

PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION IN CH.DICKENS' WORKS

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Abstract: In Charles Dickens' works, the themes of childhood and education are prominent, reflecting the social challenges faced by children in Victorian England. Through characters like Oliver Twist and Pip, Dickens exposes the harsh realities of child labor, lack of access to education, child abuse, and social inequality. His narratives vividly depict the struggles and resilience of disadvantaged children, calling attention to the need for reform and compassion in addressing these issues. Dickens' enduring exploration of childhood adversity and societal injustice continues to resonate with readers, highlighting the enduring relevance of his social critiques.

In addition to childhood and education, another prominent theme in Dickens' works is social inequality and injustice. Through characters like Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" and the Cratchit family, Dickens highlights the disparity between the wealthy elite and the impoverished working class. He portrays the harsh living conditions, exploitation, and suffering of the lower classes, shedding light on the need for social reform and compassion. Dickens' critique of the social hierarchy and the economic systems of his time continues to be relevant today, sparking discussions about wealth disparity, class struggle, and the importance of empathy and social responsibility. His works serve as a powerful reminder of the enduring consequences of inequality and the importance of working towards a more just and equitable society.

Key words: Charles Dickens, social inequality, injustice, wealthy elite, impoverished working class, social reform, compassion, class struggle, wealth disparity, economic systems, social responsibility, empathy.

English literature is therefore not so much insular as detached from the continental European tradition. It is strong in all the conventional categories of the bookseller's list in poetry, age-renownedly resistant to adequate translation and therefore difficult to compare with the poetry of other literatures, it is peculiarly rich as to merit inclusion in the front rank. English literature's humor has been found as hard to convey to foreigners as poetry, if not more so a fact at any rate permitting bestowal of the label. English literature's remarkable body of travel writings constitutes another counterthrust to the charge of insularity; in autobiography, biography, and historical

writing. English literature compares with the best of any culture; and children's literature, fantasy, essays, and journals, which tend to be considered minor genres, are all fields of exceptional achievement as regards English literature. [12] Charles Dickens was an English writer and social critic who lived during the Victorian era. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest writers in the English language and his novels are still widely read and studied today. [4] Some of his most famous works include "Oliver Twist," "Great Expectations," "A Tale of Two Cities," and "David Copperfield." Dickens was known for his vivid descriptions of London and his social commentary on the issues of poverty and social injustice in Victorian society. He also created some of the most memorable characters in literature, such as Ebenezer Scrooge from "A Christmas Carol" and Miss Havisham from "Great Expectations." [7] The theme "Problems of childhood and education" The theme of "Problems of childhood and education" is a recurring motif in the works of Charles Dickens. Dickens, who was deeply influenced by his own experiences of poverty and lack of education as a child, often portrayed the difficulties faced by children who come from impoverished backgrounds and receive subpar education. His works highlight the inequalities and injustices of the Victorian education system, which often failed to provide children with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in life. [8] The theme of childhood and education in Dickens' works explores the impact of poverty, neglect, abuse, and social class on the development of children and their chances for a better life. Dickens' portrayal of the struggles and hardships of children and their education aims to raise awareness of the need for social and educational reforms.

Charles Dickens' works often address the problems of childhood and education that were prevalent in Victorian England. Dickens himself had a challenging childhood marked by poverty and hardship, which greatly influenced his writing. Some key themes related to childhood and education in Dickens' works include:

1. Child labor and exploitation: Dickens frequently portrayed the harsh realities of child labor in his novels, highlighting the brutal conditions faced by children who were forced to work in factories, mines, and other industries at a young age. Characters like Oliver Twist in "Oliver Twist" and Jo in "Bleak House" serve as poignant examples of children who are victimized and exploited by a system that values profit over human welfare.

2. Lack of access to education: In Victorian society, education was often limited to those from wealthier backgrounds, while children from poor families faced barriers to obtaining a quality education. Dickens vividly depicted the struggles of characters like Pip in "Great Expectations" and David Copperfield in "David Copperfield" who yearned for knowledge and self-improvement despite their disadvantaged circumstances.

3. Child abuse and neglect: Dickens did not shy away from portraying the abuse and neglect suffered by children at the hands of cruel or indifferent adults. Characters like Little Nell in "The Old Curiosity Shop" and Smike in "Nicholas Nickleby" endure mistreatment and suffering, emphasizing the vulnerability of children who lack protection and care.

4. Social inequality and class disparities: Through his characters and narratives, Dickens critiqued the social inequality and class disparities that impacted children's lives and opportunities. He highlighted the stark contrasts between the privileged and the underprivileged, underscoring the injustices faced by children born into poverty or destitution.

Dickens' works serve as powerful indictments of the societal issues affecting children and education in his time, shedding light on the need for reform and compassion in addressing the plight of vulnerable young individuals. Through his vivid storytelling and social commentary, Dickens continues to resonate with readers today in his portrayal of the struggles and triumphs of childhood in the face of adversity.

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