives the author great concern. For it is the last in the book

The day has arrived for the marriage of Charity Pecksniff and Augustus Moddle. Charity sets aside past grievances and invites all her relatives, hoping in the process to “heap coals of fire upon their heads.” As Charity rushes about engaged in preparations, Old Martin arrives to see Merry, who has isolated herself in mourning, accompanied only by faithful Chuffey. He begs Merry’s forgiveness for not intervening more forcefully when she planned to marry Jonas, and she responds that her hardship was the only thing that could possibly have reformed her own character. Martin then offers to give Merry a home and urges her to leave before the wedding begins, knowing that Charity intends to hurt her as much as possible by the proceedings. Soon the guests begin to arrive, quarreling as usual, but Moddle is nowhere to be seen. When the ceremony is scheduled to begin, a messenger arrives with a letter for Charity. Augustus has written it from a ship on the way to Tasmania, calling off the wedding. On receipt of it, Charity promptly faints. All of this provides endless material for gossip by the relatives Charity hoped to put in their place by showing off her new husband.

Years pass, and Dickens gives us a picture of Tom Pinch, quietly and joyfully sitting at the organ purchased for him by John Westlock; of Pecksniff, drunk and impoverished, plagued by his shrewish maiden daughter, reduced to writing letters for pay and begging Tom for handouts, which he promptly squanders, bragging of his past glories to his alehouse companions. Tom plays the organ for children who surround him and love him, especially a bright little girl who resembles her mother Mary. He who so much deserves it is surrounded by love and respect at the last, bestowed by Old Martin, who is now long gone, and by Martin and Mary, and especially his dear sister Ruth and her husband John Westlock.

## **MAJOR CHARACTERS**

- Martin Chuzzlewit - A fabulously rich and selfish old man whose wealth is coveted by his relations, he spends most of the novel pretending to be feeble in body and mind, but in the end learns his lesson and teaches others as well by bringing justice upon them.
- Anthony Chuzzlewit - Martin’s brother, he dies early in the story.
- Young Martin Chuzzlewit - Grandson and ward of Old Martin, he is disinherited because he falls in love with Mary Graham. He studies briefly under Seth Pecksniff, travels to America, and finally achieves his heart’s desire, marries Mary Graham and inherits his grandfather’s fortune.
- Mary Graham - An orphan Old Martin adopted as his companion, he has promised to care for her every need while she attends on him, but insists that she benefit in no way from his fortune after his death.
- Jonas Chuzzlewit - Anthony’s son, he attempts to maneuver his way into obtaining his uncle Martin’s fortune. He marries Merry Pecksniff and treats her brutally, but meets his match

when he is convinced to invest in the Anglo-Bengalee Assurance Company. He eventually murders Montague and then commits suicide.

- Seth Pecksniff - A scheming and hypocritical architect under whom Young Martin studies, he attempts to gain control of the Chuzzlewit fortune by earning the gratitude of Old Martin through simpering and flattery.
- Tom Pinch - Pecksniff's assistant, a simple and generous man who is also in love with Mary Graham. He sees good in everyone, including his shady employer, who takes advantage of him shamelessly.
- Ruth Pinch - Tom's sister is a governess in a haughty family in Camberwell. Tom rescues her from her plight and she eventually marries John Westlock.
- Charity (Cherry) Pecksniff - Pecksniff's elder daughter, she is proud and spiteful.
- Mercy (Merry) Pecksniff - Pecksniff's younger daughter, she is vain, frivolous and silly. In order to have a reason to look down on her sister, she marries Jonas Chuzzlewit, who makes her life miserable.
- John Westlock - A friend of Tom Pinch and former pupil of Pecksniff who learned nothing under his tutelage, he goes on to become a successful lawyer.
- Mrs. Lupin - Landlady of the Blue Dragon, she is in love with Mark Tapley, and the two eventually marry.
- Mark Tapley - Employed at the Blue Dragon, he later accompanies Young Martin to America as his manservant. He is inveterately cheerful and kind-hearted.
- Montague Tigg - A con artist who eventually, under the name of Tigg Montague, becomes the Chairman of the fraudulent Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company. He is murdered by Jonas Chuzzlewit.
- Mr. Chuffey - An ancient clerk to Anthony Chuzzlewit, he suffers at the hands of Jonas, seeks to care for Merry, and reveals the actual circumstances of his master's death.
- Chevy Slyme - A lesser cousin of the Chuzzlewit clan, he is a lazy good-for-nothing who passes himself off as a Professor of Taste, with Tigg serving as his agent. He later joins the police force and is instrumental in arresting Jonas.
- Augustus Moddle - A boarder at Mrs. Todgers's boardinghouse, he becomes engaged to marry Charity Pecksniff, but flees to Tasmania on the day of the wedding to avoid the marriage.
- Sairey Gamp - A scheming nurse and midwife.
- Mrs. Todgers - Kind-hearted operator of a boarding house in London.

## NOTABLE QUOTATIONS

“For the same reason that I am not a hoarder of money, I am not lavish of it. Some people find their gratification in storing it up; and others theirs in parting with it; but I have no gratification connected with the thing. Pain and bitterness are the only goods it ever could procure for me. I hate it. It is a spectre walking before me through the world, and making every social pleasure hideous.” (Old Martin, ch.3)

“The curse of my existence, and the realisation of my own mad desire, is that by the golden standard which I bear about me, I am doomed to try the metal of all other men, and find it false and hollow.” (Old Martin, ch.3)

“In the first place, he [his grandfather] has the most confirmed obstinacy of character you ever met within any human creature. In the second, he is most abominably selfish.” (Young Martin, ch.6)

“If everyone were warm and well-fed, we should lose the satisfaction of admiring the fortitude with which certain conditions of men bear cold and hunger. And if we were no better off than anybody else, what would become of our sense of gratitude, which is one of the holiest feelings of our common nature.” (Pecksniff, ch.8)

“Here’s the rule for bargains. ‘Do other men, for they would do you.’ That’s the true business precept. All others are counterfeits.” (Jonas, ch.11)

“That heart where self has found no place and raised no throne, is slow to recognize its ugly presence when it looks upon it.” (ch.14)

“If I ever brought myself to say so, it should only be that I might hate and tease you all my life.” (Merry, ch.20)

“The star of his whole life from boyhood had become, in a moment, putrid vapor.” (ch.31)

“It was long before he fixed the knowledge of himself so firmly in his mind that he could thoroughly discern the truth; but in the hideous solitude of that most hideous place, with Hope so far removed, Ambition quenched, and Death beside him rattling at the very door, reflection came, as in a plague-beleaguered town; and so he felt and knew that failing of his life, and saw distinctly what an ugly spot it was.” (ch.33)

“If I was a painter and was called upon to paint the American Eagle, how should I do it? . . . I should want to draw it like a Bat, for its short-sightedness; like a Bantam, for its bragging; like a Magpie, for its honesty; like a Peacock, for its vanity; like an Ostrich, for its putting its head in the mud, and thinking nobody sees it.” (Mark, ch.34)

“You think of me, Ruth, and it is very natural that you should, as if I were a character in a book; and you make it a sort of poetical justice that I should, by some impossible means or other, come, at last, to marry the person I love. But there is a much higher justice, my dear, and it does not order events upon the same principle.” (Tom, ch.50)

“With murder on his soul, and its innumerable alarms and terrors dragging at him night and day, he would have repeated the crime, if he had seen a path of safety stretching out beyond. It was in his punishment; it was in his guilty condition. The very deed which his fears rendered insupportable, his fears would have impelled him to commit again.” (ch.51)

“Oh brother, brother! Were we strangers half our lives that you might breed a wretch like this, and I make life a desert by withering every flower that grew about me! Is it the natural end of your precepts and mine, that this should be the creature of your rearing, training, teaching, hoarding, striving for: and I the means of bringing him to punishment, when nothing can repair the wasted past!” (Old Martin, ch.51)

“In every single circumstance, whether it were cruel, cowardly, or false, he saw the flowering of the same pregnant seed. Self; grasping, eager, narrow-ranging, over-reaching self; with its long train of suspicions, lusts, deceits, and all their growing consequences; was the root of the vile tree.” (ch.52)

“Your ignorance, as you call it, Mark, is wiser than some men’s enlightenment, and mine among them.” (Old Martin, ch.52)

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

Discuss the following in a five-paragraph essay:

1. Charles Dickens is known for his ability to create memorable characters. He was particularly effective in portraying sniveling, manipulative hypocrites. Compare and contrast Seth Pecksniff in Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* with Uriah Heep in *David Copperfield*. Which character is more believable? Which is a more threatening villain? In your analysis, be sure to consider the other qualities of the two men in addition to their hypocrisy and show how those other qualities influence your assessment.
2. While Charles Dickens was writing *Martin Chuzzlewit*, he took a short break to pen *A Christmas Carol*. Discuss the thematic similarities between the two books. Which do you consider the more effective satire? Why? Why do you think *A Christmas Carol* is the more popular of the two?
3. While Charles Dickens was writing *Martin Chuzzlewit*, he took a short break to pen *A Christmas Carol*. Both novels deal with the consequences of greed and selfishness. Compare and contrast Old Martin Chuzzlewit and Ebenezer Scrooge, the central characters who are transformed by the conclusions of the stories. Consider their salient characteristics at the beginning of the novels, the factors that bring about changes in their attitudes, and the conditions in which the author leaves them at the end.
4. While Charles Dickens was writing *Martin Chuzzlewit*, he took a short break to pen *A Christmas Carol*. Each story contains a quietly admirable character in Tom Pinch and Bob Cratchit. Compare and contrast the two men. What are their most admirable qualities? How do those qualities eventually influence the greedy people around them?

5. Charles Dickens, in both *Martin Chuzzlewit* and *A Christmas Carol*, portrays characters who are changed in the course of the stories from self-centered curmudgeons to generous benefactors. The transformations occur in radically different ways, however. In the former, Old Martin is changed by observing the selflessness of other characters, while in the latter Scrooge is transformed by three spirits who visit him on the night of Christmas Eve. Discuss the extent to which these transformations are convincing. How much more convincing would they have been had the author introduced the grace of God as the motivating factor rather than other supernatural or merely human instrumentalities?
6. Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* contains two characters of that name, an old man and his grandson. Which of these is the title character? Why do you think so? Support your argument with specifics from the novel.
7. Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* is a satire intended to picture the consequences of selfishness, and therefore contains many disreputable characters. It also contains some admirable ones, however, such as Tom Pinch, Mark Tapley, John Westlock, and Mary Graham. Which of these do you consider the most admirable, and why? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel.
8. Charles Dickens asserted that the theme of his novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* was selfishness and the harm that it did to oneself and others. The most obvious form that selfishness takes in the story is greed - the love of money - but it takes other forms as well. Describe three characters who, though they show no great love for money, are nonetheless selfish, and discuss the damage this selfishness does.
9. Charles Dickens ends his novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* by talking about the future life of Tom Pinch. To what extent may we conclude that Tom is really the hero of the story? How does his determined selflessness put the selfishness of many of the other characters in bolder relief?
10. Charles Dickens intended *Martin Chuzzlewit* to be a satire of the family and the harm done to family relationships by selfishness. Choose one of three families in the novel - that of Old Martin Chuzzlewit, that of Anthony Chuzzlewit, and that of Seth Pecksniff - and discuss how that family was damaged by the selfishness of its members.
11. In Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, both Seth Pecksniff and Jonas Chuzzlewit are villainous characters. Which of the two is the greater villain? Why do you think so? Consider both their own characters and their impact on others in the story and support your conclusion with details from the novel.
12. Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* is full of hypocrites, most notably Seth Pecksniff and Mrs. Gamp. Compare and contrast the hypocrisy of these two characters. What motivates their hypocrisy, what forms does it take, and what are the consequences for them and for others? Be sure to cite specific incidents and quotations in developing your essay.

13. Shortly before writing *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Charles Dickens completed a grand tour of the United States. He had heard much of the reputation of the new nation for radical politics, and Dickens, a radical himself, began the visit with high expectations. He came home disillusioned, however, and recorded his disappointment in letters and notes about his visit. He also made his views crystal clear in the novel before us. Based on Young Martin's experiences in America, what were the main aspects of the United States that Dickens found deplorable? Support your conclusions with specifics from the novel.
14. In Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, he pictures America as a land where people are completely blind, both to the true character of their own society and to the virtues of others. To what extent did the author believe that Britain suffered from the same malady? Does Dickens intend for the reader to see in America the flaws of his own country writ large? Support your arguments with details from the novel.
15. The chapters that narrate Young Martin's experience in America in Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* were an afterthought, included after the master plan of the novel had been completed. To what extent are they essential to the structure and themes of the novel? Would the book have been better without them? Why or why not?
16. When Charles Dickens planned *Martin Chuzzlewit*, the character of Mrs. Gamp was not included in the plot; she was a later addition. Many readers, however, find her one of the most compelling satirical characters in the story. Discuss the character of the rambunctious nurse in relationship to the fictitious Mrs. Harris. What does her invention tell you about her? How does she use Mrs. Harris to achieve her desired ends in many of her conversations?
17. While Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* is largely a satire of family relationships, certain aspects of it address the larger realm of English society in general. One such plot element is the Anglo-Bengalee Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company. Discuss how this was intended to critique the society in which Dickens lived. What does his portrayal of this swindle tell you about the author's personal politics?
18. In Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, a number of characters undergo significant changes in the course of the novel, including Old Martin, Young Martin, and Mercy Pecksniff. Choose one such character and describe how and why that person changes and how those changes help to illustrate the main themes of the novel.
19. In Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, both of the characters who share the name in the title experience repentance and turn from their previous manners of life. Evaluate their repentance on the basis of Scripture. Do the alterations in their lives correspond with what the Bible means by repentance? Why or why not? Support your arguments with specifics from both the novel and the Word of God.
20. Discuss the transformation of the title character from a self-centered curmudgeon to a generous benefactor in Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Is the transformation credible? Does the author sufficiently explain the change, or does the sudden appearance of the kindly old man at the end of the story catch the reader by surprise?

21. In I Timothy 6:10, the Apostle Paul warns Timothy that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.” To what extent may Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* be considered an exposition of Paul’s warning? Discuss the evils that result from the love of money in the lives of some of the book’s characters.
22. One of the themes of Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* is the folly of idolizing another human being. Many characters in the story fall into this trap; some eventually have their eyes opened while others do not. Choose three characters in the story who harm or endanger themselves through this sort of idol-worship and discuss the forms taken by their idolatry. Which ones are eventually enlightened? How?
23. In Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Tom Pinch is so good-hearted that he is reluctant to think evil of anyone. Perhaps the greatest area of his blindness involves his employer, Seth Pecksniff. How is Tom harmed by his blindness? How are his blinders removed, and what are the consequences of his recognition of Pecksniff’s true character?
24. Though one expects a significant amount of exaggeration in any satire, certain aspects of the plot of Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* have been criticized as less than credible. Discuss the plot device in which Old Martin appears to be feeble in mind and body and pretends to yield to the control of Seth Pecksniff. Is this something that Old Martin would do? Would Pecksniff be taken in by such a subterfuge? Why or why not?
25. In Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit*, the quiet and self-effacing Tom Pinch has a remarkable influence on other characters. Choose three people who are influenced for the better because of Tom and discuss how he impacts each of their lives. What qualities of this quiet man have the greatest impact on others, and why?
26. In Romans 5:3-4, the Apostle Paul writes, “We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character.” Several characters in Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* go through a great maturation process as a result of suffering, though the author places them in a secular context, including Young Martin and Mercy Pecksniff. Choose one of these two and discuss how suffering brings about salutary character changes, turning each one from less-than-admirable to a mature and admirable human being.
27. Charles Dickens often chose names and places to communicate something about the characters or locations involved. Sometimes these were chosen for their accuracy, and at other times they were intended to convey precisely the opposite of the nature of the designated people or places. In *Martin Chuzzlewit*, choose three characters or places the names of which are indicative of who or what they are and discuss the appropriateness of those names, being sure to incorporate details from the novel in your assessment.
28. When Charles Dickens’ *Martin Chuzzlewit* was adapted for the stage and when the author read from the novel during his frequent tours, the most popular character in the story was Mrs. Gamp. Why do you think this was so? Consider the differences between reading, hearing, and seeing in the ways in which audiences experience a character.

29. Charles Dickens often chose names and places to communicate something about the characters or locations involved. Sometimes these were chosen for their accuracy, and at other times they were intended to convey precisely the opposite of the nature of the designated people or places. In *Martin Chuzzlewit*, choose three characters or places the names of which are intended to contrast who or what they are. How are the flaws of these people or places brought into sharper relief by their totally inappropriate names?
30. Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* is said by many to contain the first example of a private investigator in literature. Discuss the character of Mr. Nadgett and consider how he demonstrates qualities that appear in much more famous investigators that appear later in the nineteenth century.
31. Typically for the author, Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* ends with three couples being united in marriage - Martin Chuzzlewit and Mary Graham, John Westlock and Ruth Pinch, and Mark Tapley and Mrs. Lupin. Compare and contrast these love matches regarding their credibility and the ways in which they are developed in the context of the novel. To what extent does Dickens show the love of these couples rather than simply telling us that they love one another?
32. Critics of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit* often complain that the good characters like Tom and Ruth Pinch and Mary Gordon are simply too good to be true, and that their lack of credibility detracts from the value of the novel. Do you agree or disagree? Support your arguments with specifics from the book.
33. In Matthew 5:5, Jesus told His disciples, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Apply this beatitude to Tom Pinch in Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Does he demonstrate the kind of meekness that Jesus had in mind? Why or why not? Does the author conclude that such men "inherit the earth"?
34. In chapter three of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Old Martin says, "For the same reason that I am not a hoarder of money, I am not lavish of it. Some people find their gratification in storing it up; and others theirs in parting with it; but I have no gratification connected with the thing. Pain and bitterness are the only goods it ever could procure for me. I hate it. It is a spectre walking before me through the world, and making every social pleasure hideous." The author thus pictures him as selfish, but not greedy, in contrast to most of the members of his family. Why is Old Martin so disillusioned with money? Why should the teachings of Scripture lead us not to be surprised at his attitude?
35. In Matthew 7:3, Jesus warns His listeners, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" In chapter three of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Old Martin describes himself as somewhat of a misanthrope: "The curse of my existence, and the realisation of my own mad desire, is that by the golden standard which I bear about me, I am doomed to try the metal of all other men, and find it false and hollow." What is the "golden standard" to which he refers? How does he finally learn to apply the same standard to himself that he applies to others?

36. In chapter eleven of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Jonas Chuzzlewit says, "Here's the rule for bargains. 'Do other men, for they would do you.' That's the true business precept. All others are counterfeits." Jonas is not the only character in the book that lives by this perverted version of the Golden Rule. What other characters purvey this philosophy, how do they put it into practice, and what are the consequences for themselves and others?
37. In chapter 33 of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, the author describes the enlightenment of Young Martin in these words: "It was long before he fixed the knowledge of himself so firmly in his mind that he could thoroughly discern the truth; but in the hideous solitude of that most hideous place, with Hope so far removed, Ambition quenched, and Death beside him rattling at the very door, reflection came, as in a plague-beleaguered town; and so he felt and knew that failing of his life, and saw distinctly what an ugly spot it was." Suffering opened his eyes to his true nature and the folly of his previous life, but how do we know that he was truly penitent? Provide details from the remainder of the novel that support the genuineness of Young Martin's change of heart.
38. In chapter fifty of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Tom Pinch says to his sister, "You think of me, Ruth, and it is very natural that you should, as if I were a character in a book; and you make it a sort of poetical justice that I should, by some impossible means or other, come, at last, to marry the person I love. But there is a much higher justice, my dear, and it does not order events upon the same principle." Dickens here is to some extent poking fun at his own tendency to end his books by allowing the good characters to live happily ever after by means of marriages, but he clearly understands that real life is not necessarily so pat. What is the "higher justice" to which Tom refers? To what extent does the novel show the greater happiness that Tom comes to enjoy, and to what extent does Dickens miss the real point of that "higher justice"?
39. In the second of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:5, God speaks of "visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children." In chapter 51 of Charles Dickens' *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Old Martin mourns his wasted life in these words: "Oh brother, brother! Were we strangers half our lives that you might breed a wretch like this, and I make life a desert by withering every flower that grew about me! Is it the natural end of your precepts and mine, that this should be the creature of your rearing, training, teaching, hoarding, striving for: and I the means of bringing him to punishment, when nothing can repair the wasted past!" While the reference is specifically to Jonas Chuzzlewit, to what extent has the entire family been corrupted by the selfishness of the patriarchs? Does Dickens give any hope that the wasted past can be repaired?