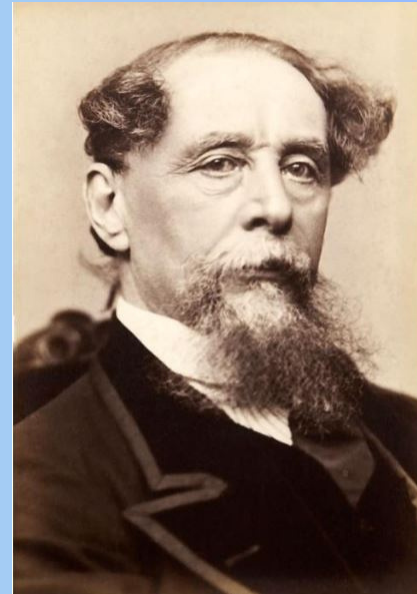


RWW — ZJ CZUPOR'S MYSTERY MINUTE: ON TOUR WITH DEAD WRITERS

ANSWER: Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812-1870) is regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works were popular during his lifetime and by the 20th century critics and scholars considered him a literary genius with a vocabulary second only to Shakespeare. His works, which ranged from bright comedies to dark social commentaries, have never gone out of print. Dickens started as a newspaper reporter, then edited a weekly journal for twenty years, wrote fifteen novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories, and non-fiction articles. He also campaigned for children's rights, education, and other social reforms, including the plight of prostitutes.

His last novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, involves double lives, opium, lust, unresolved love, and the possible murder of Edwin Drood. He was writing the sixth chapter when he died of a stroke. Over the years, several authors tried to finish the novel with their own takes on the murderer. Dickens's unfinished mystery spawned four films; three television and two radio adaptations; several theatre adaptations; plus, a public mock trial.

Dickens is most famously known for writing *The Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations*.



Charles Dickens - portrait by Jeremiah Gurney, c. 1867-1868



Dickens's grave in Westminster Abbey

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