



Sporting Stars Portable Magic Dispenser

December 2023 / # 3

Author Spotlight



Charles John Huffam Dickens (7 February 1812 – 9 June 1870) was an English novelist and social critic who created some of the world's best-known fictional characters,

and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime and, by the 20th century, critics and scholars had recognised him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories are widely read today. Dickens's biographer Claire Tomalin regards him as the greatest creator of character in English fiction after Shakespeare. Dickensian characters are amongst the most memorable in English literature, especially so because of their typically whimsical names. The likes of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Jacob Marley and Bob Cratchit (*A Christmas Carol*); are so well known as to be part and parcel of popular culture, and in some cases have passed into ordinary language: a *scrooge*, for example, is a miser or someone who dislikes Christmas festivity. His characters were often so memorable that they took on a life of their own outside his books. "Gamp" became a slang expression for an umbrella from the character Mrs Gamp, and "Pickwickian", "Pecksniffian" and "Gradgrind" all entered dictionaries due to Dickens's original portraits of such characters who were, respectively, quixotic, hypocritical and vapidly factual.

Welcome!

Theatre Trip

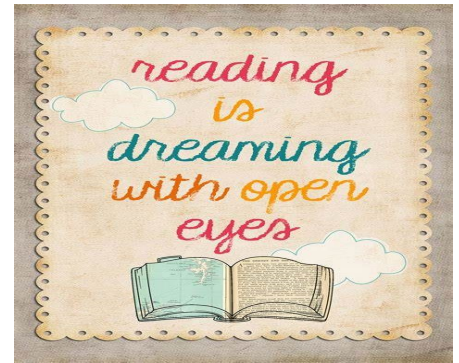
On Thursday 14th December students at Sporting Stars attended a performance of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' at Stoke Rep Theatre. All of the students enjoyed the experience with one student commenting that "it was the best version of A Christmas Carol I've seen—I really got the message about looking after others."



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Book Spotlight

A Christmas Carol

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by a series of ghosts, starting with his old business partner, Jacob Marley. The three spirits which follow, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come, show Scrooge how his mean behaviour has affected those around him. At the end of the story he is relieved to discover that there is still time for him to change and we see him transformed into a generous and kind-hearted human being.

Recreate an ending

Rewrite the ending to your favourite book or film.

Entries should be no longer than one side of A4.

Please hand in to Hannah by 12th January 2024.



Top 5 Non-Fiction Books of 2023...

