

# **PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## **Standards-Based Assignment Packet**

Subject/Grade: ELA 11

## Charles Dickens: David Copperfield and His Aunt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, published in 1849, is one of his most famous works. Dickens tells the life of David from the time he is born until he is an adult. David was born after his father died, and while his mother was very loving, she was also dependent and innocent. His mother married again to Mr. Murdstone when David was seven. Mr. Murdstone was very cruel to David and beat him. David is sent to boarding school and while there, his mother dies. After Mr. Murdstone removes him from school and sends him to work, David runs away to his great-aunt's home.



Charles Dickens

In the scene below, Mr. Murdstone and his sister have arrived to take David back. David's great-aunt, who is referred to as his aunt, confronts Murdstone about his cruel behavior and refuses to hand David over to his stepfather. His aunt begins the passage, speaking to Murdstone about David's mother.

### Chapter 14. My Aunt Makes Up Her Mind About Me

"It was clear enough, as I have told you, years before YOU ever saw her—and why, in the mysterious dispensations of Providence, you ever did see her, is more than humanity can comprehend—it was clear enough that the poor soft little thing would marry somebody, at some time or other; but I did hope it wouldn't have been as bad as it has turned out. That was the time, Mr. Murdstone, when she gave birth to her boy here," said my aunt; "to the poor child you sometimes tormented her through afterwards, which is a disagreeable remembrance and makes the sight of him odious now. Aye, aye! you needn't wince!" said my aunt. "I know it's true without that."

He had stood by the door, all this while, observant of her with a smile upon his face, though his black eyebrows were heavily contracted. I remarked now, that, though the smile was on his face still, his colour had gone in a moment, and he seemed to breathe as if he had been running.

"Good day, sir," said my aunt, "and good-bye! Good day to you, too, ma'am," said my aunt, turning suddenly upon his sister. "Let me see you ride a donkey over my green again, and as sure as you have a head upon your shoulders, I'll knock your bonnet off, and tread upon it!"

It would require a painter, and no common painter too, to depict my aunt's face as she delivered herself of this very unexpected sentiment, and Miss Murdstone's face as she heard it. But the manner of the speech, no less than the matter, was so fiery, that Miss Murdstone, without a word in answer, discreetly put her arm through her brother's, and walked haughtily out of the cottage; my aunt remaining in the window looking after them; prepared, I have no doubt, in case of the donkey's reappearance, to carry her threat into instant execution.

1. What is the "disagreeable remembrance" the aunt refers to?
2. What was one of Mr. Murdstone reactions to the aunt's speech?
3. What does David's aunt threaten to do if Miss Murdstone rides a donkey across her lawn again?
4. The author says David's aunt was prepared "to carry her threat into instant execution." What does execution mean in this quotation?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Introductions: Thesis Sentence

A thesis sentence is the main topic sentence of an essay or other written piece. It states the main opinion and often forecasts the principle sections of the piece. It is usually placed at the end of the introduction.

### Example:

Topic: Should students be allowed to eat during class?

Possible thesis sentence: Students should not eat during class as students would not be paying attention while they eat, they may leave trash in the classroom, and other students might be distracted while their neighbor eats.

### Write a thesis sentence for each topic below.

1. Discuss who was the greater president of the United States: George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.
2. What was the greatest challenge in your life?
3. What are the most important character traits for a good brother?
4. Explain your favorite character in literature.
5. Should motorcycles be outlawed on public streets?

# ENGLISH 11

Correct the Text:

What was floating above Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 9, 1793. It was Jean-Pierre Francois Blanchard on the first manned hot-air balloon flite in American History. Observed by president George Washington, the balloon stay in the air for about 15 miles and 45 minute. Blanchards flight sparked national interest in ballooning. Its reported that he take just one passenger with him on the flight -- a little black dog!

Before computers, people would type letters and other documents on Typewriters. The first patient for a typewriter was granted on January 7, 1714 but it is years before the first typewriter was invented. In 1808, Pellegrino turri build the first typewriter for his friend, countess Carolina Fantoni da Fivizzano. He also invented carbon paper, which was used for the machines ink. Not much is known about the first typewriter but people can still read letters that the Countess typed on that typing mashune.

# EXHIBIT 4.1. Four Words Sheet

*Choose 4 words to define*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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|--|
| Word and Definition in English<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Definition in Primary Language<br>_____          |
| Picture<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>  |

Sentence  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
| Word and Definition in English<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Definition in Primary Language<br>_____          |
| Picture<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>  |

Sentence  
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| Word and Definition in English<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Definition in Primary Language<br>_____          |
| Picture<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>  |

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| Word and Definition in English<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Definition in Primary Language<br>_____          |
| Picture<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>  |

Sentence  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Explaining Oxymorons

Identify and explain each oxymoron in the sentences below.

- 1) My younger brother took the larger half of the blueberry muffin.

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- 2) The teacher asked the class to keep the noise down to a dull roar.

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- 3) When Elizabeth mentioned her election idea to the committee, it went over like a lead balloon.

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- 4) It was a minor miracle that no one was hurt when the car ran off the country road.

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- 5) James became a one-man band to raise money for the school project.

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- 6) He is always able to give an unbiased opinion when he is asked politely.

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- 7) The toy company faced a friendly takeover by the bicycle manufacturer.

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- 8) She asked in a loud whisper if anyone wanted to leave the movie with her.

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# Correcting Dangling Modifiers

Sometimes in a sentence it is difficult to tell what a modifying word or phrase is describing. That modifying word or phrase is called a **dangling modifier**.

**Example:** Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, the cake I baked tasted terrible.

*Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen* is a modifying phrase. It is difficult, however, to understand who or what worked hard: *the cake* or *I*. Obviously the cake can't work hard, so the phrase must be modifying *I*. This confusion is the basis of a dangling modifier.

Correcting a dangling modifier often requires more than just moving words around. Usually the correction requires adding a word or phrase or rewording the sentence.

I worked hard all afternoon in the kitchen, and the cake I baked tasted terrible.

OR

Even after working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, I baked a terrible tasting cake.

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Rewrite each of the following sentences correcting the dangling modifier.

1. After centuries of lying on the ocean floor, the treasure hunters found the Spanish galleon.

2. Watching carefully for hours, the flock of butterflies never arrived.

3. Thirsty, the glass of water was swallowed in one gulp.

4. Driving down the street, the park came into view.

5. Resolving to study more, the textbooks seemed more interesting.

# Elegy for Lincoln: Walt Whitman's Poem

President Abraham Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth and died on April 15, 1865 in Washington, D.C. The Civil War had ended just six days earlier when Confederate General Lee surrendered to Union General Grant.

Later in 1865 Walt Whitman, a poet and journalist, wrote the poem "O Captain! My Captain!" about Lincoln and his tragic death. The poem is an elegy, which is a serious poem usually about someone's death.

## O Captain! My Captain!

*by Walt Whitman*

O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done;  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won;  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring:

But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

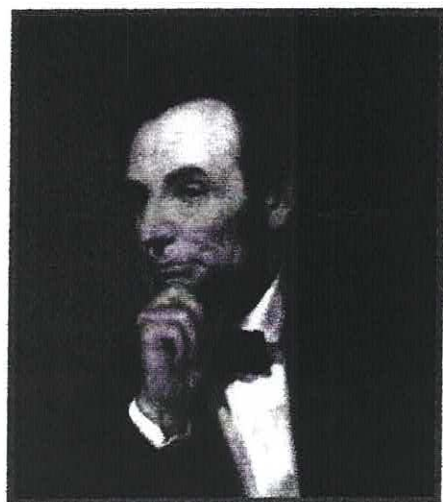
O Captain! My Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills;  
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding;  
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;

Here captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head;  
It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still;  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will;  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done;  
From fearful trip, the victor ship, comes in with object won;

Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells!  
But I, with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Short Answer

1. Who does the Captain represent in the poem?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the ship represent in the poem?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do bells and "bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths" represent in the poem?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give two examples of alliteration in the poem.

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\_\_\_\_\_



# Romeo and Juliet: Sword Fight

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

One of the advantages of a play over prose writings, such as a novel, is that the actions in the plot can be seen by the audience. In a novel the author can only describe the action. An example of this is the sword fight between Mercutio and Tybalt in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. As the scene opens, Mercutio is in the a public square with Benvolio and some servants when Tybalt and his friends arrive. An argument starts, and then the newly-married Romeo arrives.

## Act III. Scene 1

**Tybalt:**

Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford  
No better term than this,--thou art a villain.

**Romeo:**

Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee  
Doth much excuse the appertaining rage  
To such a greeting: villain am I none;  
Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not.

**Tybalt:**

Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries  
That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

**Romeo:**

I do protest, I never injured thee,  
But love thee better than thou canst devise,  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love:  
And so, good Capulet,--which name I tender  
As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.

**Mercutio:**

O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!  
Alla stoccata carries it away.  
[Draws]

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

**Tybalt:**

What wouldst thou have with me?

**Mercutio:**

Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine  
lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you  
shall use me hereafter, drybeat the rest of the  
eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pilcher  
by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your  
ears ere it be out.

**Tybalt:**

I am for you.  
[Drawing]

**Romeo:**

Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

**Mercutio:**

Come, sir, your passado.  
[They fight]

**Romeo:**

Draw, Benvolio; beat down their weapons.  
Gentlemen, for shame, forbear this outrage!  
Tybalt, Mercutio, the prince expressly hath  
Forbidden bandying in Verona streets:  
Hold, Tybalt! good Mercutio!

[Tybalt under Romeo's arm stabs Mercutio, and flies with his followers.]

**Mercutio:**

I am hurt.  
A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.  
Is he gone, and hath nothing?

**Benvolio:**

What, art thou hurt?

**Mercutio:**

Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.  
Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.  
[Exit Page]

**Romeo:**

Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

**Mercutio:**

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a  
church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for  
me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I  
am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o'  
both your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a  
cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a  
rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of  
arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I  
was hurt under your arm.

**Romeo:**

I thought all for the best.

**Mercutio:**

Help me into some house, Benvolio,  
Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!  
They have made worms' meat of me: I have it,  
And soundly too: your houses!

## Questions:

1. Who draws his sword first?
2. Between Romeo, Mercutio, and Tybalt, who is the only one who does not draw a sword in this passage?
3. Who asks the fighters to stop?
4. How is Mercutio hurt?
5. What type of figurative language is used when Mercutio says "you shall find me a grave man"?