

QUICK CARD: NICHOLAS NICKLEBY



<i>Reference</i>	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i> . Charles Dickens. (1838) ISBN-13: 978-0199538225
<i>Plot</i>	Nicholas, bereaved of his father in his adolescence, finds himself prematurely the man of the house. Needing to provide for his mother, sister and himself, he seeks out his father's wealthy brother, a kind of Scrooge character, for help, but with friends like him, who needs enemies?
<i>Setting</i>	In Nicholas's adolescence. Ranges from the country (county of Devonshire) to the notorious schools of Yorkshire, to the thriving streets of 19 th c. London, England. Dotheboys School is based on a cross-section of Yorkshire Schools. These were cheap boarding schools, which practiced unconscionable abuse upon their student bodies. The story spans several years of Nicholas's life, chronicling his coming of age.
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholas Nickleby – (protagonist) 19 years-old at the story's outset, he is headstrong, spirited, and has an acute sense of justice and morality. • Kate Nickleby – Nicholas's sister • Mrs. Nickleby – Nicholas's mother • Newman Noggs– messenger of Ralph and friend of Nicholas • Smike – Nicholas's protégée from Dotheboys • Madeline Bray – Nicholas's love interest • Tim Linkinwater – friend and business associate of Nicholas • The Brothers Cheeryble – philanthropic friends and employers of Nicholas • Fred Cheeryble – their nephew • John and Matilda Browdie – friends of Nicholas from his time at Dotheboys • Miss LaCreevy – miniature painter and friend of Nicholas and his family

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Characters Cont.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crummles and Co. – theatre company that employs Nicholas after his time at Dotheboys. Includes: The “infant Phenomenon,” Mr. Folair, Miss Snevellicci, and Mr. Lenville • Ralph Nickleby – (antagonist) Nicholas’s cold, usurious and mean-spirited paternal uncle. He dislikes Nicholas and is devoted to ruining him. • Squeers and family – (antagonists) headmaster of Dotheboys School, his evil conduct provokes Nicholas and he becomes an enemy • Lord Mulberry Hawk – (antagonist) rakish playboy that takes liberties with Nicholas’s sister, making her life a torment and trial • Arthur Gride – (antagonist) “comrade” of Ralph Nickleby and co-conspirator in the attempt to “steal” Madeline and her fortune and cause heartbreak for Nicholas. • Mrs. (Peg) Sliderskew – Gride’s greedy housekeeper • Mr. Bray – (antagonist) Madeline’s horrible father • Brooker – onetime employee of Ralph Nickleby, he holds a secret that will ruin Ralph • Lord Verisopht – rich playboy who falls under the spell of Mulberry Hawk. He dies in a duel with Hawk when he realizes Hawk’s true character. • Pluck and Pyke – associates of Hawk • Mr. Snawley – pretends to be Smike’s dad to help Ralph • Henry and Julia Wittiterly • Mr. and Mrs. Mantalini and Miss Knag – own the dress shop in which Kate works • The Kenwigs – Noggs’ poor neighbors. Related to Mr. Lillyvick, they hope for an inheritance. • Mr. Lillyvick – relative of the prolific Kenwig family. He is sweet on Miss Petowker. Their plans to marry ruin the Kenwigs’ hopes.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Conflict</i></p>	<p>Nicholas wants experience in order to manage as man of the family. He must overcome his youth (Man vs. Self), his Uncle Ralph’s ill-will and conniving (Man vs. Man), and his own rash, impetuous nature (Man vs. Self) in order to rise to the occasion.</p>

<p><i>Theme</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good triumphs over evil • The benefits of virtue, responsibility, industry, kindness, protection, and provision as qualities of a good man. • Coming of Age
<p><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puns – Double entendres. See “Dotheboys School for orphaned boys” • Satire – making light of a serious matter in order to expose or ridicule stupidity or vice in a person, event, organization or society