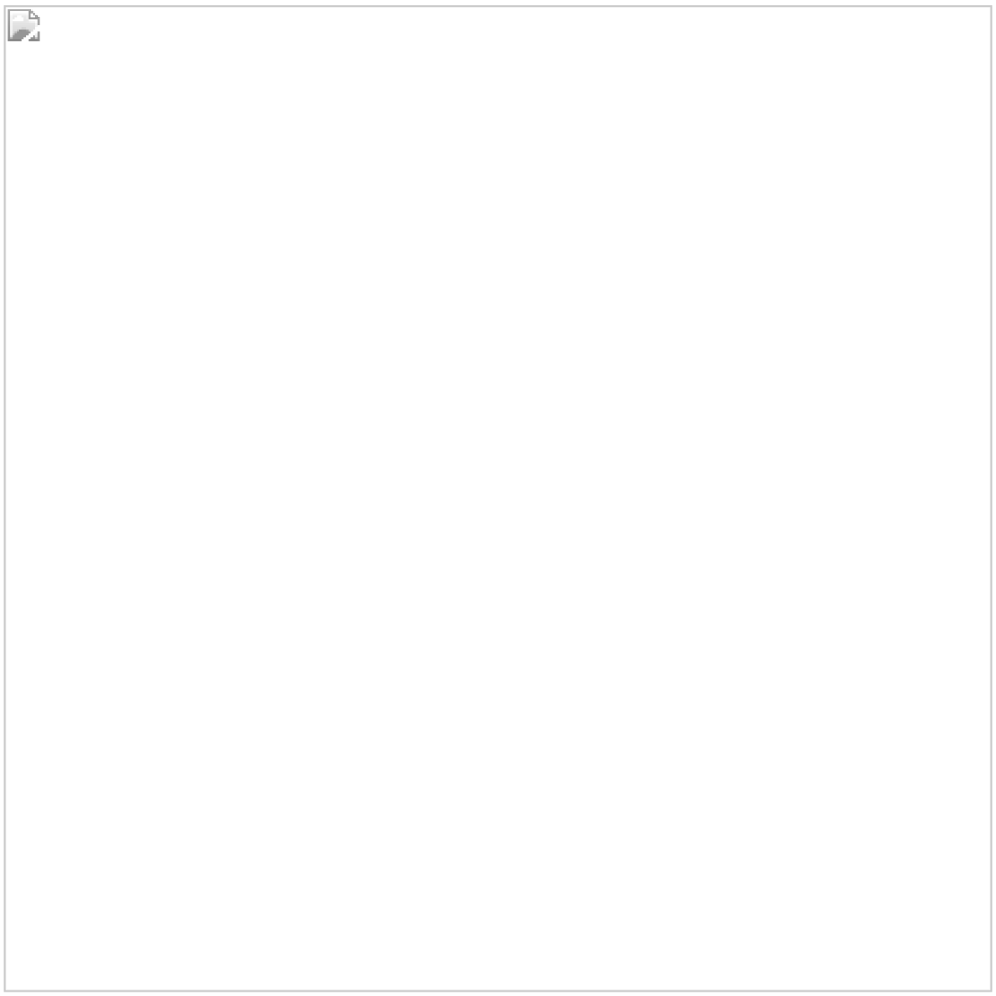
COLORING THE CLASSICS

David Copperfield

A boy finds out who loves him



“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.” So David Copperfield begins the story of his life.

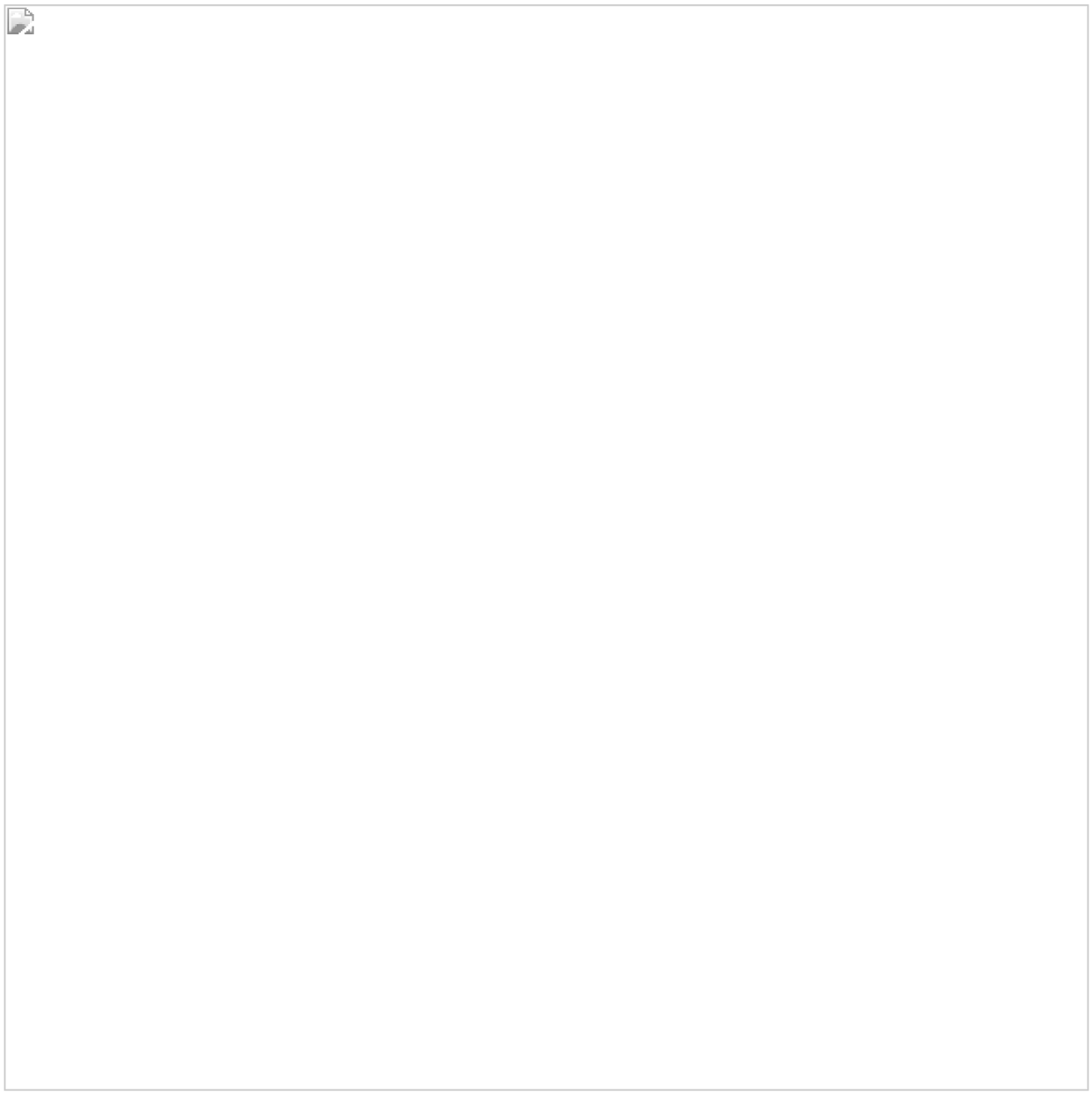
He is born in a village called Blunderstone, a few months after his father has died. His father's aunt, Betsey Trotwood, has come to see the baby, and she is sure it will be a girl. When she hears it is a boy, she walks out of the house, and she does not come back.

TALK ABOUT IT

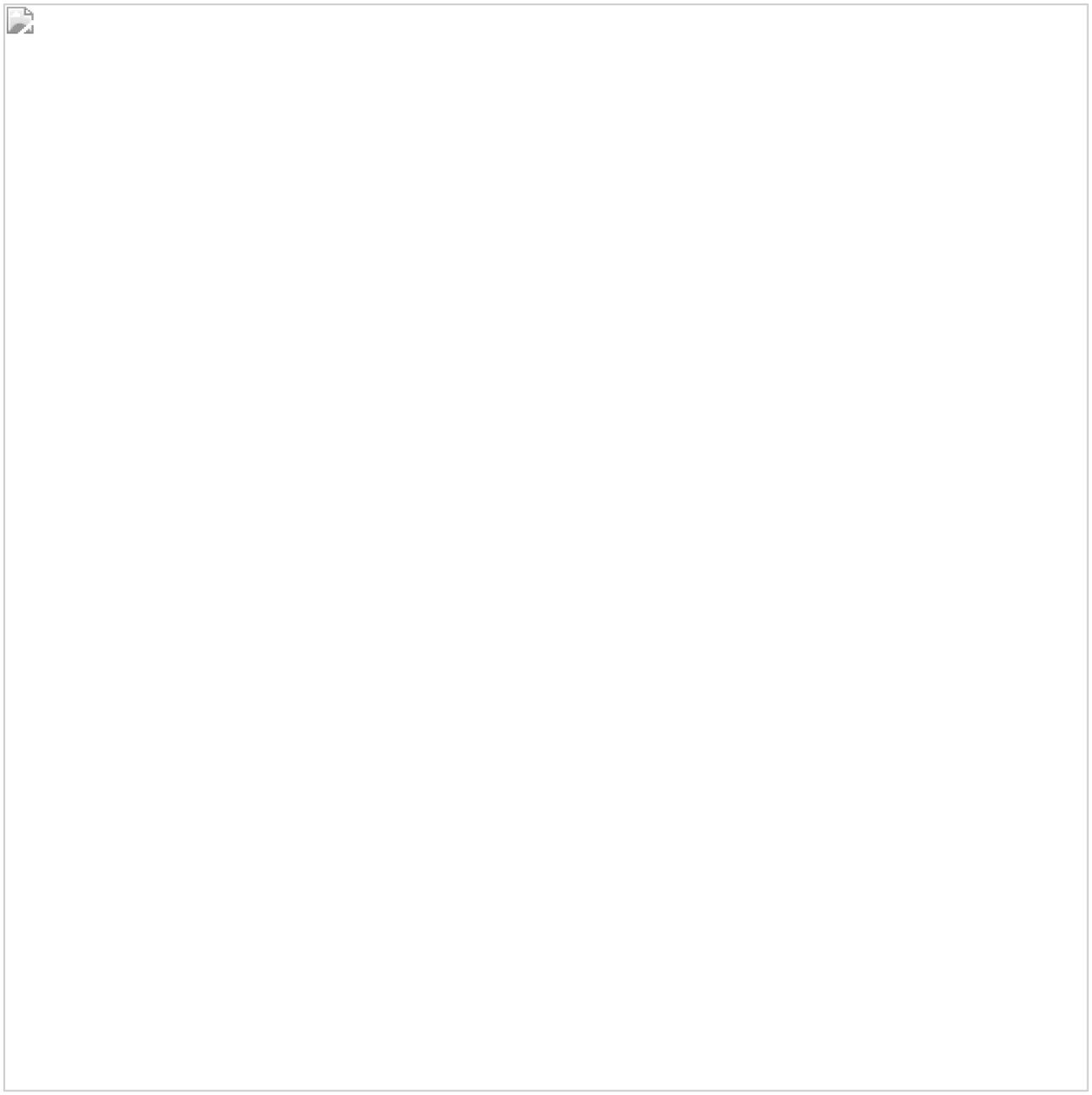
David's life starts with a lot missing. Who do you think will look after him? What would you want near you?

This book belongs to _____

David Copperfield · another picture



Mother and Peggotty



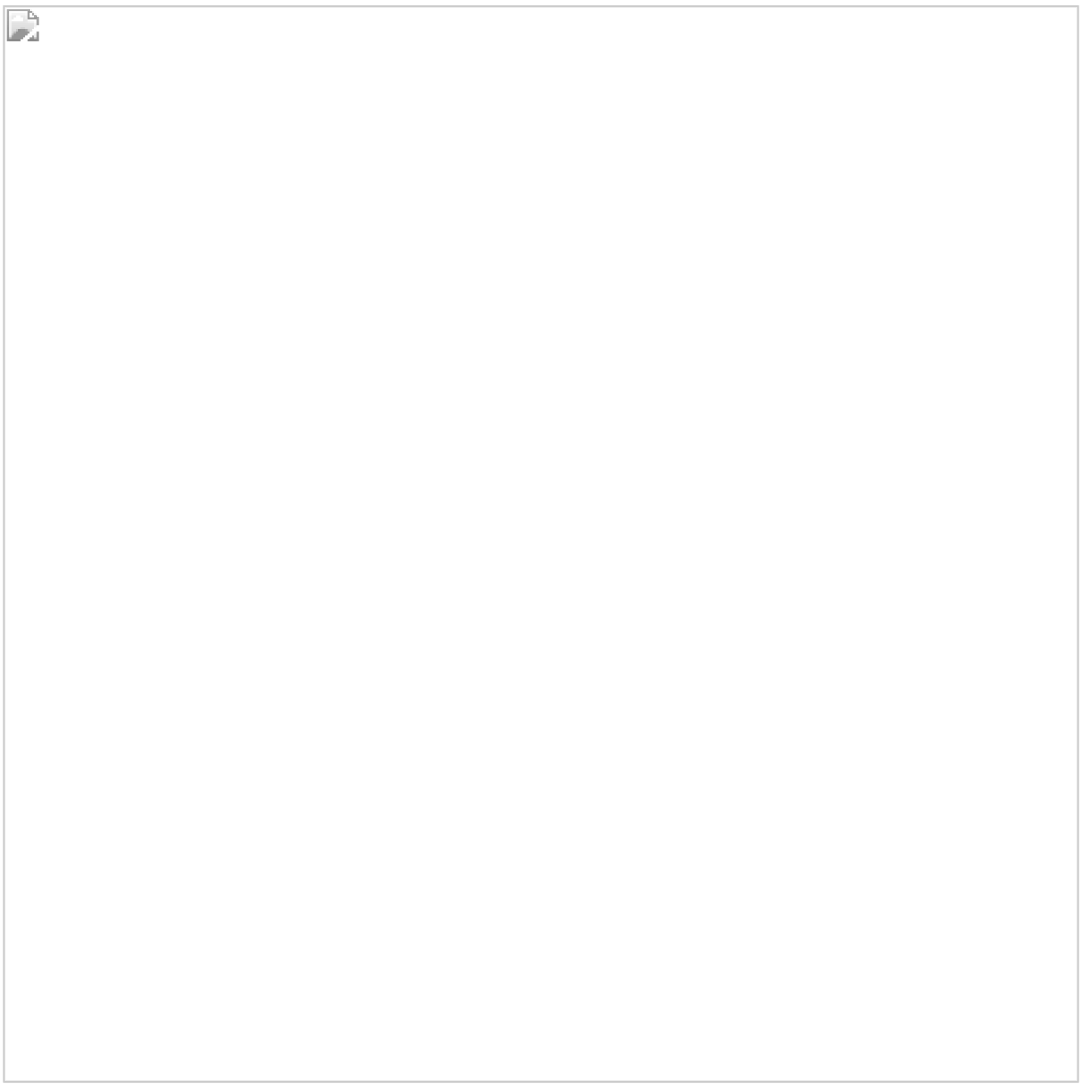
David grows up in a small house with a garden. He lives there with his young mother and with Peggotty, who helps in the house and has loved him since the day he was born.

The three of them sit by the fire in the evenings. David reads to Peggotty about crocodiles, and his mother sits close by. These are happy days.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do the three of them do together in the evenings? What is a favorite thing you do with the people at home?

Mother and Peggotty · another picture



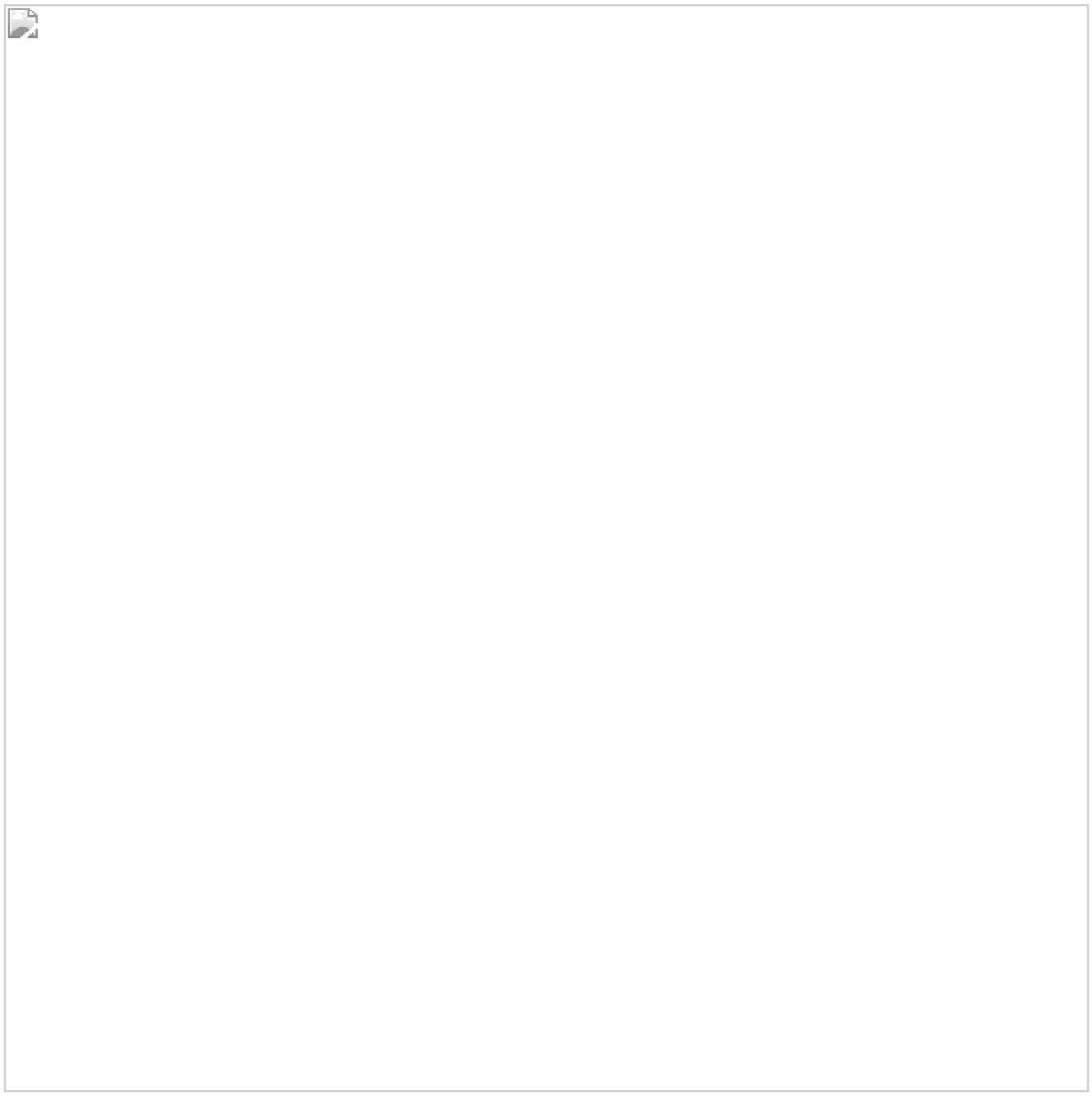
Think about it

1. Who lives in the house with David?

- ○ His mother and Peggotty
- ○ His father and his aunt
- ○ A teacher and a sailor

2. What makes a place feel like home to you?

The House Made from a Boat



Peggotty takes David to visit her family in Yarmouth, by the sea. Her brother, Mr. Peggotty, lives in an old boat that has been turned into a house, set high up on the sand.

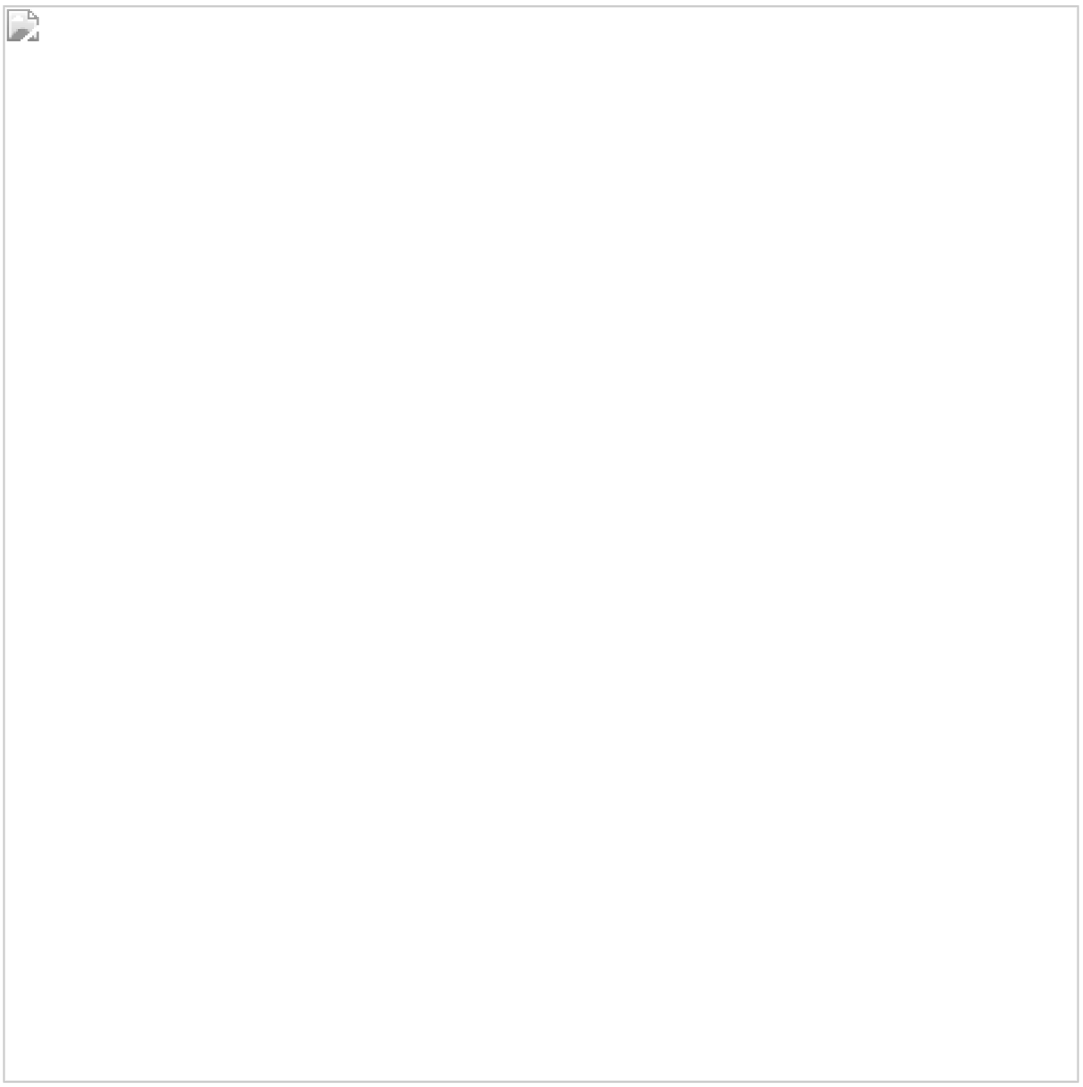
Inside live Mr. Peggotty, his nephew Ham, a kind woman named Mrs. Gummidge, and a little girl named Em'ly. Mr. Peggotty has taken in everyone there who had nobody else.

David and Em'ly walk on the beach and look for shells. David loves Em'ly, and he says so plainly. He is sad to go home.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Mr. Peggotty took in so many people? What would you like about living in a boat?

The House Made from a Boat · another picture



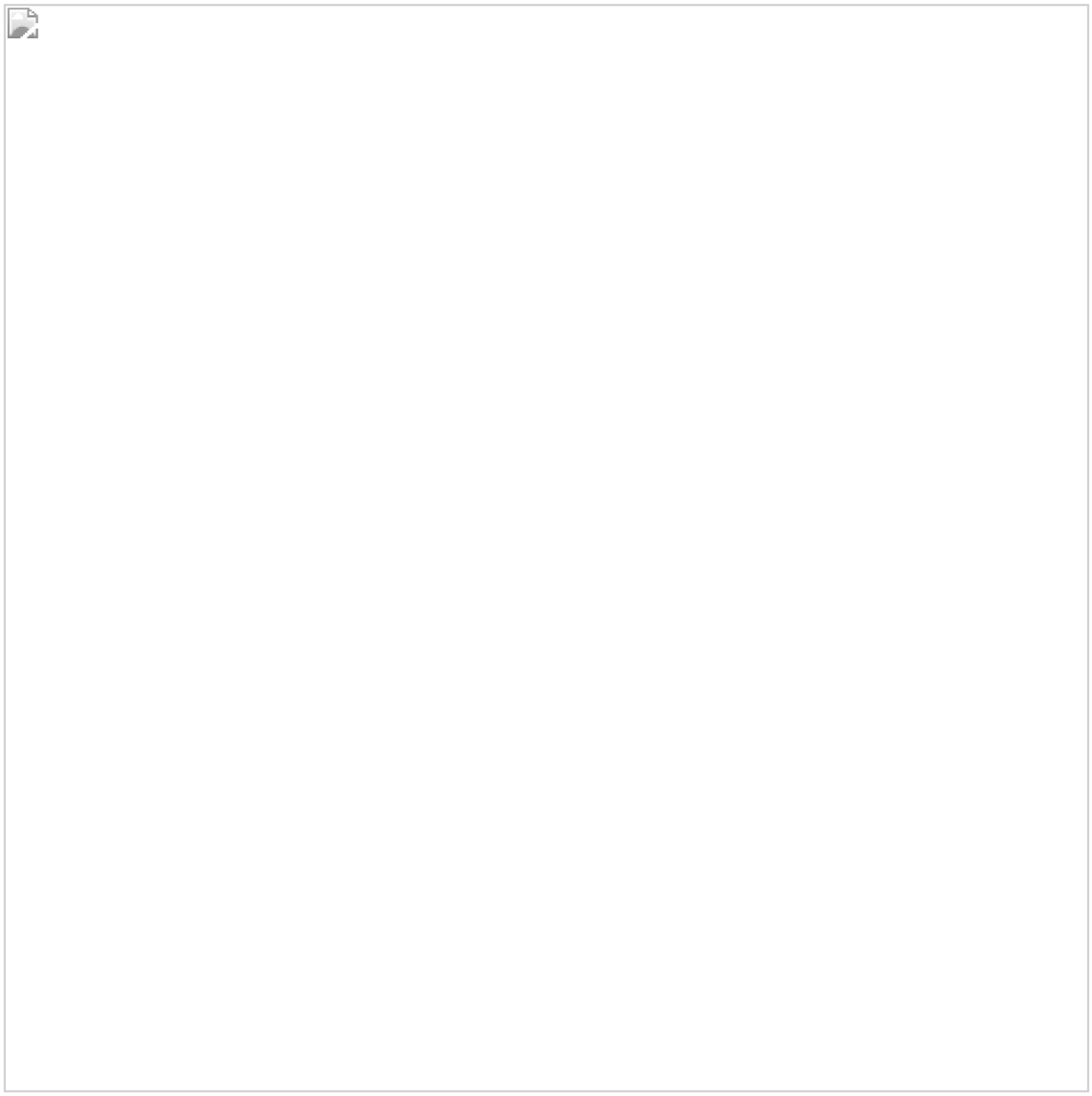
Think about it

1. What is the Peggottys' house made from?

- ○ An old boat
- ○ A big tent
- ○ A tall tower

2. Have you ever been somewhere that felt strange at first and then felt like a friend? Tell about it.

A New Father at Home



When David comes home, Peggotty tells him he has a new father. His mother has married a man named Mr. Murdstone. Soon his sister, Miss Murdstone, comes to live in the house too.

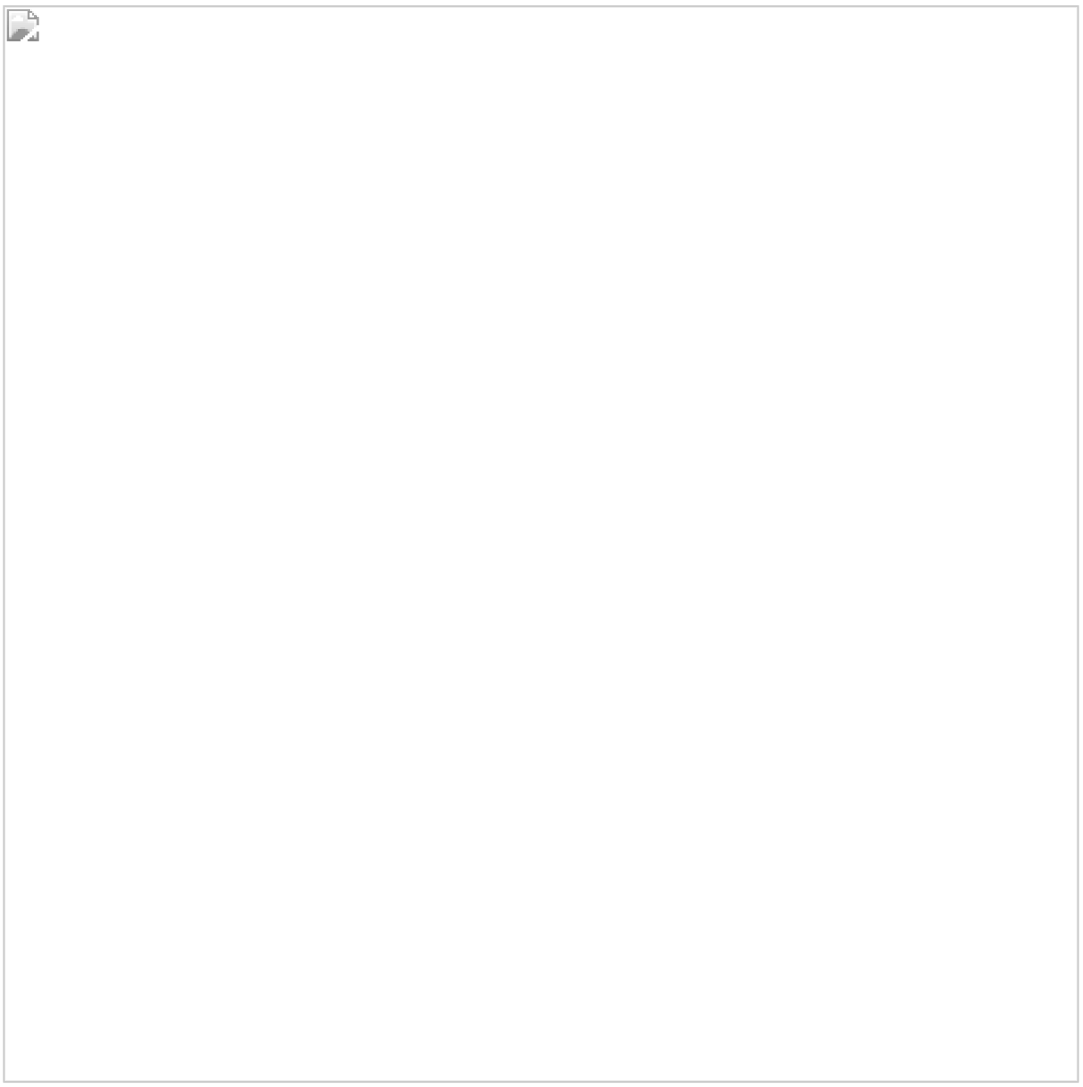
Mr. Murdstone believes in being strict. He has a word for it. “Firmness, my dear!” he says to David's mother when she gets upset. She says she is sorry.

David's lessons turn into a worry. When he gets one wrong, Mr. Murdstone punishes him. One day David bites Mr. Murdstone's hand as the cane comes down. David is locked in his room for five days. Then he is sent away to a school.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think David felt in that locked room? What do you think firmness should mean?

A New Father at Home · another picture



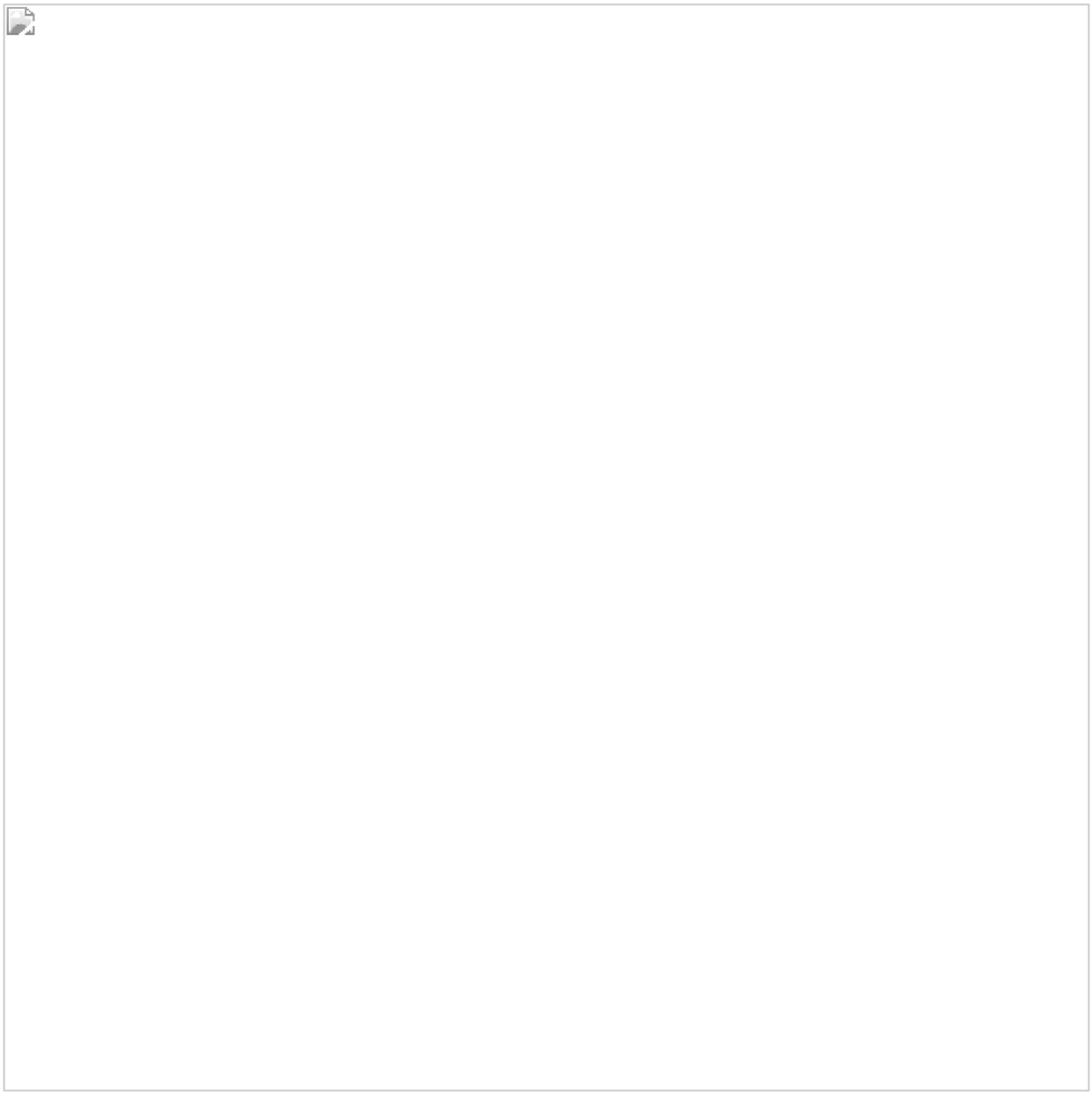
Think about it

1. What is the new man's name?

- ○ Mr. Murdstone
- ○ Mr. Micawber
- ○ Mr. Dick

2. How do you think David's home changed when the Murdstones came?

School, and a Sign on His Back

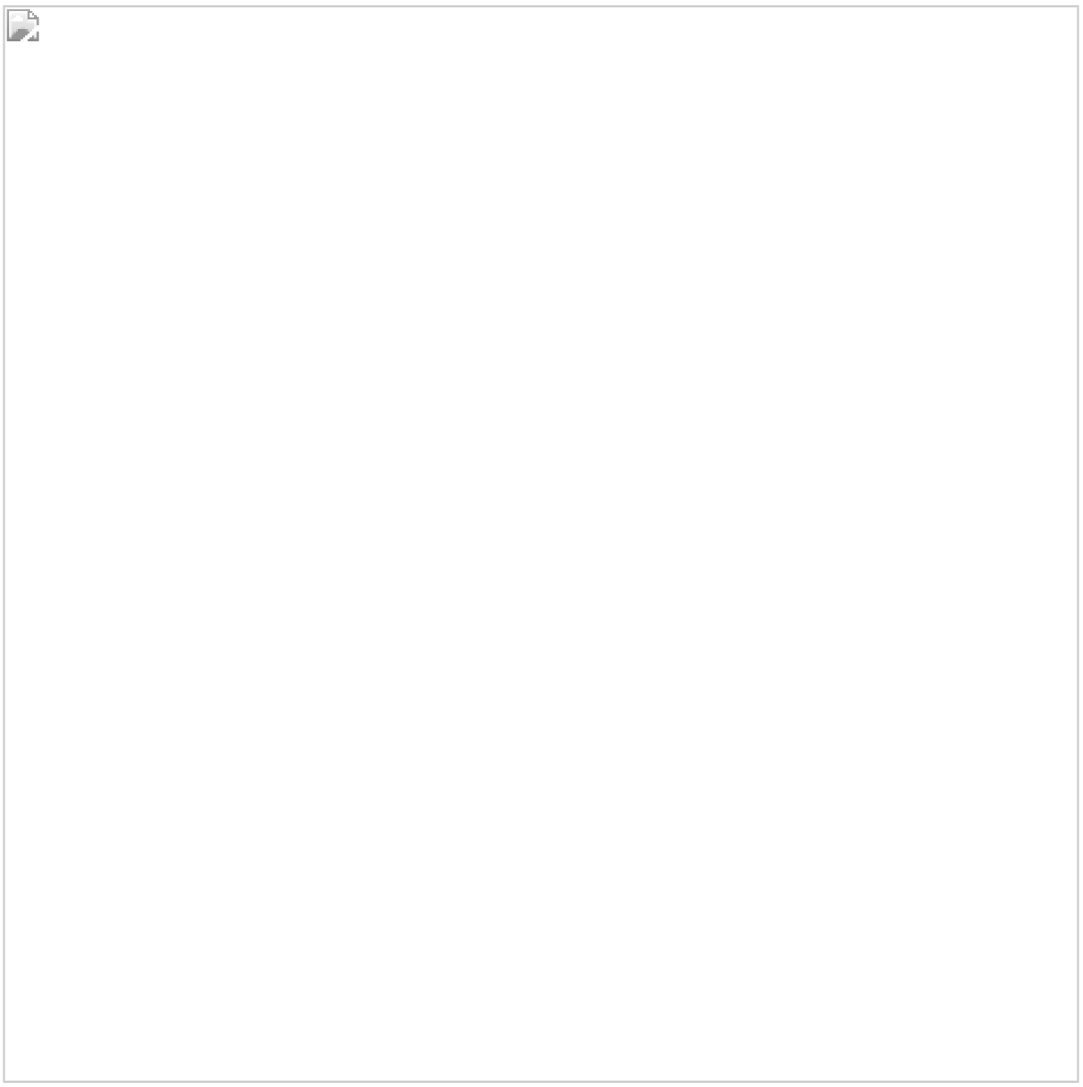


At the school, called Salem House, the headmaster is Mr. Creakle, and he is hard on the boys. David is made to wear a sign on his back. “Take care of him. He bites.”

But David finds two friends. One is Steerforth, an older boy who is clever and charming and who takes David under his wing. The other is Traddles, a kind boy who is always getting into trouble and never complains.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think it felt to wear that sign? Why do you think Steerforth and Traddles were friendly to David?



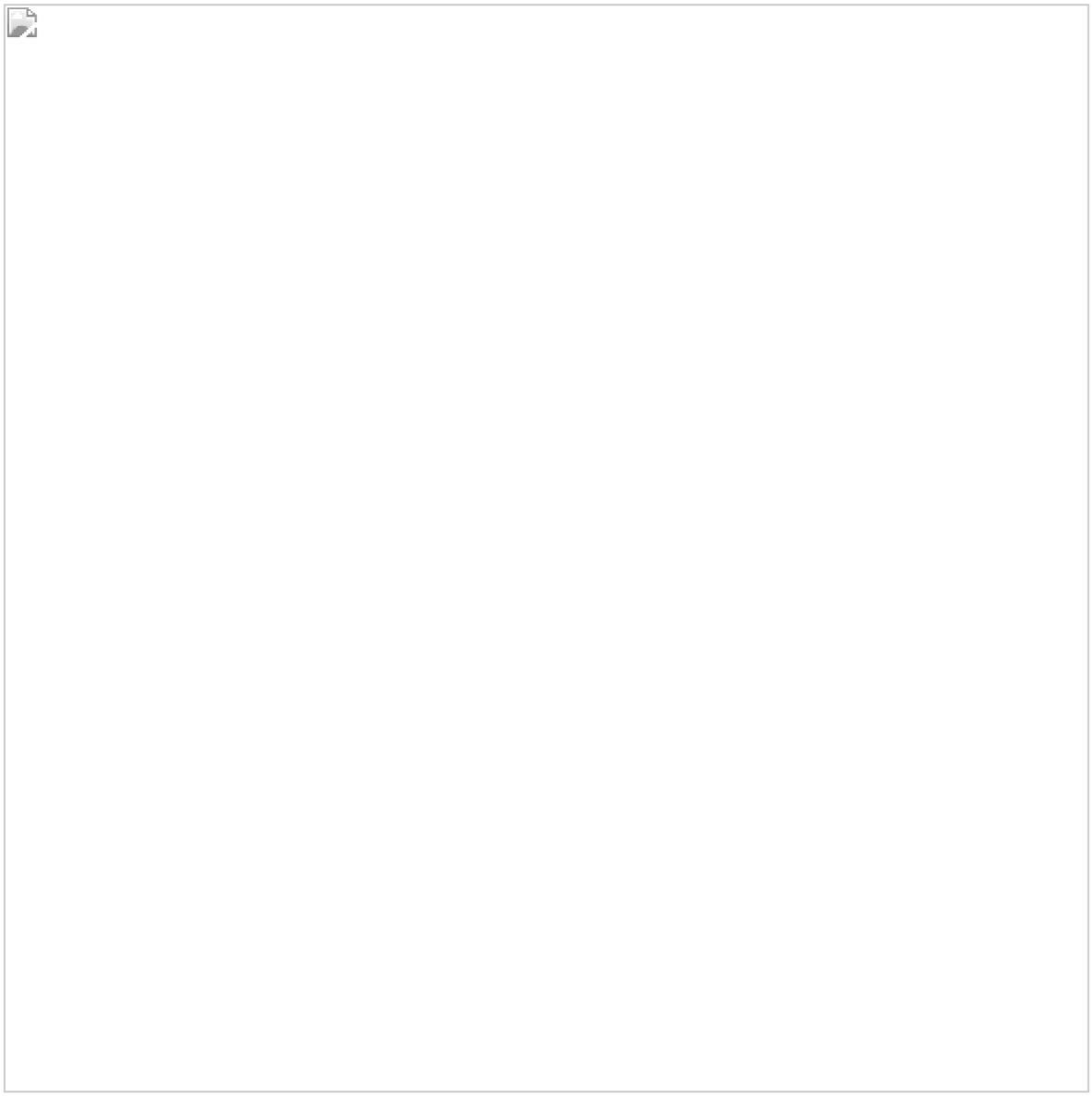
Think about it

1. What did the sign on David's back say?

- ○ Take care of him. He bites.
- ○ Welcome to school.
- ○ He is the best reader.

2. What does a good friend do when you are new somewhere?

David's Mother



One day at school Mrs. Creakle tells David that his mother is very ill. He knows at once what it means. His mother is dead, and her little baby died a day after her. They are buried together.

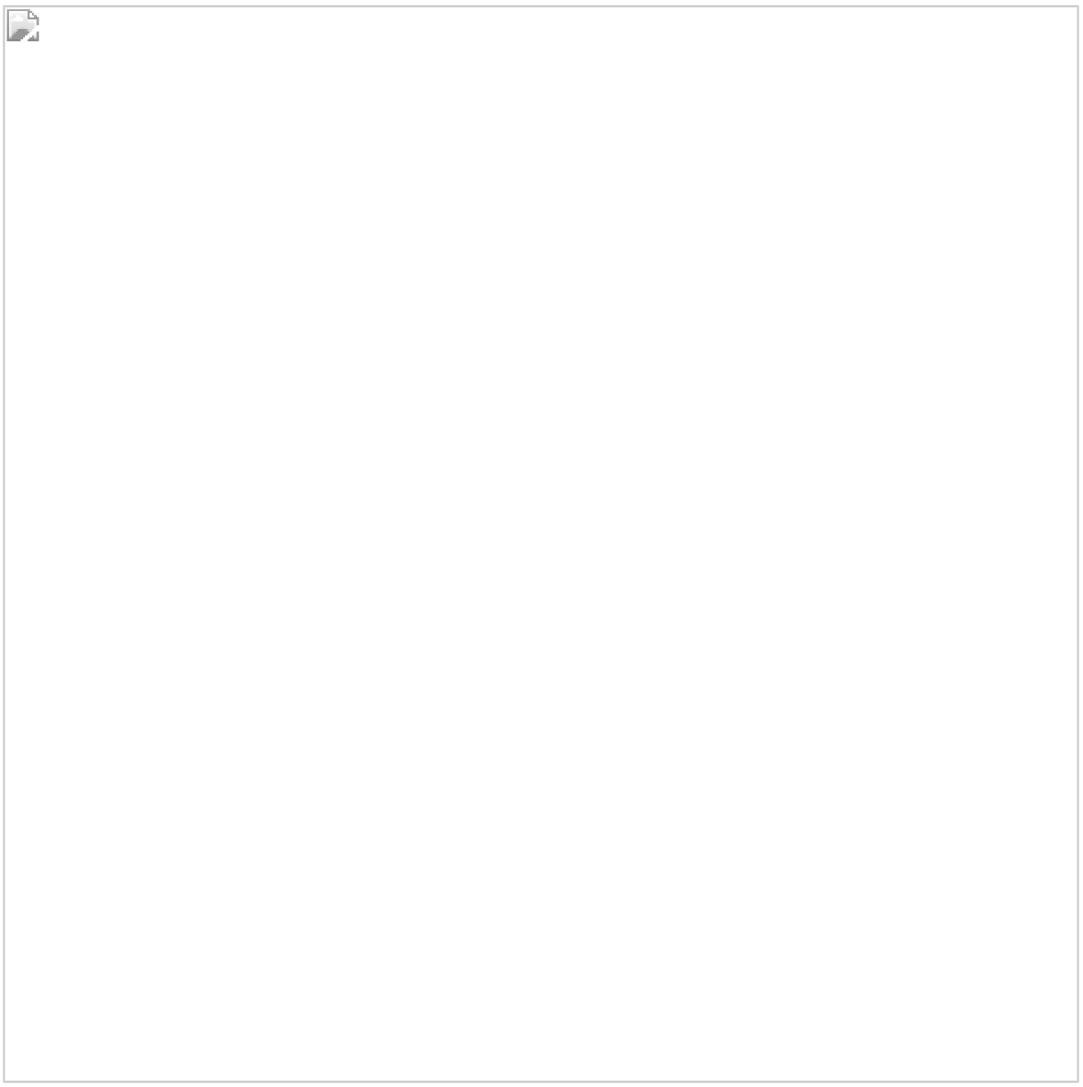
David goes home. Peggotty, who was with his mother at the end, tells him how it was. His mother asked Peggotty to tell him that she blessed him a thousand times. At the end she laid her head on Peggotty's arm, “and she died like a child that had gone to sleep!”

David cries and cries. Peggotty is the one who stays close to him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who do you think helped David feel less alone? What helps you when you miss someone?

David's Mother · another picture



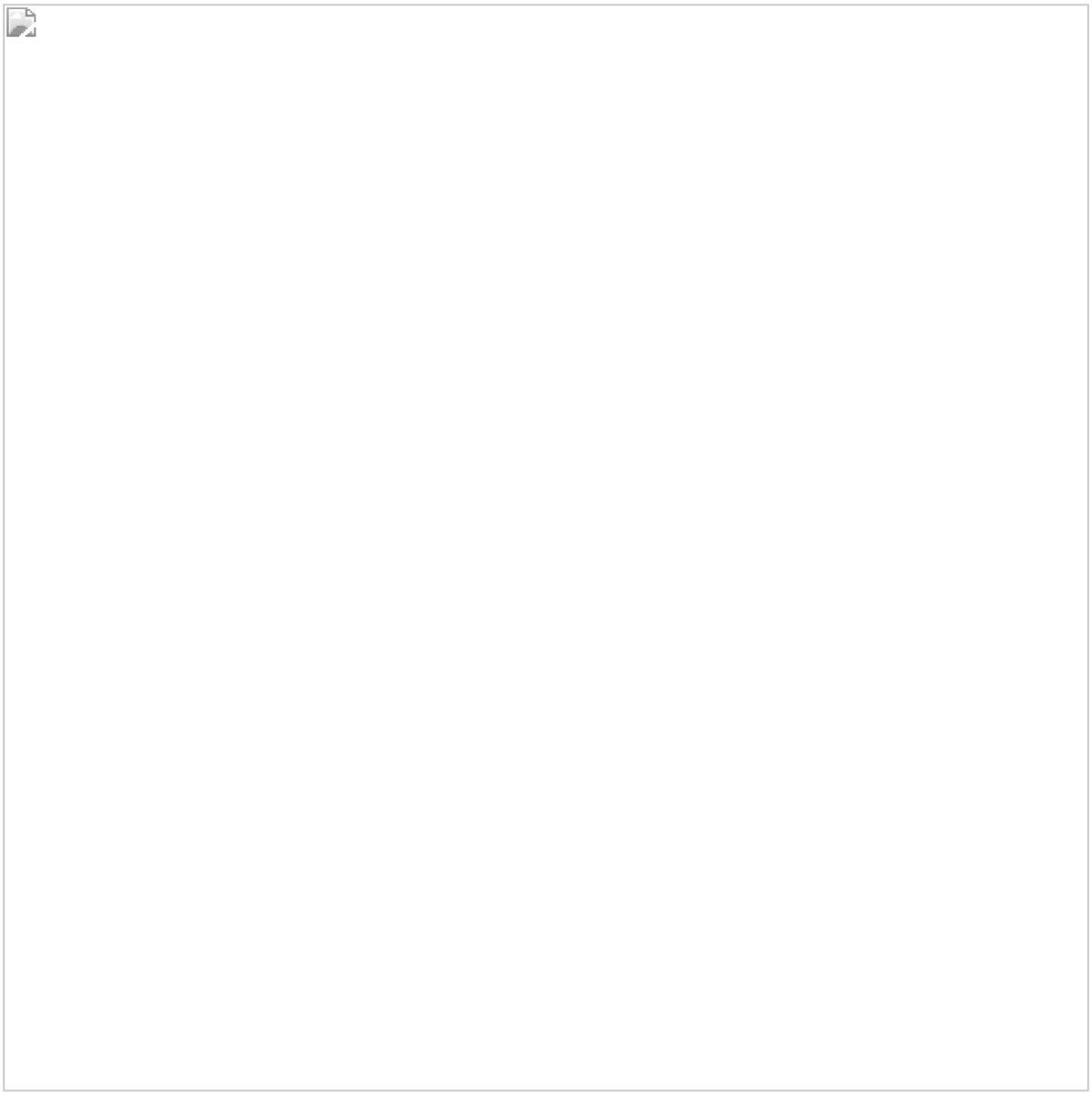
Think about it

1. Who stays close to David when his mother dies?

- ○ Peggotty
- ○ Mr. Creakle
- ○ Mr. Murdstone

2. What could someone say or do to help a friend who is sad because someone has died?

The Warehouse and Mr. Micawber



Mr. Murdstone will not send David back to school. At ten, David is sent to London to wash bottles all day in a warehouse. He is alone, hungry and tired.

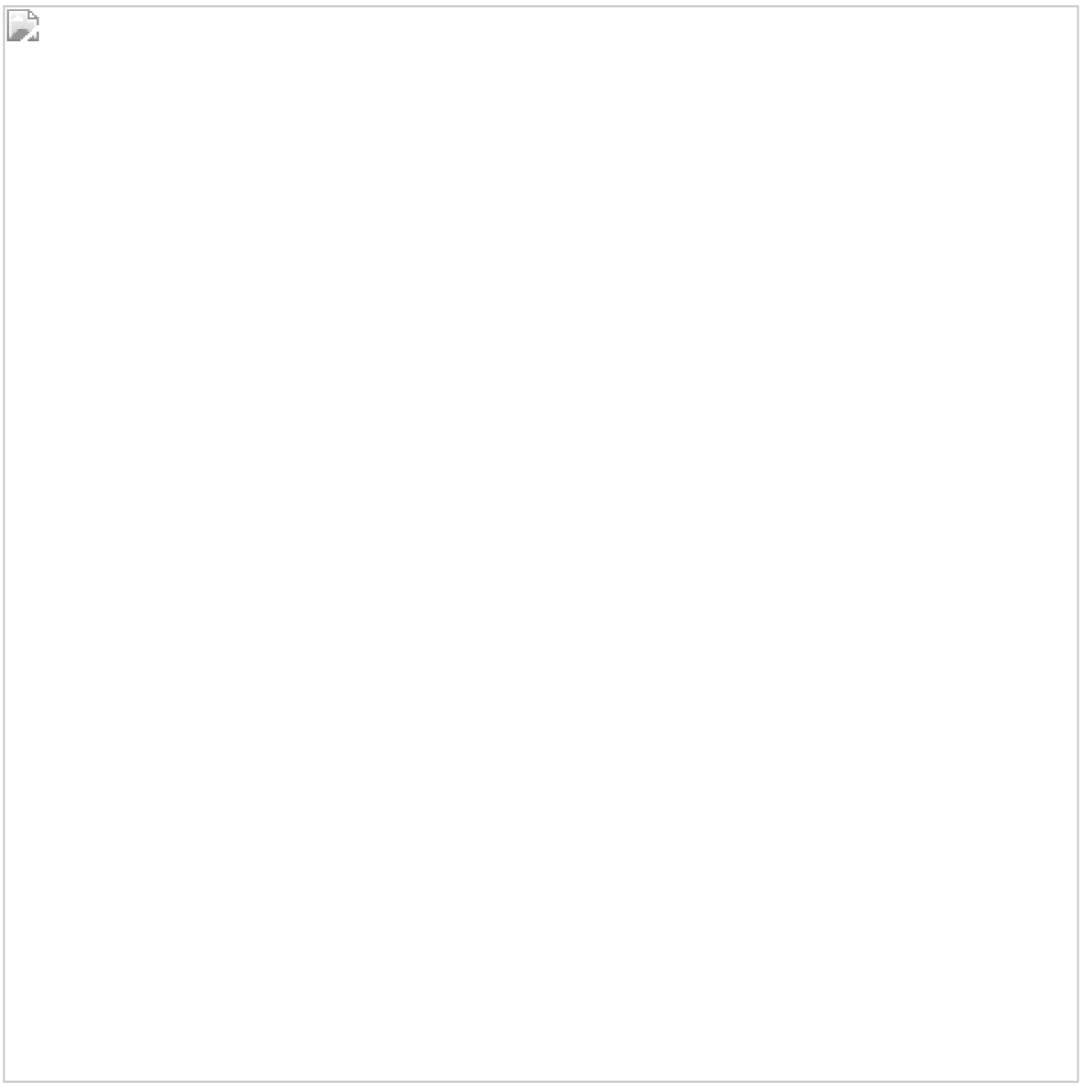
He lodges with the Micawbers. Mr. Micawber is a large, cheerful, talkative man, always in money trouble. He tells David that if you spend a little less than you earn, you will be happy, and if you spend a little more, you will be miserable.

Mr. Micawber cannot pay his debts, and he is sent to prison. Afterwards the family leave London, and David loses his only friends there.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think David missed most in London? What do you think of Mr. Micawber? Why might he be a good friend even when he gets things wrong?

The Warehouse and Mr. Micawber · another picture



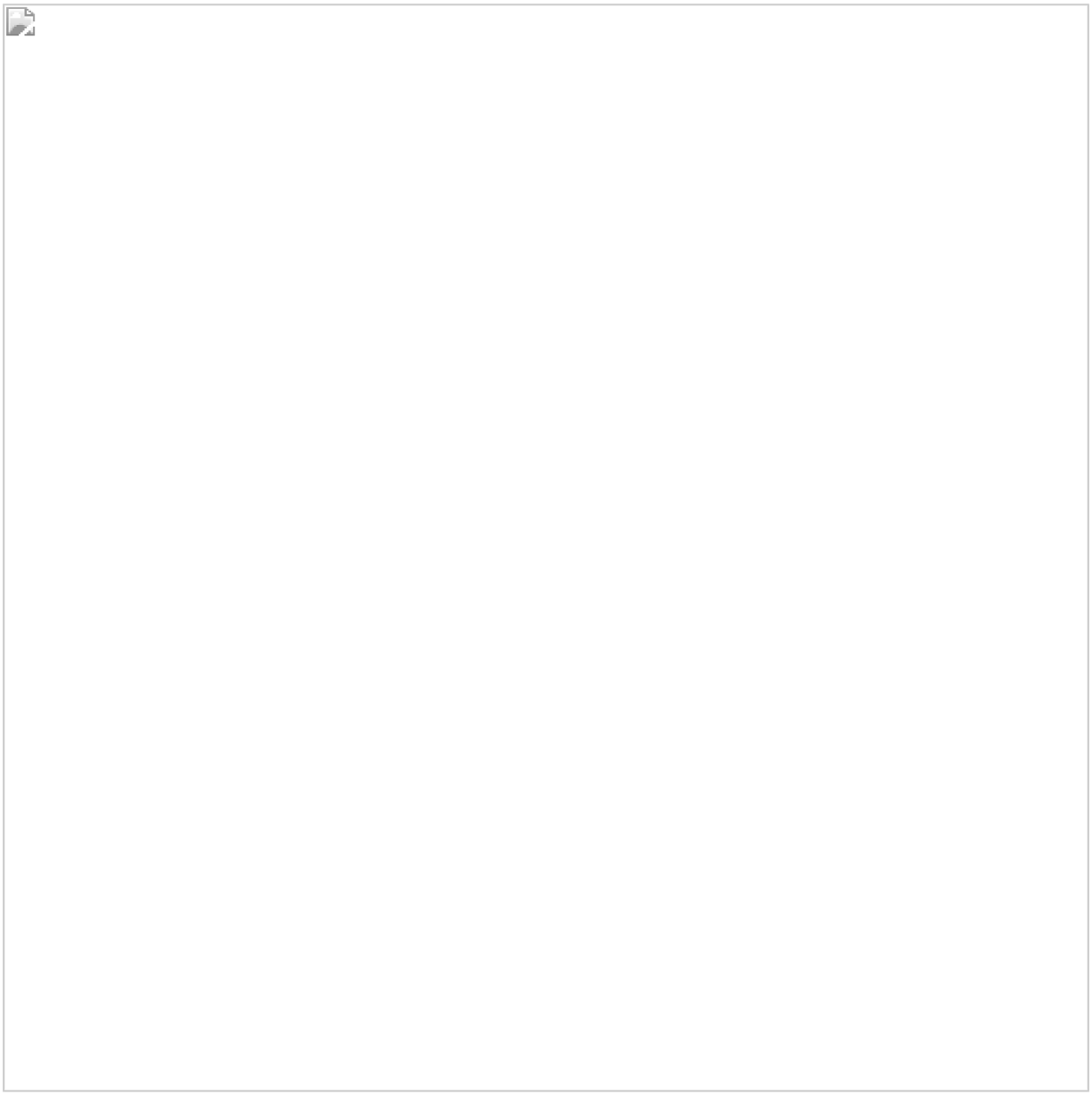
Think about it

1. Where does David work in London?

- ○ In a bottle warehouse
- ○ In a toy shop
- ○ On a ship

2. Have you ever met someone who was kind to you when things were hard?

The Long Walk



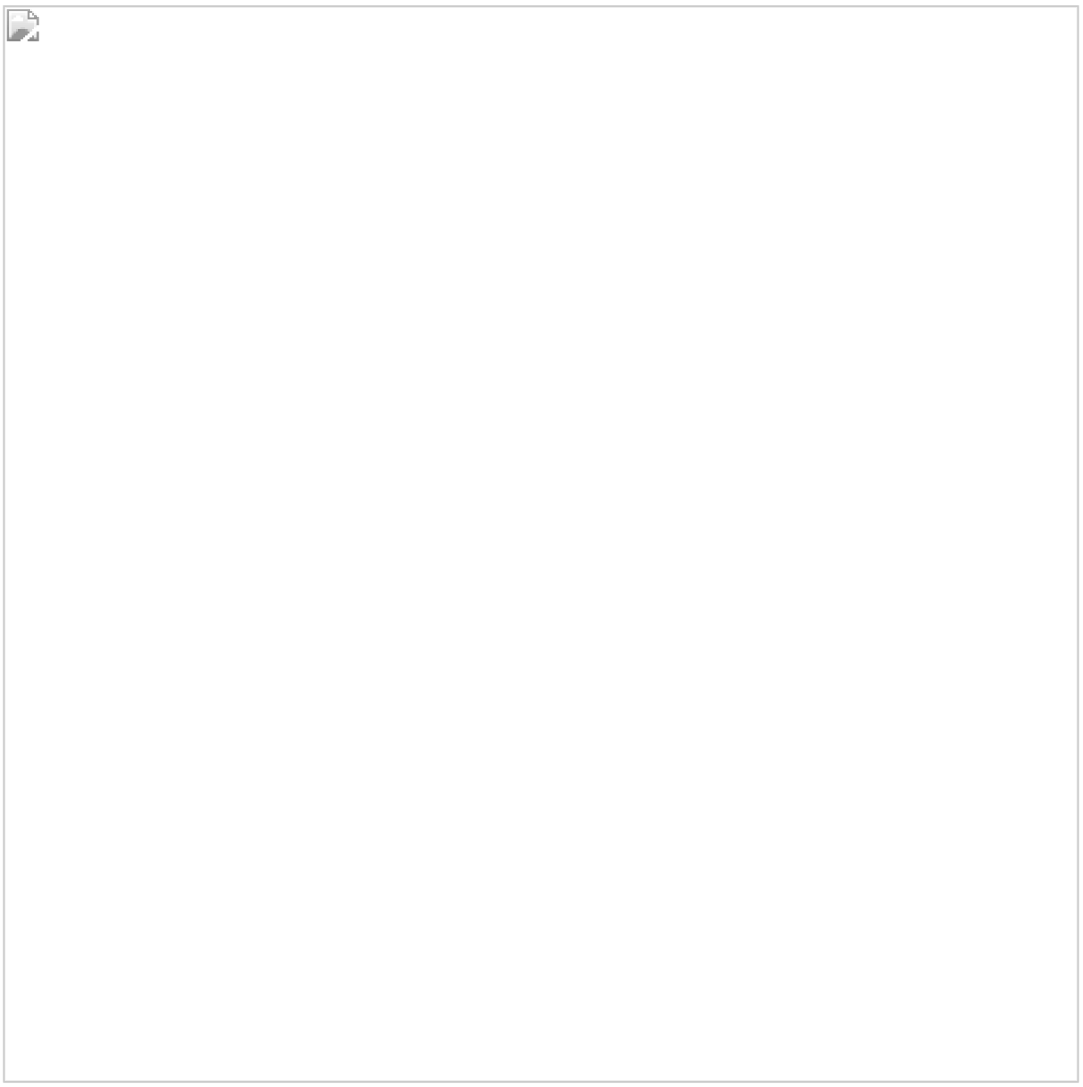
David decides to find his father's aunt, Miss Betsey Trotwood, who lives in Dover. He writes to Peggotty, and Peggotty sends him a little money.

But a young man with a donkey cart steals David's box and his money. David has to sell his waistcoat to pay for a little food. He walks and walks for days, and he sleeps outside.

At last he reaches Dover, tired, dusty, and very ragged. He asks where Miss Betsey Trotwood lives.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think kept David walking? How do you think he felt when he got to Dover?



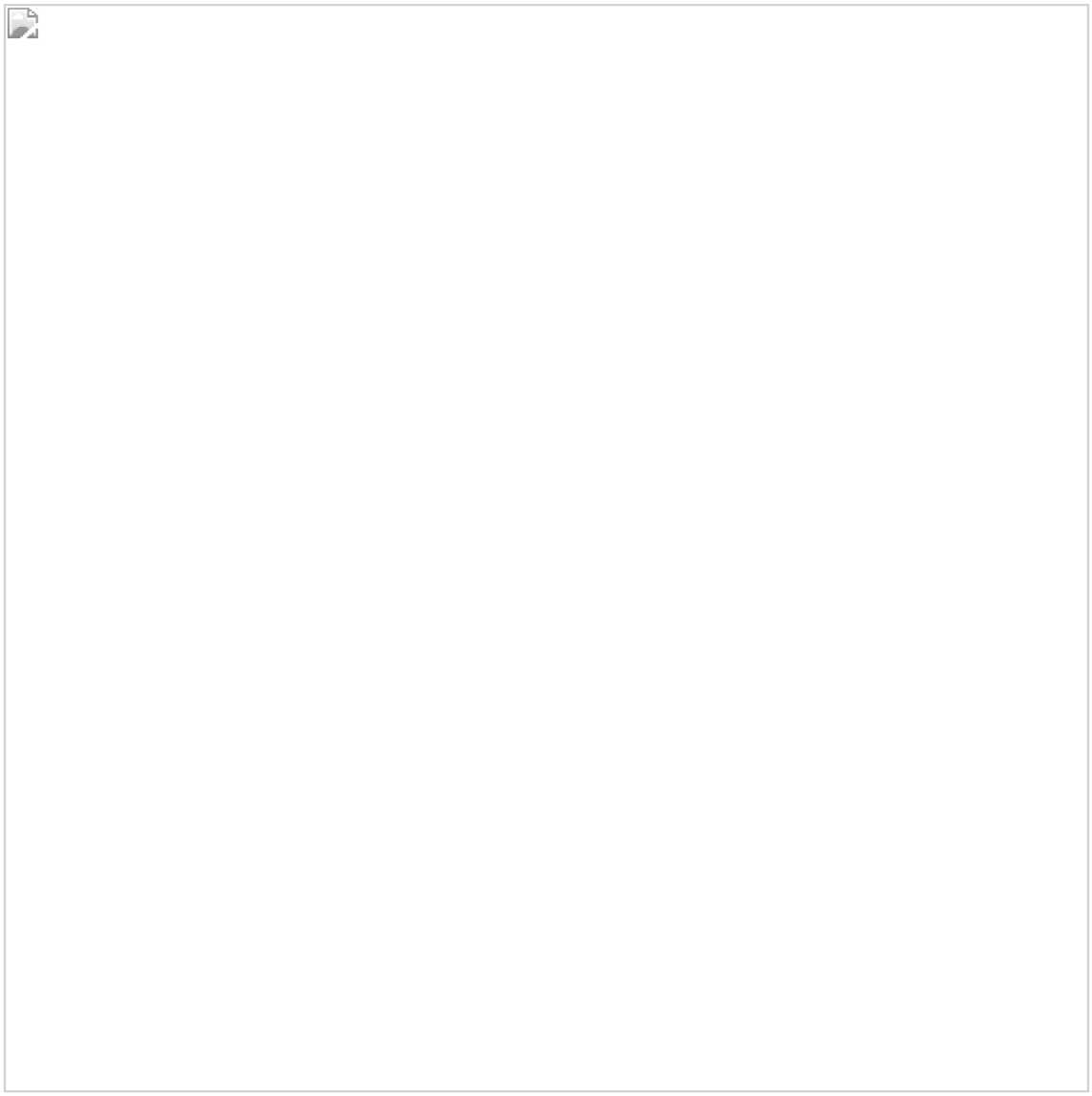
Think about it

1. Where is David trying to go?

- ○ To his aunt in Dover
- ○ Back to the warehouse
- ○ To the sea with Ham

2. What would you want someone to do if you showed up at their door tired and hungry?

“Janet! Donkeys!”



Miss Betsey Trotwood is stern, but she is kind. She cannot stand donkeys on the green patch of grass in front of her cottage. “Janet! Donkeys!” she cries, and she runs out to chase them away.

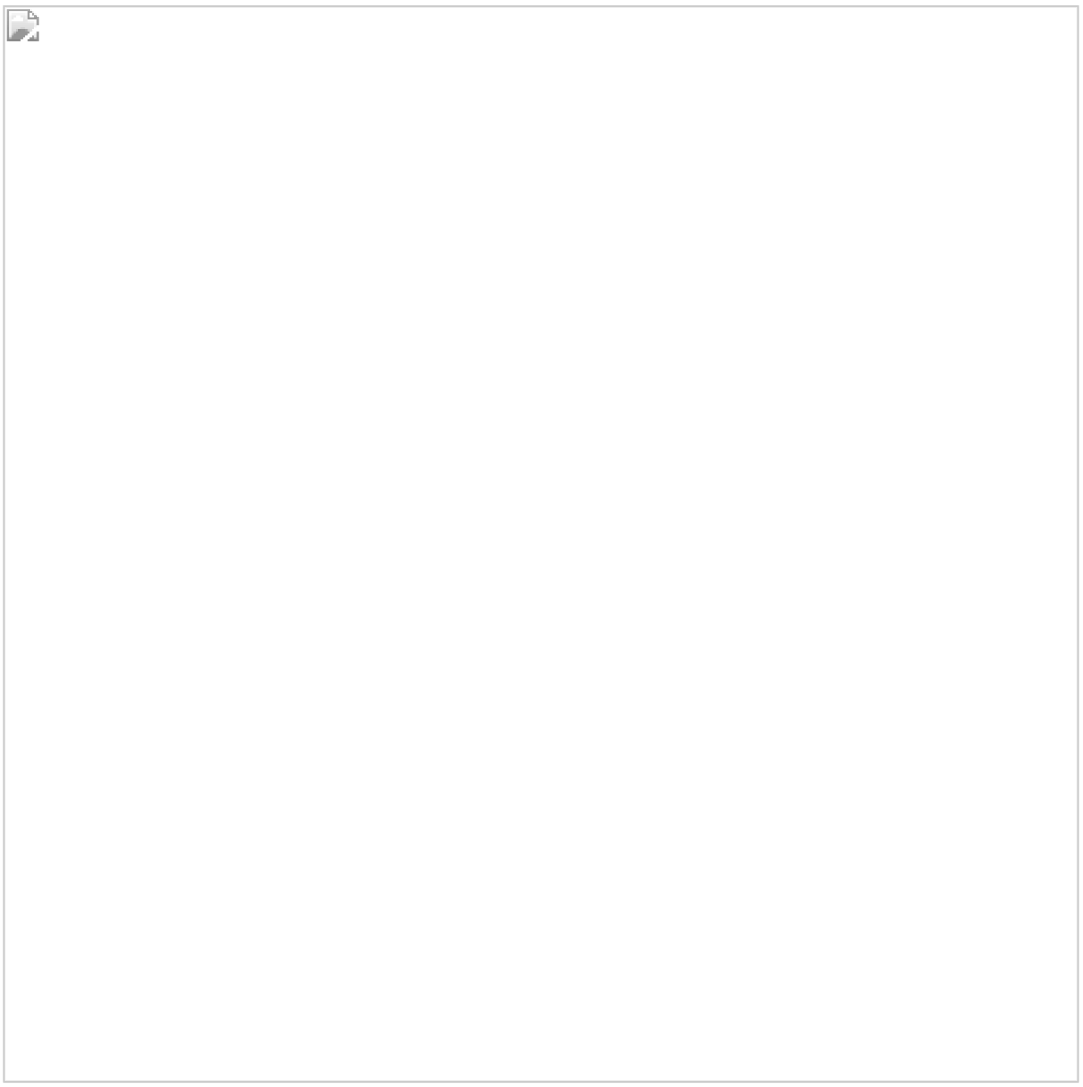
David tells her who he is and what has happened to him. She takes him in. She gives him food and a bed, and she asks Mr. Dick, a gentle man who lives with her, what she should do with him.

When Mr. Murdstone comes to take David back, Miss Betsey will not let him. She sends the Murdstones away. David is hers now. She calls him Trot.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think David's aunt was so strict about donkeys and so kind to David? What do you think Mr. Dick was like?

“Janet! Donkeys!” · another picture



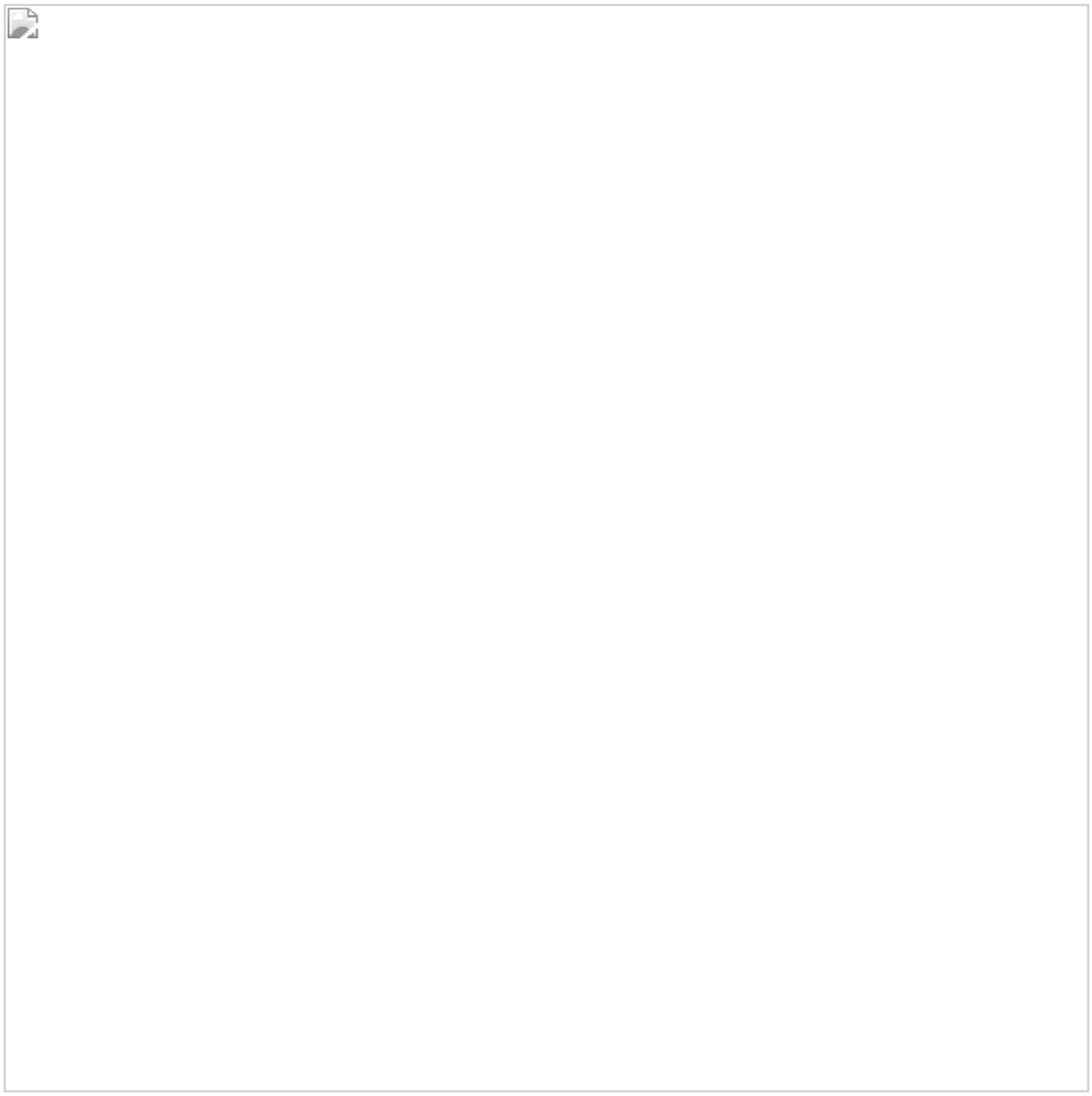
Think about it

1. What does Miss Betsey shout when she sees the donkeys?

- ○ Janet! Donkeys!
- ○ Dinner is ready!
- ○ Come back, Trot!

2. Who has been kind to you when you did not expect it?

Canterbury, Agnes and Uriah



Aunt Betsey sends David to a good school in Canterbury. Before he goes, she tells him what she hopes for him. “Never,” said my aunt, “be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel.”

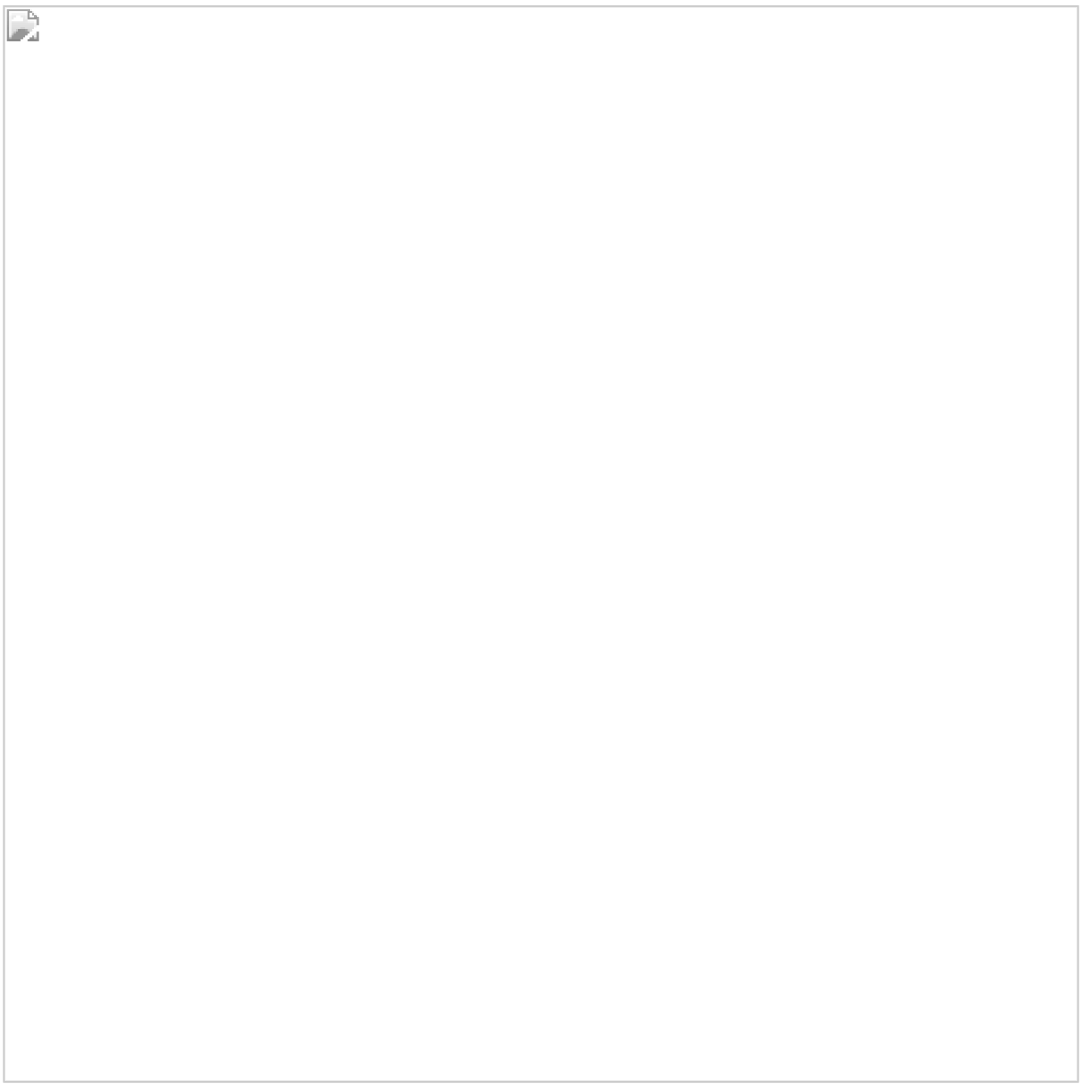
David will live with Mr. Wickfield and his daughter, Agnes. Agnes is about David's age, and she is quiet, good, and wise.

Mr. Wickfield's clerk is a strange young man named Uriah Heep. He has red hair and long cold hands, and he says over and over how humble he is. David does not like him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Aunt Betsey wanted David to remember these three things? How do you think Uriah's way of talking made David feel?

Canterbury, Agnes and Uriah · another picture



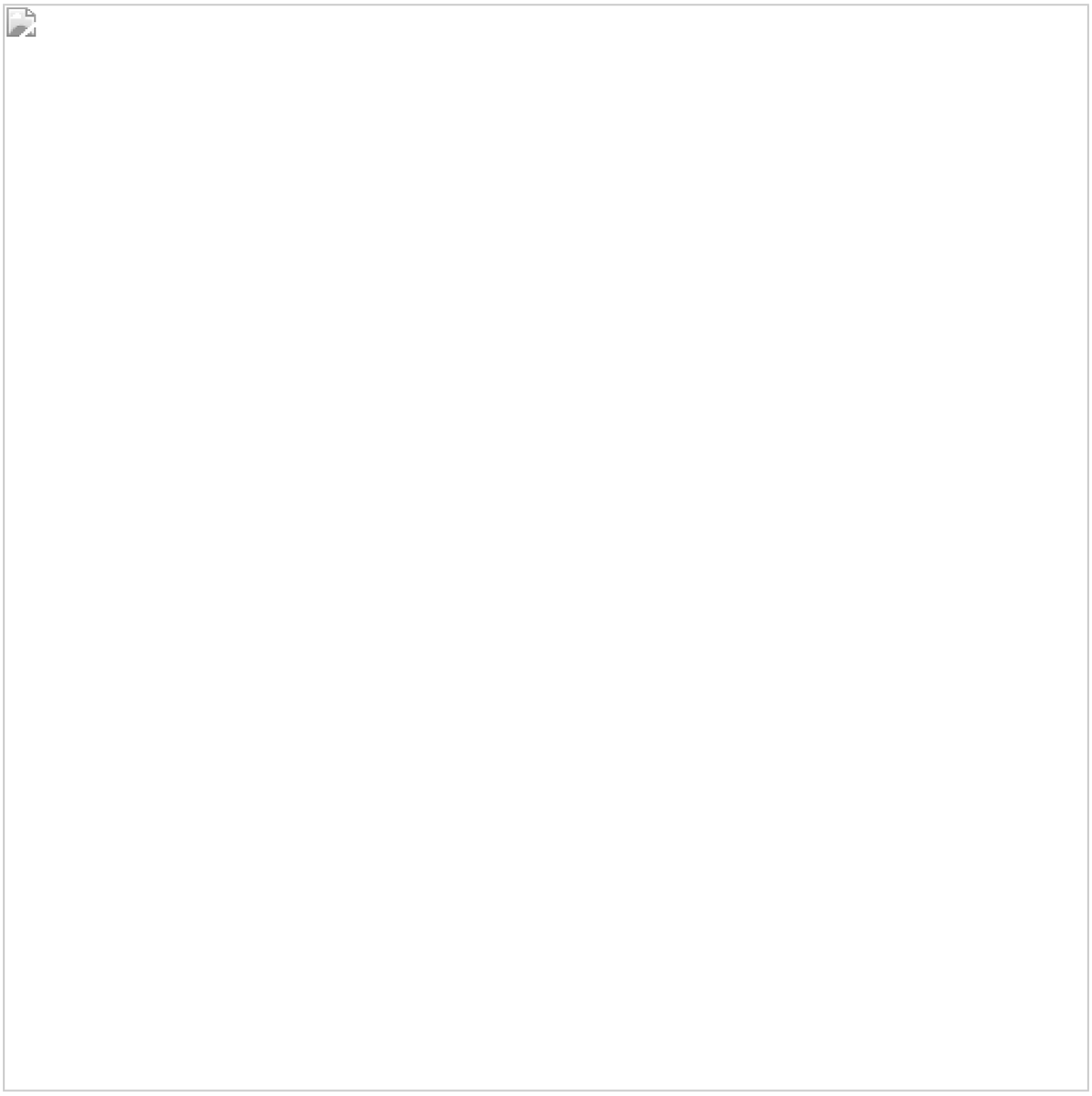
Think about it

1. Who is Agnes?

- ○ Mr. Wickfield's daughter
- ○ Mr. Dick's sister
- ○ A girl from Yarmouth

2. What do you think it means to be false? Can you think of a time when you saw someone being kind instead?

Growing Up



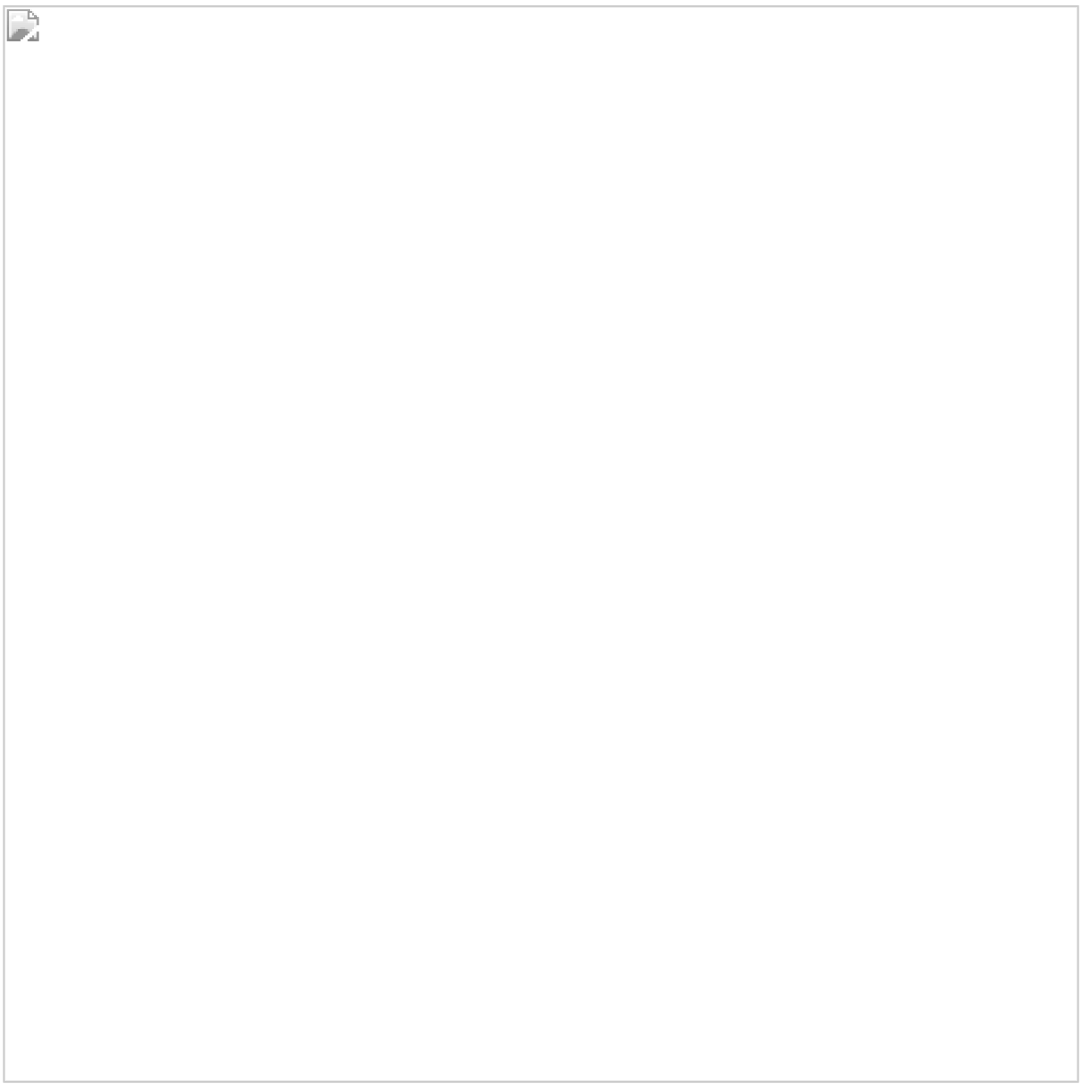
David grows up. When school is over, Aunt Betsey sends him on a trip to see Peggotty. On the way, in London, he meets Steerforth again, and Steerforth is just as friendly as before. Later, David starts work at a law office.

David takes Steerforth to Yarmouth to meet the Peggottys. Em'ly is now a grown young woman. She is going to marry Ham, who is good and strong and loves her.

Steerforth is charming, and the Peggottys like him very much. David is proud to have such a friend.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think David was proud of Steerforth? What do you notice about the way Steerforth talks to the Peggottys?



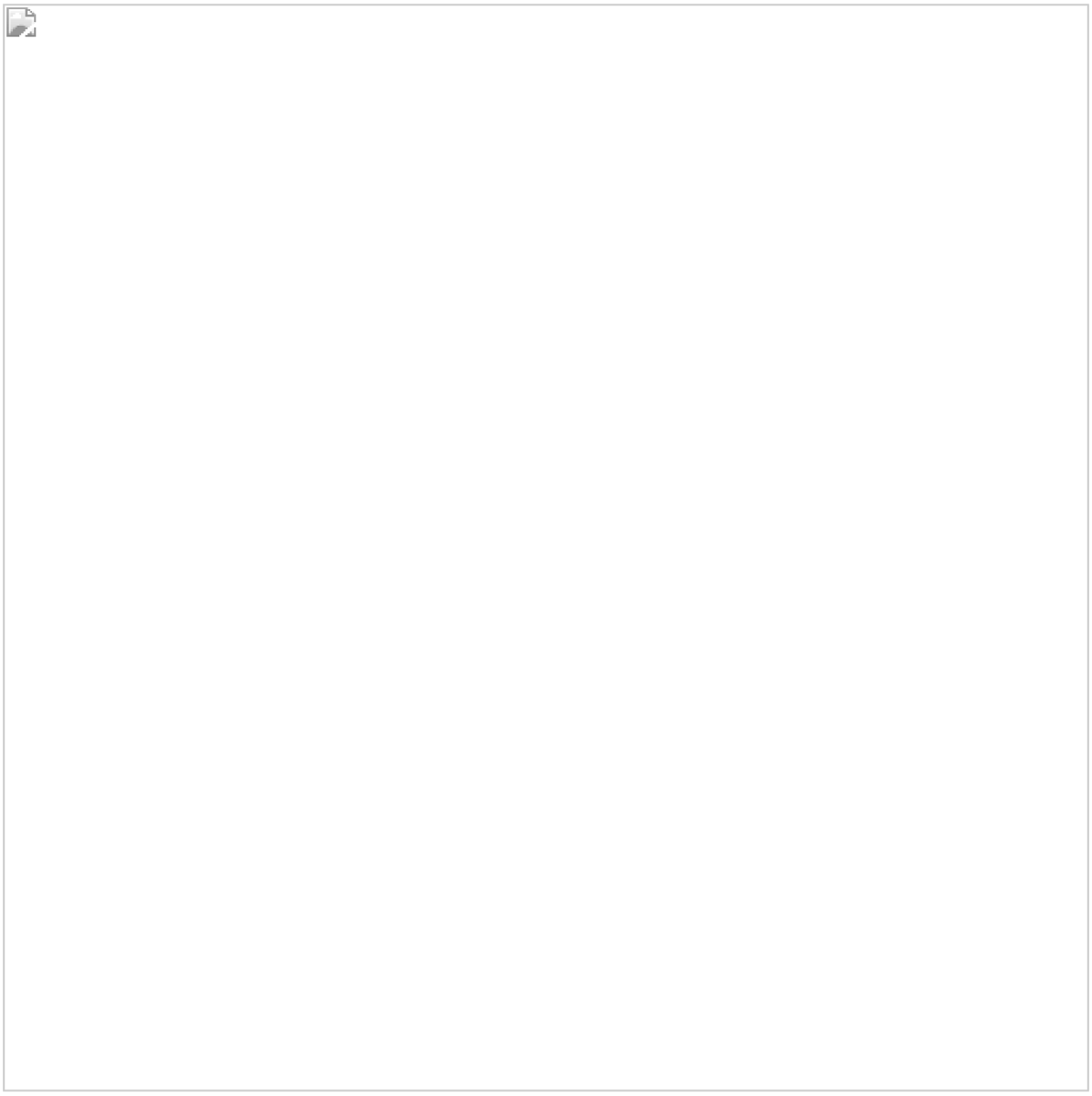
Think about it

1. Who is Em'ly going to marry?

- ○ Ham
- ○ Steerforth
- ○ Mr. Micawber

2. What do you look for in a good friend?

Dora, and Em'ly Is Gone



In London David meets Dora, who is the daughter of the man he works for. She is small and bright, with curls and a little dog called Jip. David falls in love with her at once.

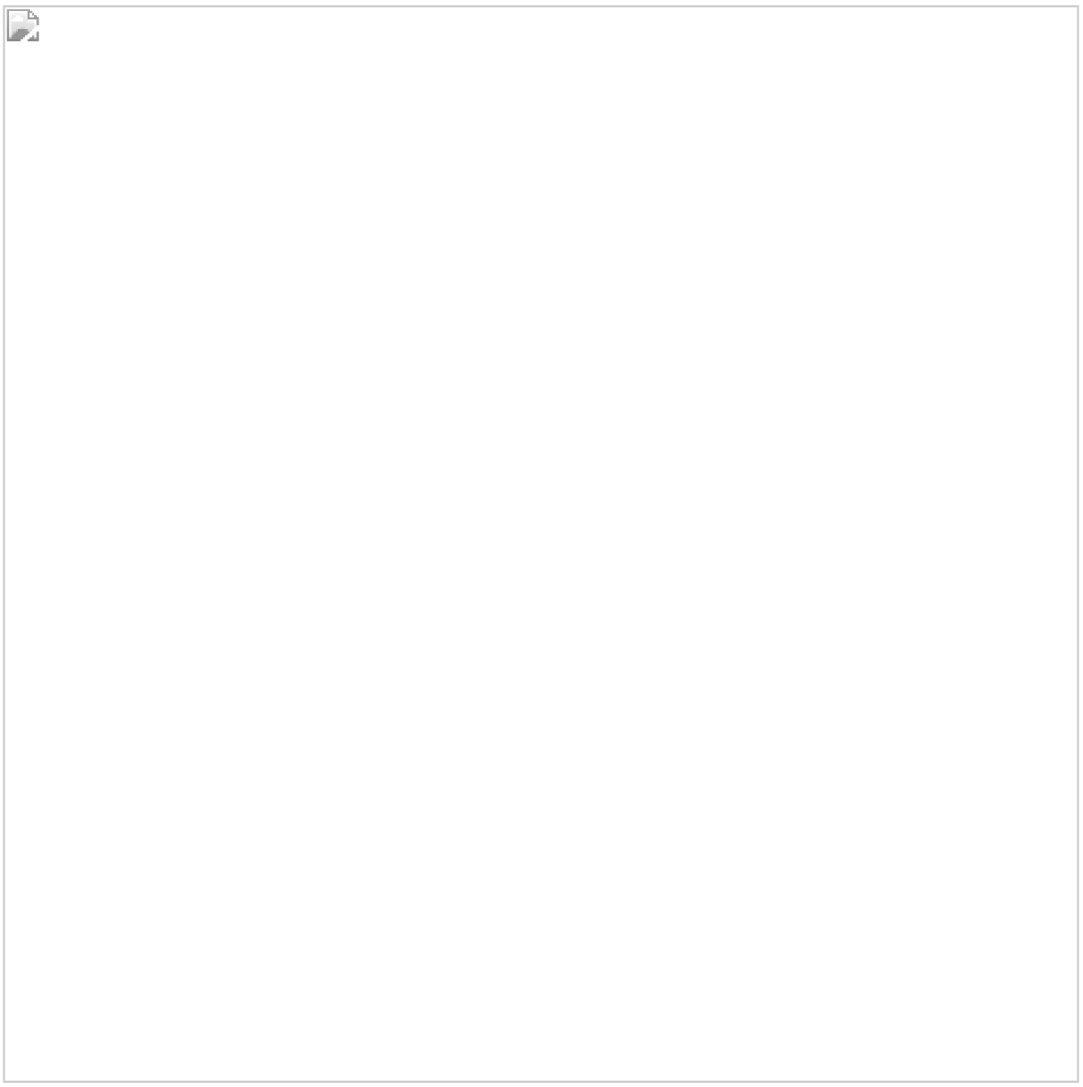
Then, while David is in Yarmouth, terrible news comes. Em'ly has run away. She has gone with Steerforth. Ham is heartbroken, and so is Mr. Peggotty.

Mr. Peggotty stands very still. Then he takes down his coat. “I’m a going to seek my niece. I’m a going to seek my Em’ly.” And he sets out to look for her.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think Ham and Mr. Peggotty felt? How do you think David felt about his friend Steerforth?

Dora, and Em'ly Is Gone · another picture



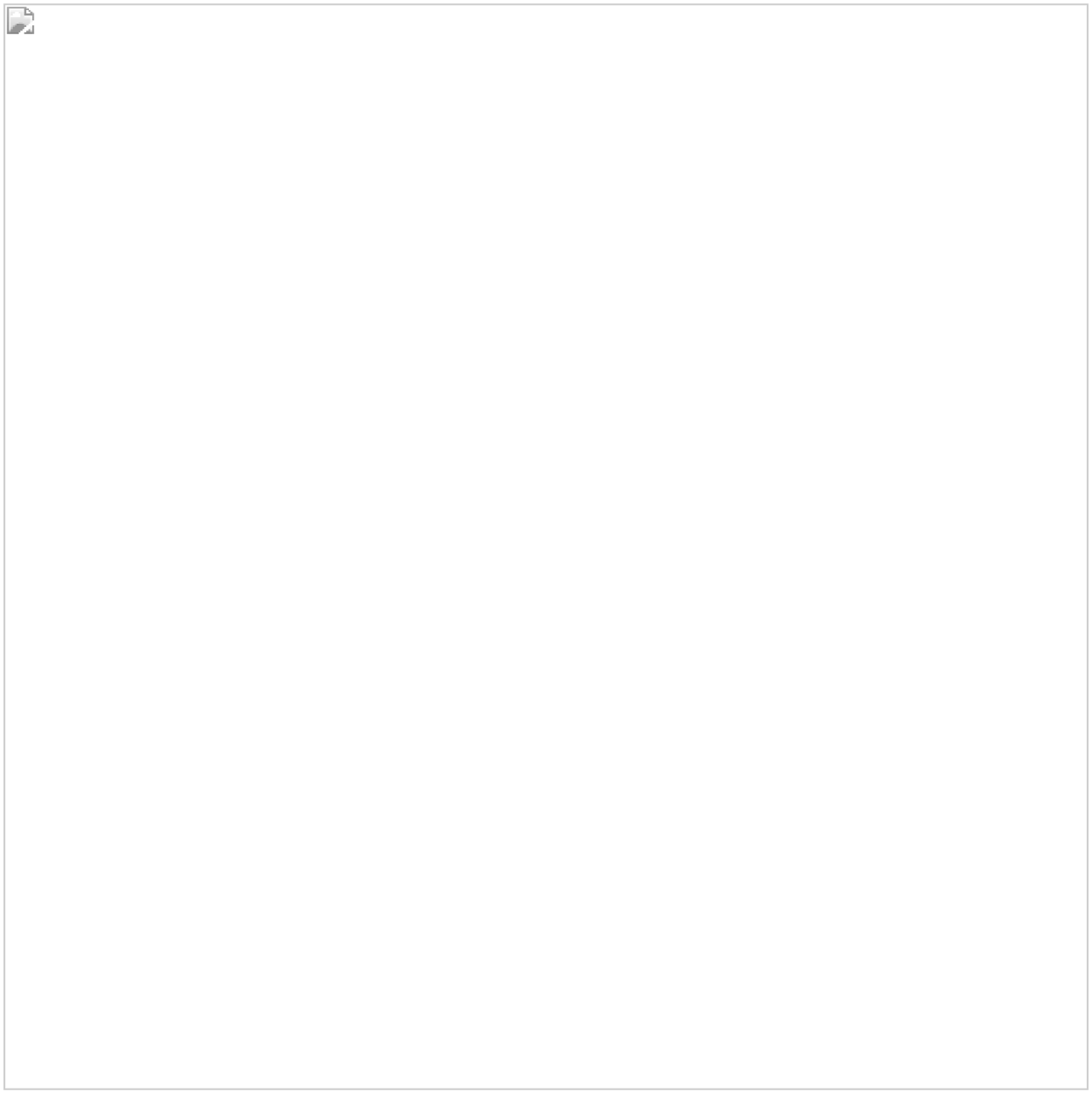
Think about it

1. What does Mr. Peggotty decide to do?

- ○ Look for Em'ly
- ○ Forget her
- ○ Go to sea alone

2. When someone you love goes away, what do you hope they remember about home?

Hard Times, and a Wedding



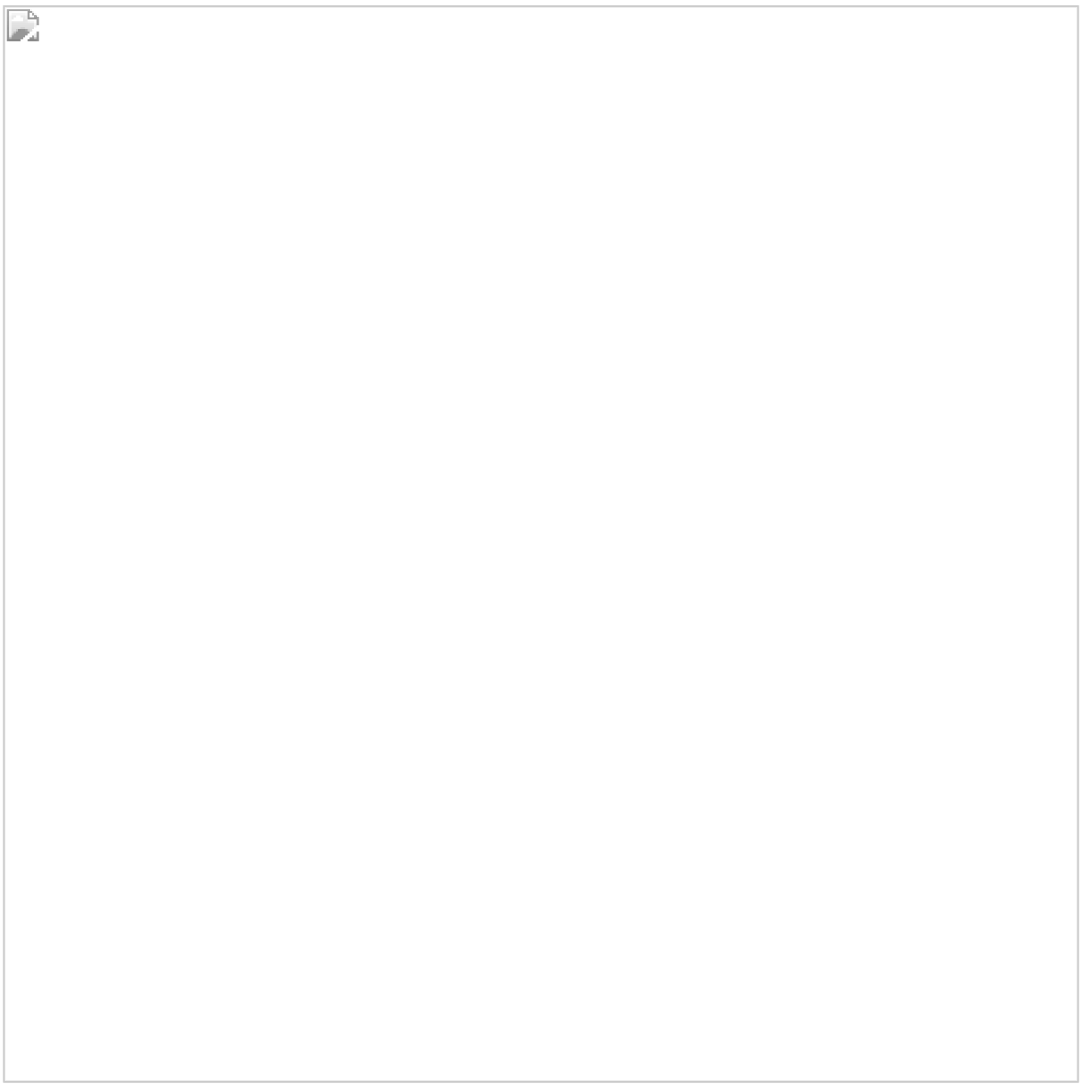
Then Aunt Betsey loses all her money. David must work harder than ever. He learns a new kind of fast writing, he works for a doctor, and he writes at night.

Mr. Dick helps too, in his own way, by copying papers.

David and Dora are married. Dora is sweet, but she cannot manage the house, and David learns to love her just as she is.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who helps David when times are hard? What do you do when you have to work hard at something?



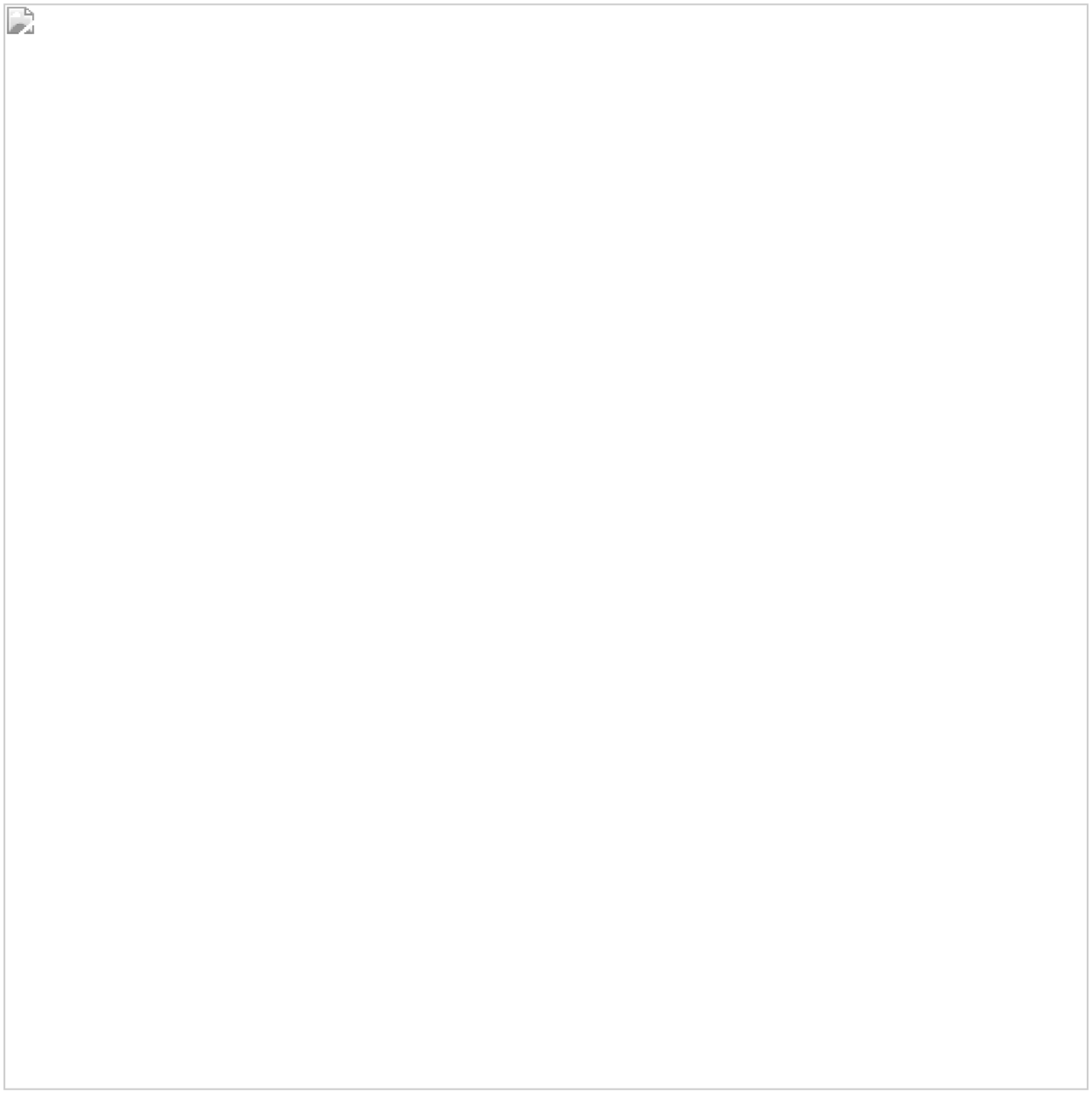
Think about it

1. Who loses her money?

- ○ Aunt Betsey
- ○ Peggotty
- ○ Agnes

2. How do you think David and Aunt Betsey take care of each other?

Found at Last



For a long time, Mr. Peggotty walks from place to place, asking for Em'ly. He saves his money, so that he will have it for her when he finds her.

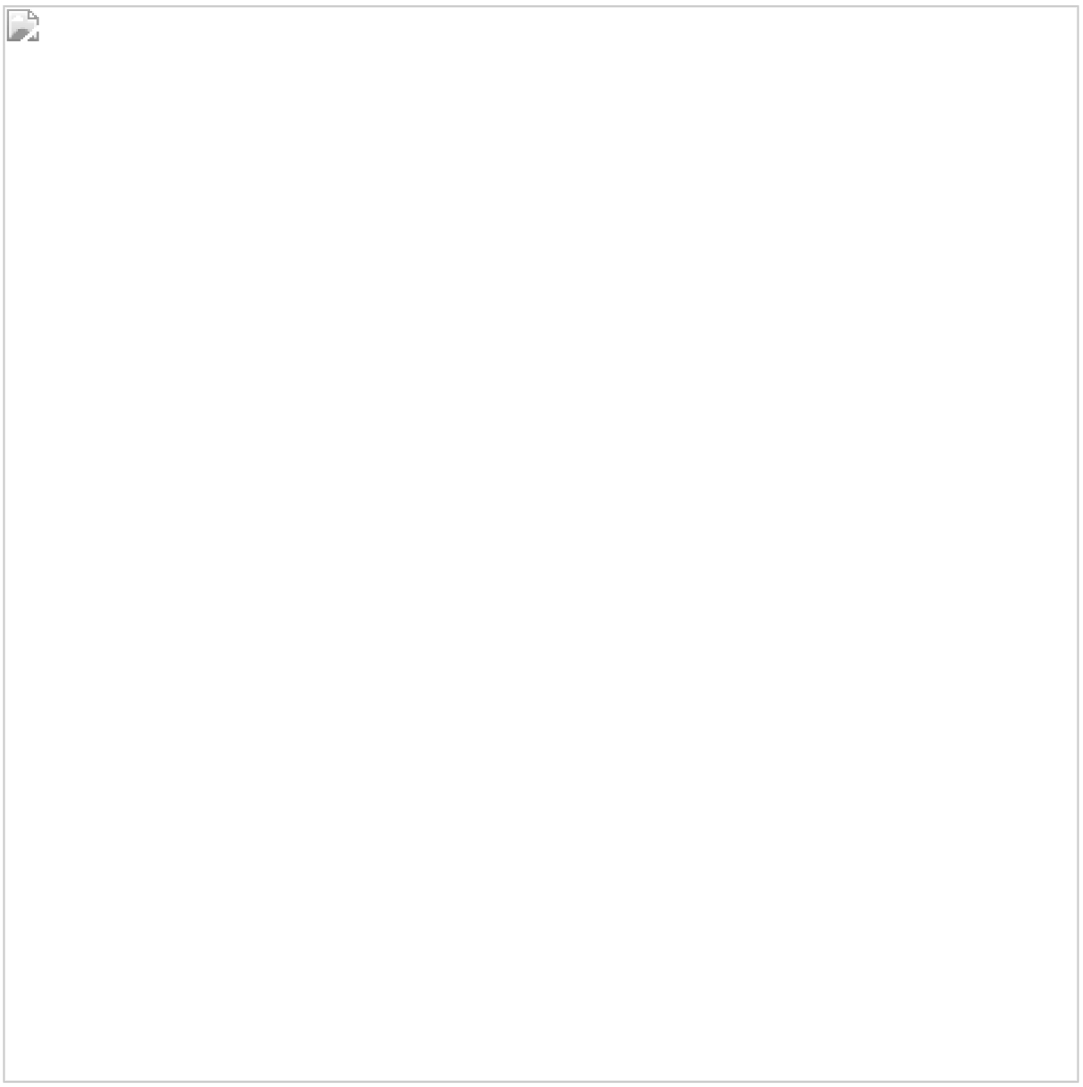
At last a young woman named Martha helps him. Em'ly is in a room in London.

Mr. Peggotty finds her. When she cries out to him, he picks her up in his arms and carries her away. He is full of thanks.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Mr. Peggotty did not stop looking? What do you think Em'ly felt when she saw him?

Found at Last · another picture



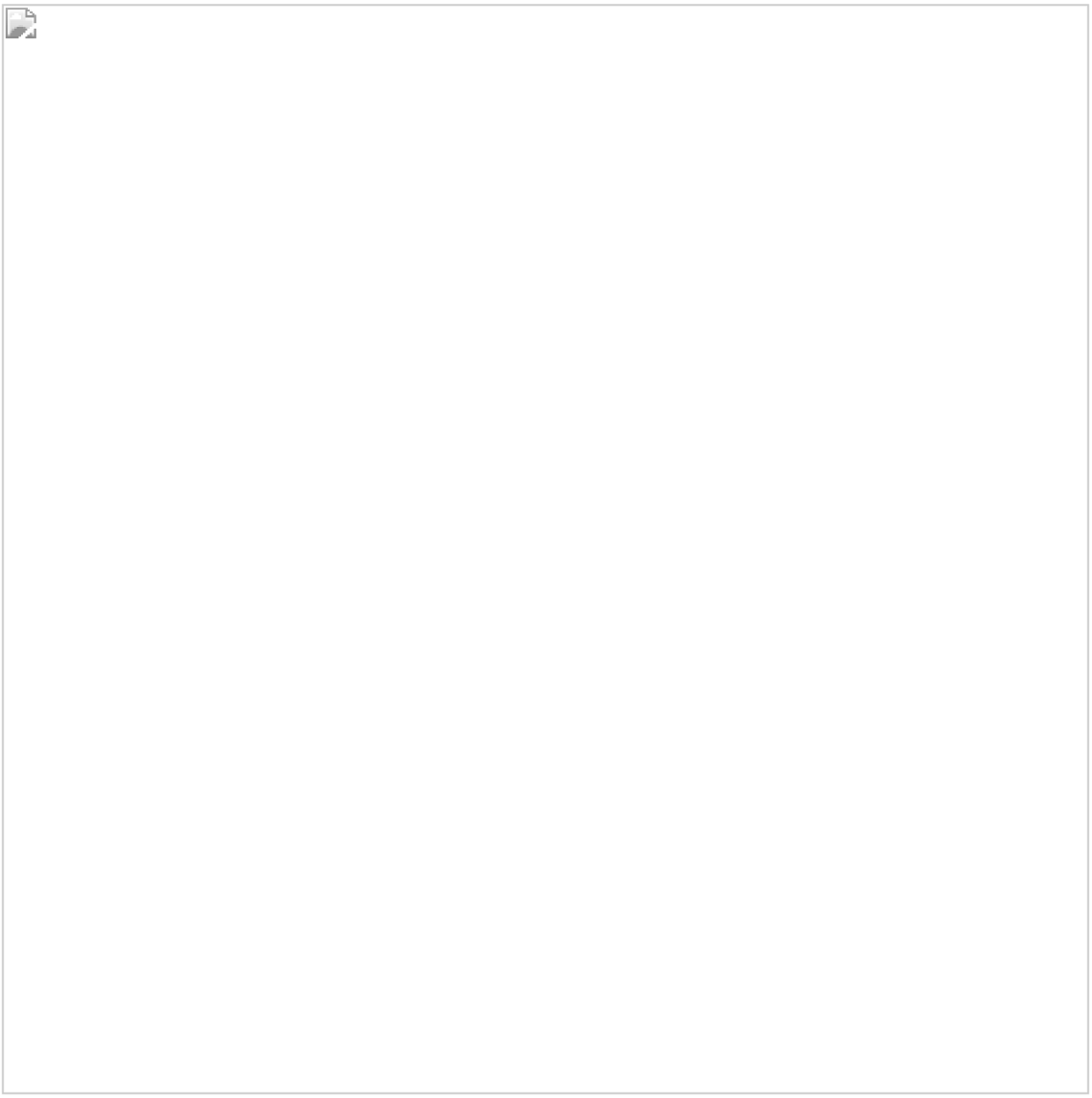
Think about it

1. Who helped Mr. Peggotty find Em'ly?

- ○ Martha
- ○ Mr. Creakle
- ○ Janet

2. What do you think it means to forgive someone and take them back?

Uriah Heep Is Found Out



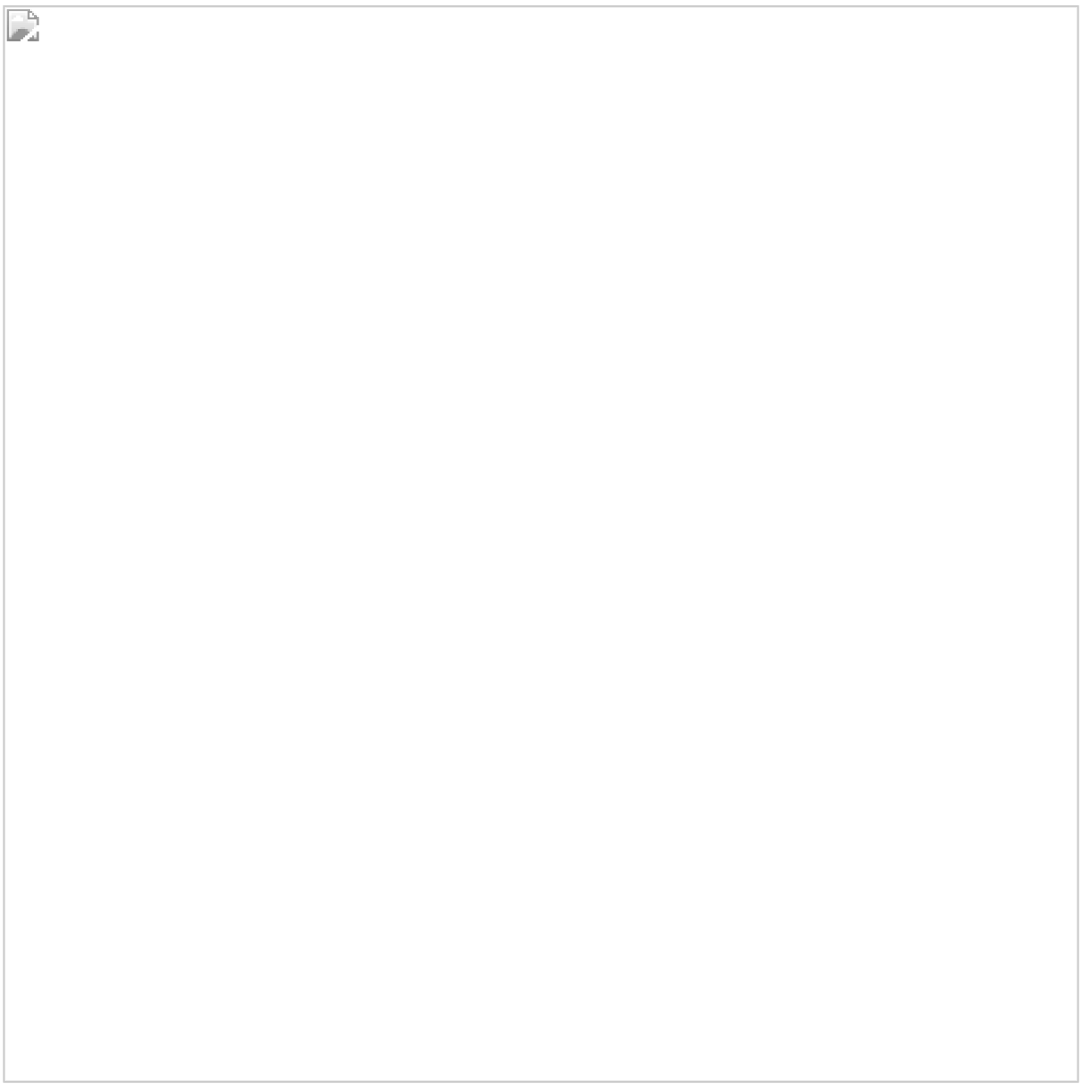
All this time, Uriah Heep has been busy. He has been tricking Mr. Wickfield, and he has been taking Mr. Wickfield's money.

One day Mr. Micawber, who works for Uriah, tells everything. David, Aunt Betsey, and Traddles are there. Mr. Micawber reads a letter. “HEEP, and only HEEP, is the Forger and the Cheat.”

Uriah has to give back everything he took. Mr. Wickfield and Agnes are free of him. Aunt Betsey finds out that it was Uriah who had her money. Mr. Micawber, Mr. Peggotty, and Em'ly plan to start a new life in Australia.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think it took so long for the truth to come out? Why do you think Mr. Micawber told it, even though he knew it would be hard?



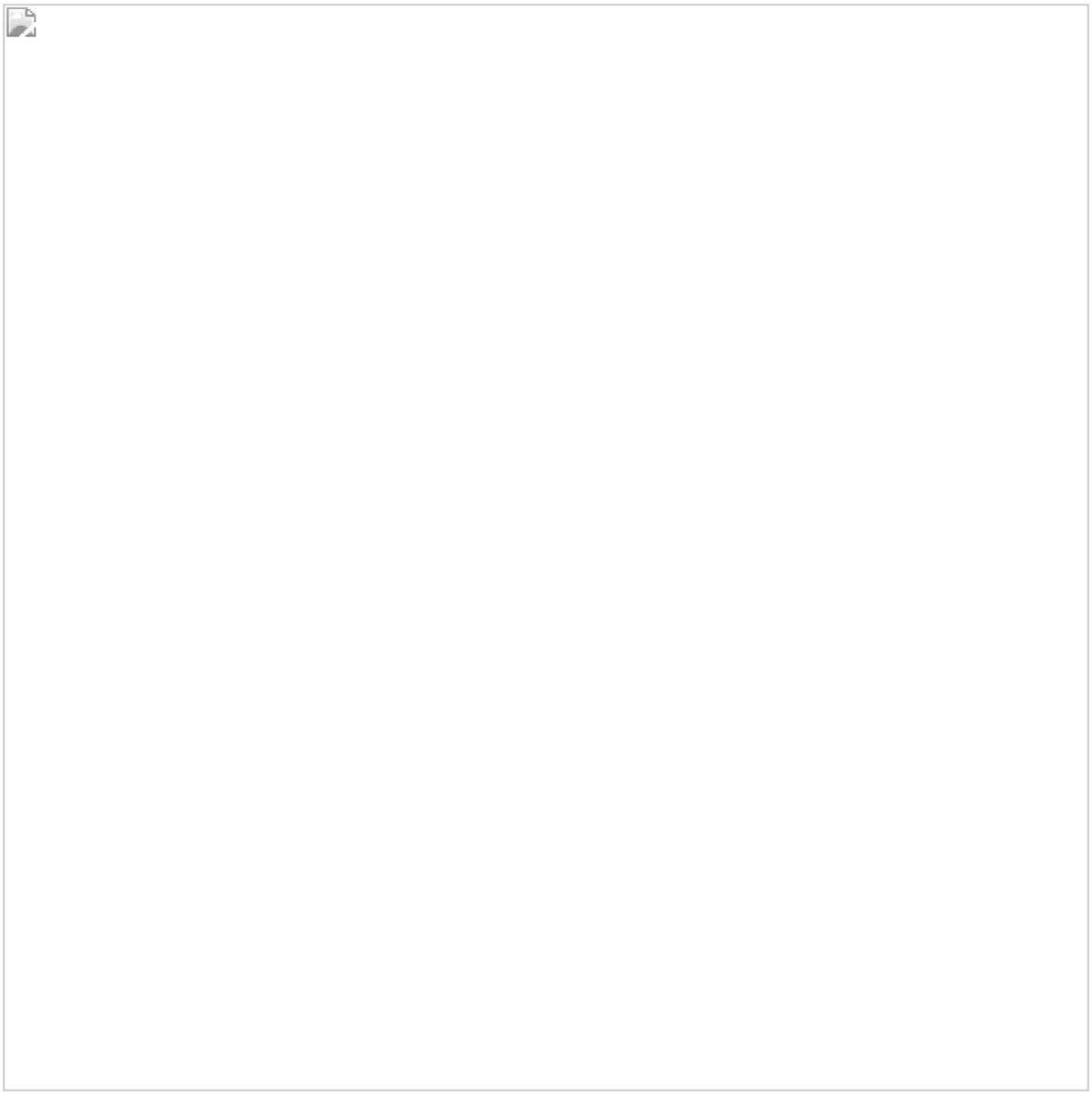
Think about it

1. Who tells the truth about Uriah Heep?

- ○ Mr. Micawber
- ○ Mr. Dick
- ○ Jip

2. Is it hard to tell the truth sometimes? When?

Dora



Dora has been ill for a long time. David sits with her every day, and Aunt Betsey does too. Jip, her little dog, who has grown old, lies on the bed.

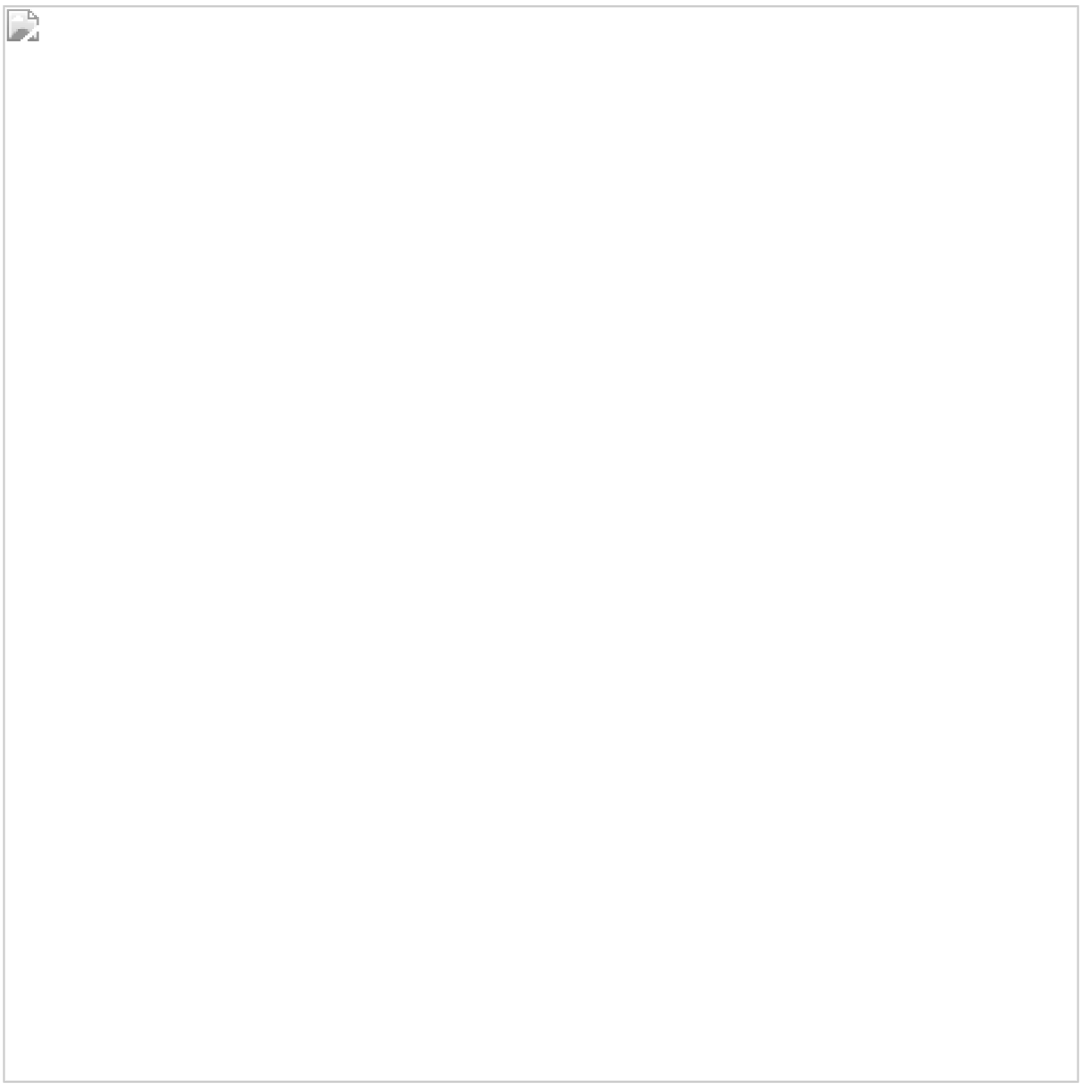
Dora asks to see Agnes. David writes to Agnes, and she comes. Dora tells David that it is better as it is. “It is much better as it is!”

That night Jip lies down by the fire and dies. Then Agnes comes down the stairs to David. Dora has died. David is so sad that for a time he cannot think of anything else.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think Dora wanted David to know? Who do you think helped David most that night?

Dora · another picture



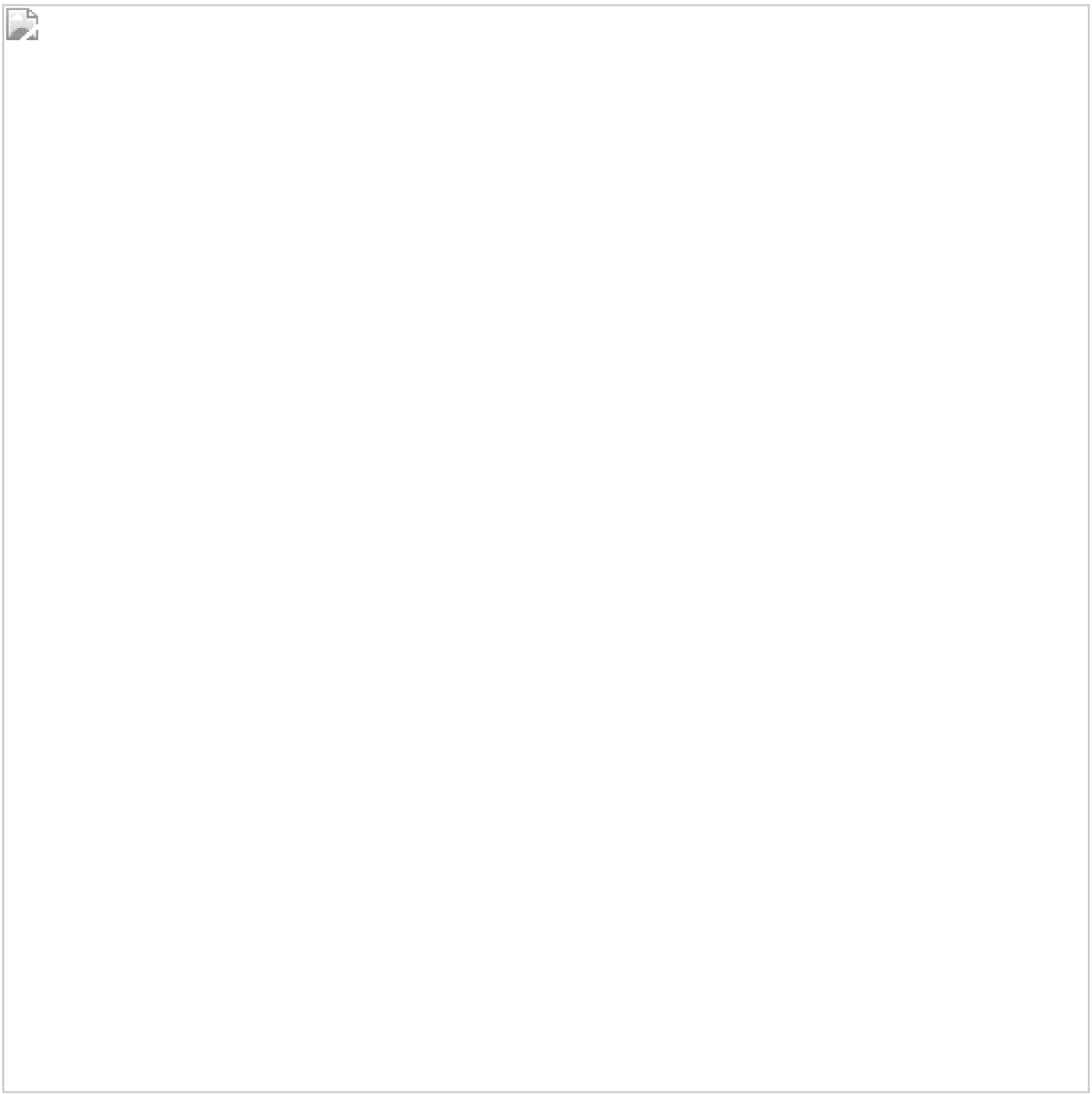
Think about it

1. Who does Dora ask to see?

- ○ Agnes
- ○ Mr. Micawber
- ○ Mr. Creakle

2. What helps people when they are very sad?

The Storm at Yarmouth



David goes to Yarmouth with Em'ly's letter for Ham. A great storm blows in, and a ship breaks up near the shore, with a man clinging to the mast.

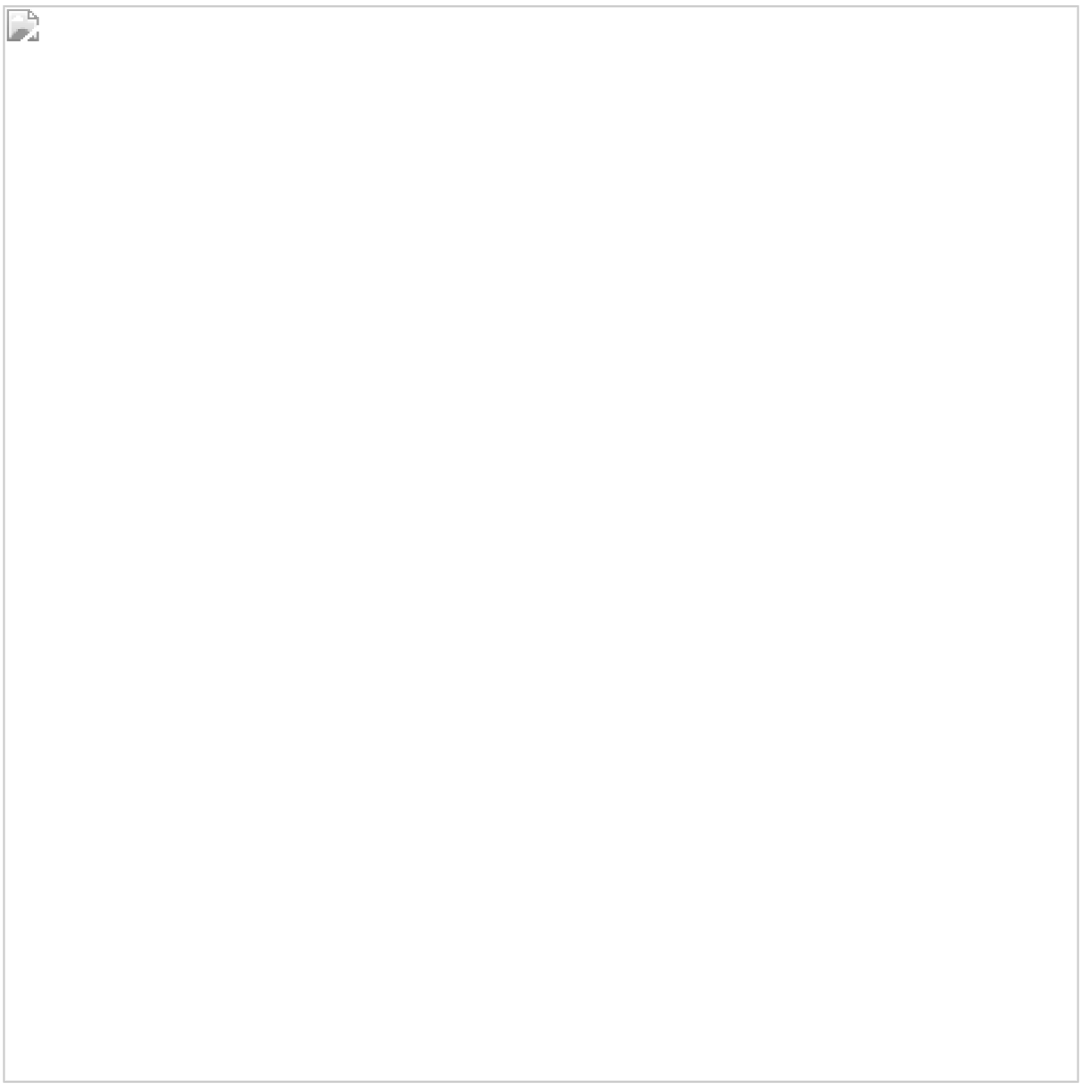
Ham, the bravest man on the beach, ties a rope round himself to go and help. David begs him not to. Ham says, “if my time is come, ’tis come. If ’tan’t, I’ll bide it.”

Ham swims out, but a huge wave takes him, and he dies. The man on the mast, Steerforth, is washed ashore where he and Em'ly played as children. David keeps this from Mr. Peggotty and Em'ly, so they can sail for Australia without that sorrow.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Ham went? What do you think David thought about Steerforth, afterwards?

The Storm at Yarmouth · another picture



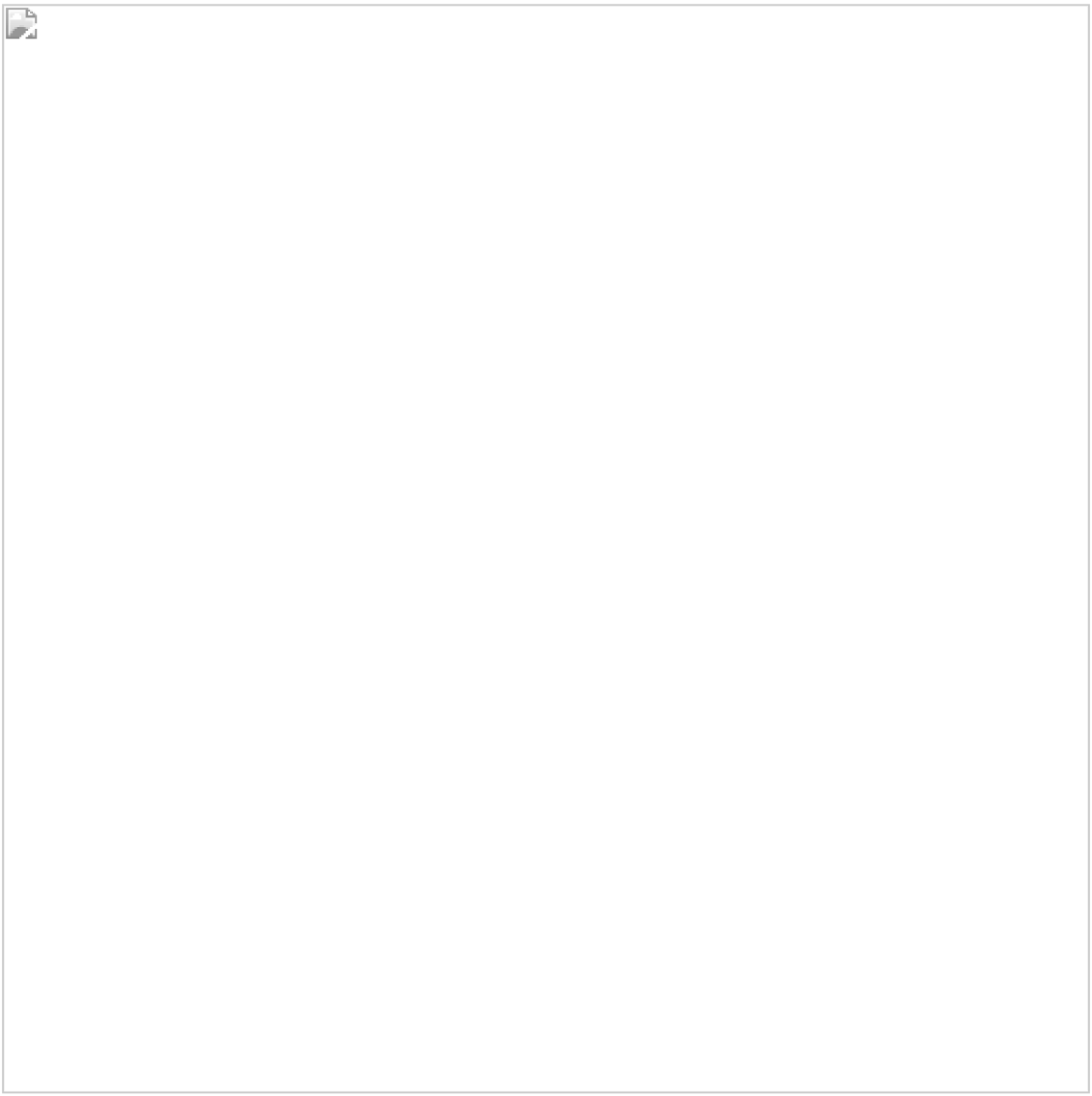
Think about it

1. Why did Ham go out into the sea?

- ○ To help the man on the ship
- ○ To catch fish
- ○ To find Mr. Peggotty

2. What do you think it takes to be brave for someone else?

Agnes



David travels far away for three years. He writes a little, and he thinks a great deal. Over time his sadness grows lighter, and he comes to see who has been beside him all along.

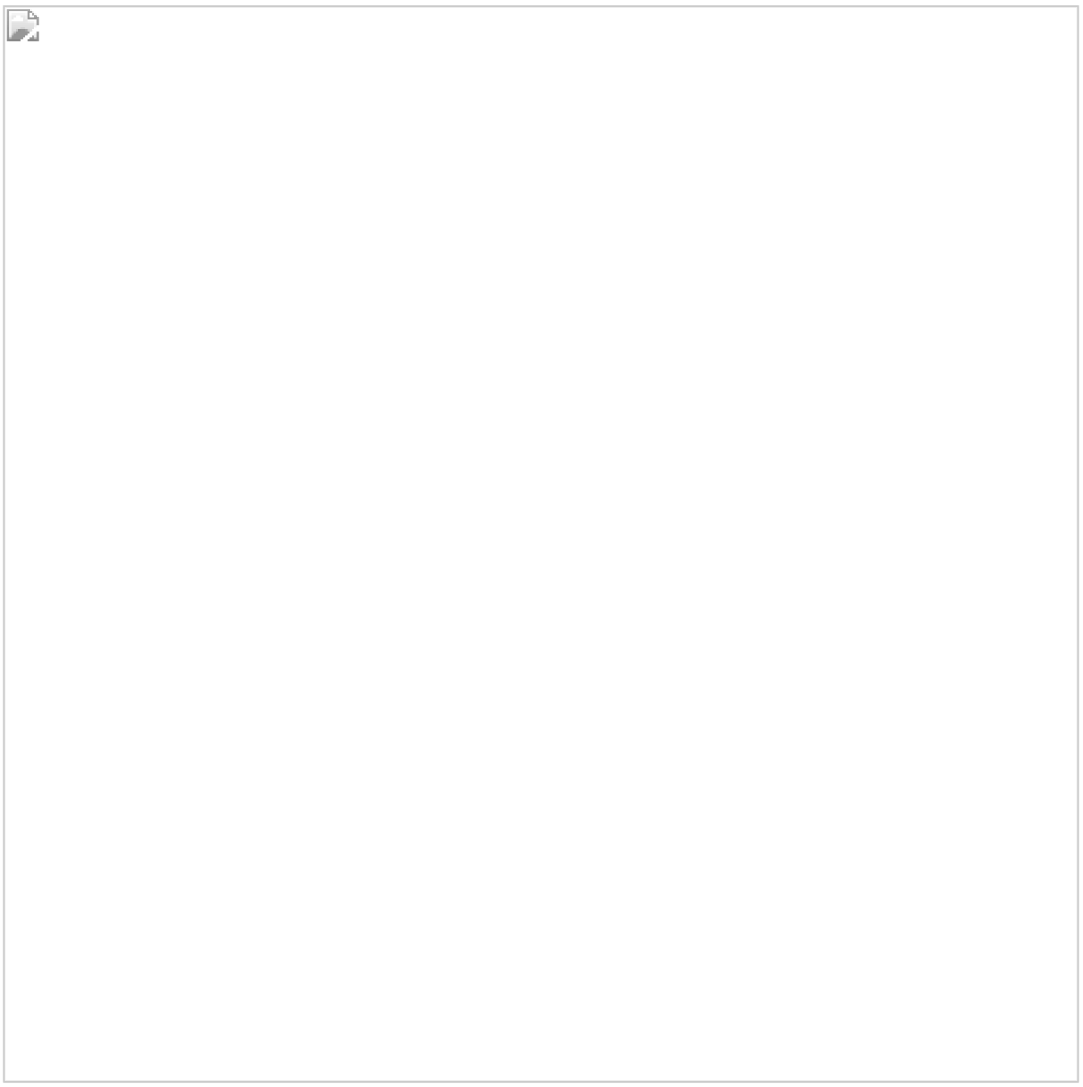
When he comes home, he finds Agnes. He tells her how he has loved her. “I have loved you all my life!” she says.

They marry, and they have a happy family. Aunt Betsey, Peggotty, Traddles, and Mr. Dick are always near. Years later, David finishes telling his story. Agnes is beside him as he writes. He hopes to the end of his life to “still find thee near me, pointing upward!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Who has been beside David all along? Who has been beside you?

Agnes · another picture



Think about it

1. Who does David marry at the end of the story?

- ○ Agnes
- ○ Em'ly
- ○ Dora

2. Who in your life points you toward what is good? What do they do?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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