**Sample test exercises : reading**

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| Charles Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, England, the second of eight children. His family then moved to Chatham, to the east of London. His childhood was not a very happy one. His father had to go to prison and the twelve year old Dickens had to work in a factory. This experience was tough for him.  Dickens had a fear of the lack of money and this drove him to undertake huge workloads. He didn’t have much education, but he worked hard, first as a clerk and then as a reporter. His first book, *The Pickwick Papers* essentially was a comedy. Dickens followed this with *Oliver Twist* and later such classics as *David Copperfieldand*, *Little Dorrit* and *Great Expectations*. Towards the end of his life his novels became more sombre, full of biting social criticism and savage comedy. Dickens was married to Catherine Hogarth, but separated from her in 1858. They had ten children. Dickens died in 1870, and despite his insistence that he wanted a normal, quiet family funeral, was buried in Poet’s Corner in Westminster Abbey in London. |

**A: Read the text above and answer the questions.**

**1. Which statements is correct:**

□ Charles Dickens was born and died in Portsmouth.

□ Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth and died in Westminster.

□ Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth and died in London.

□ Charles Dickens had a happy childhood.

□ Charles Dickens had a happy childhood until his father had to go to prison.

□ Charles Dickens didn’t have a happy childhood.

□ Charles Dickens worked very hard because he was a workaholic.

□ Charles Dickens worked very hard because he loved writing.

□ Charles Dickens worked very hard because he was afraid of not having enough money.

□ Charles Dickens only wrote comedy.

□ Charles Dickens wrote novels and comedy.

□ Charles Dickens wrote novels, but his stories were very critical and sometimes remained of comedy.

□ Charles Dickens loved having a family. He had a wife and many children.

□ Charles Dickens didn’t have any family and separated from his wife in 1858.

□ Charles Dickens was married to his wife until he died in 1870. They had 10 children together.

**2. Compare Dickens‘ life with the story of Oliver Twist. Tick (✓) whether the facts are similar in both lives, not similar or you don’t know.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **similar** | **not similar** | **I don’t know** |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist lived in England. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist didn’t have a happy childhood. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens‘ father and Oliver Twist’s father were in prison. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist had to steal to get enough to eat. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist had to work in a workhouse. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist went to school for a while. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist both got married when they were older. |  |  |  |
| Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist both didn’t have much education. |  |  |  |

**3. Find the corresponding word in the text:**

birth : Find the verb : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

child : Find the plural form : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to experience: Find the noun: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

be afraid: Find the noun: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

educate : Find the noun : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

critic: Find the noun: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

marriage : Find the verb (in past tense):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

death : Find the verb (in past tense) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to insist : Find the noun : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Solution : born, children, experience, fear, education, criticism, married, died, insistance