

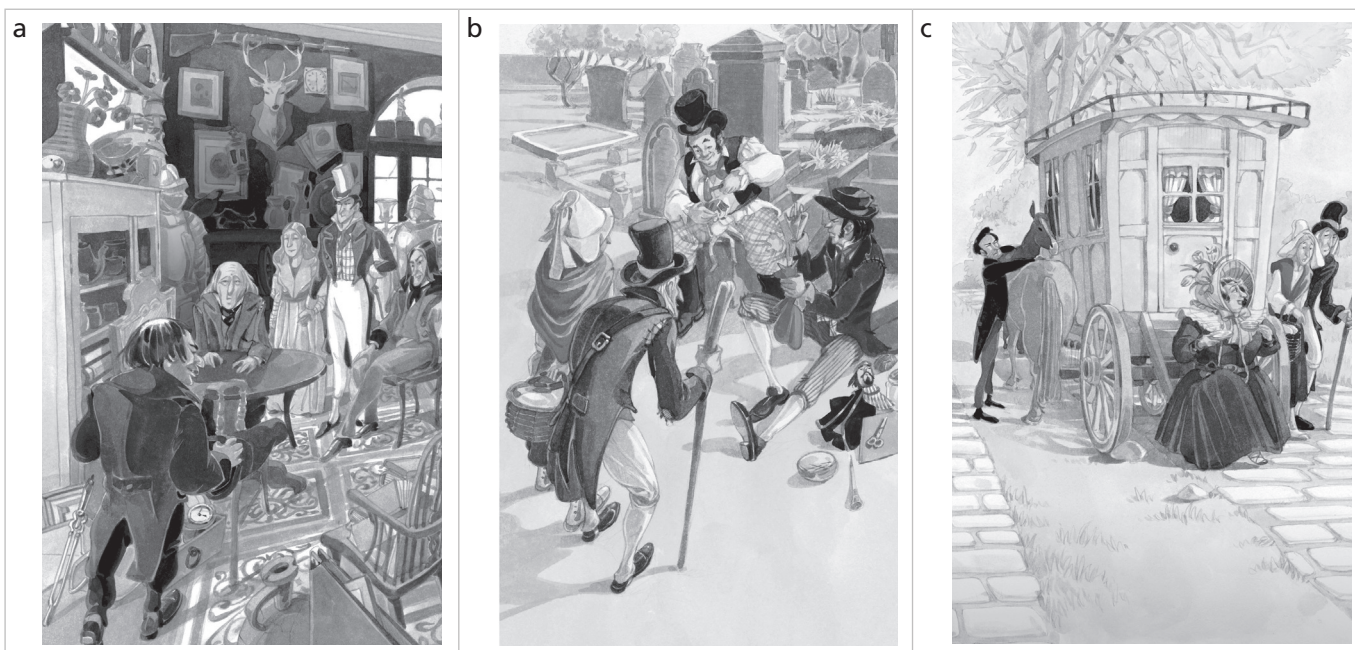
# The Old Curiosity Shop

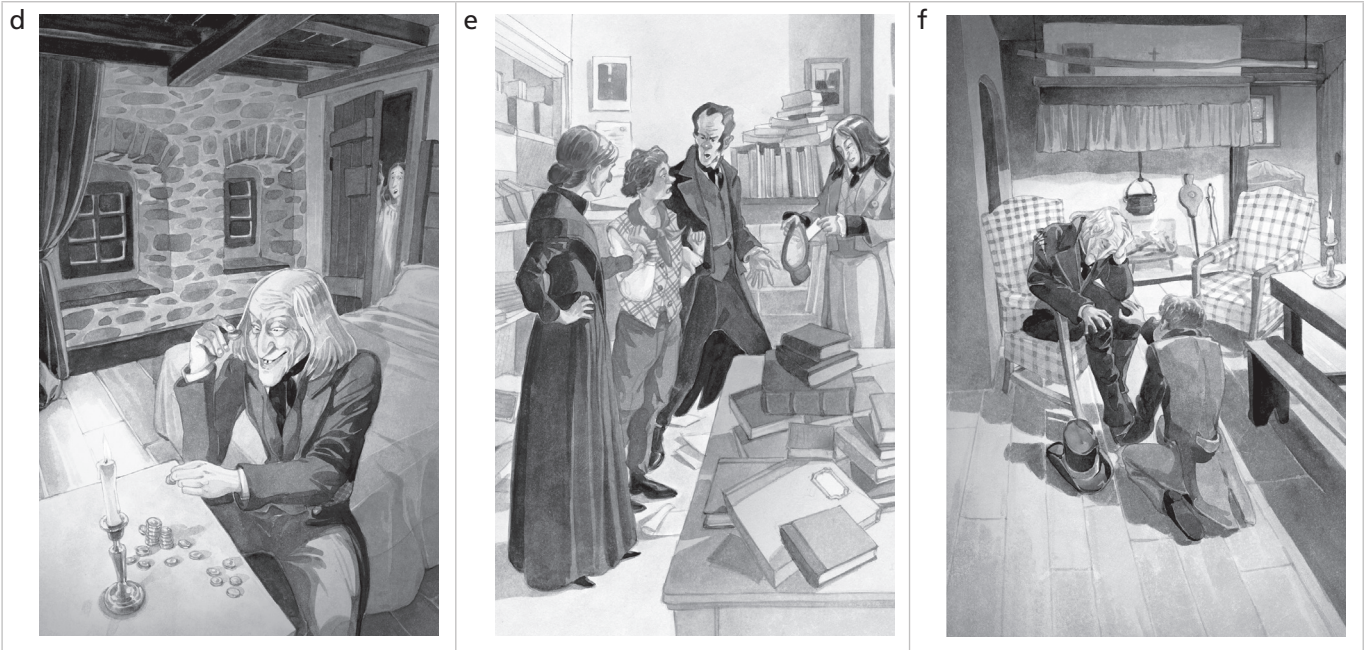
Charles Dickens

## A Before Reading

- 1 a Charles Dickens wrote the story in 1840. What do you know about London and England at that time?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b The story is called *The Old Curiosity Shop*. A 'curiosity' is something interesting or unusual. What kind of things do you think might be sold in such a shop?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c In the story Nell and her grandfather travel around the country. Why do you think they leave London and how do you think they travel?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 a Here are some pictures from the story. Match the words in the box to the pictures.

a caravan    a meeting    catching a thief    counting coins  
Kit with Nell's grandfather    puppets





**b** Describe what is happening in each picture. Check your answers as you read.

## B While Reading

- 3 a** Nell meets lots of different people in the story. As you read, describe the relationship between Nell and the people, and also how she feels about each one.

The people	Their relationship to Nell and her feelings about them
Her grandfather	<i>She loves him, but is disappointed when he gambles the last of their money.</i>
Fred Trent	
Kit	
Daniel Quilp	
Mr Marton	
Mrs Jarley	
Tommy Codlin	

- b There are a number of other people in the story. What is the connection between these people?

Fred Trent and Richard Swiveller \_\_\_\_\_

George and Mrs Jarley \_\_\_\_\_

Tommy Codlin and Mr Harris \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel Quilp and Nell's grandfather \_\_\_\_\_

Sampson Brass and Sally \_\_\_\_\_

- c What happens to Nell at the end of the story?

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## C After Reading

- 4 a What did Fred Trent think Nell's grandfather was hiding from him?

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- b Who was the single gentlemen?

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- c Mr Garland helped Kit three times. How?

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- 5 Imagine what might have happened if Nell hadn't died at the end of the story. Think about:

What would have happened with Kit?

How she would have thanked Mr Garland?

*If Nell hadn't died ...*

- 6 One of the messages in the story is that children should not be made to grow up too quickly; they need time to be children. Do you agree with this? Why/Why not? Give reasons for your answer.

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