

2. British and American Literature

1812 Poet Robert Browning born (d. 1889).

1813 Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*.

1814 Francis Scott Key, "The Star Spangled Banner."

1819 Herman Melville born (d. 1891).

1820 *Ivanhoe*, by Sir Walter Scott.

Washington Irving, *The Sketch Book*, including "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

1823 Dr. Clement Moore, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ("The Night Before Christmas").

1826 James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*.

1828 Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

1830 Poet Emily Dickinson born (d. 1886).

Charles Lurwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) author of *Alice in Wonderland*, born (d. 1898).

1835 Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) born (d. 1910).

1838 French nobleman Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*.



Charles Dickens' Life & Works

1812 (Feb. 7) Charles Dickens born in Portsmouth at 393 Commercial Road, the second child of John and Elizabeth Dickens.

1817 Dickens family moves to Chatham, where John Dickens is stationed as a Navy Pay Office Clerk.

1820

1822 (Christmas) The Dickens family moves to London.

1824 Dickens' father is sent to debtor's prison and Charles, age 12, leaves school to work at Warren's Blacking Warehouse.

1827 At age 15, Dickens becomes a junior clerk in a small legal office.

1829 Dickens learns shorthand and becomes a law-court stenographer.

1830 Dickens begins unsuccessful four-year courtship of Maria Beadnell.

1833 At the age of 21, Dickens begins to contribute stories and essays to magazines and newspapers.

1834 Dickens works as a Parliamentary reporter for the *Morning Chronicle*.

1836 (Feb. 7) Dickens' essays and stories reprinted as *Sketches by Boz*.

(March 31) Dickens employed to write "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club (*The Pickwick Papers*)."

Within a few months he becomes the most popular writer in all England.

HE MARRIES CATHERINE HOGARTH.

(Nov. 5) He accepts editorship of a monthly magazine called *Bentley's Miscellany* in which he later serializes *Oliver Twist* (1837-39).

1838 *Nicholas Nickleby* first published as a serial. (Through 1839)

England and the World

1812 Britain and the U.S. at war over shipping and territorial rights (War of 1812).

1818 Karl Marx born (d. 1883).

1820 George III dies (b. 1738).

Death of Napoleon (b. 1769).

1823 President James Monroe warns Europe not to encroach on the Americas (Monroe Doctrine).

1826 Deaths of Thomas Jefferson (b. 1743) and John Adams (b. 1735) on July 4—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Death of composer Ludwig von Beethoven (b. 1770).

1830 Stendahl, *The Red and Black*

1831 London Bridge opened.

1832 The First Reform Act in England extends the right to vote to about half of the middle class.

1834 Cyrus McCormick patents the reaper.

1835 P.T. Barnum begins his career as a showman.

1836 Davy Crockett killed at the Alamo.

1837 William IV dies, Victoria becomes Queen of England.

Birth of American Indian Chief Sitting Bull (d. 1919).

1838 Samuel Morse invents the telegraph.

1839 Opium Wars fought between Britain and China.

3.

British and American Literature

1840 Richard Henry Dana, *Two Years Before the Mast*.

1841 Edgar Allan Poe, *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*.

1843 Birth of novelist Henry James (d. 1916).

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*.

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*.



1850 Robert Louis Stevenson, author of *Treasure Island*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, born (d. 1894).

Nathaniel Hawthorne *The Scarlet Letter*

1851 Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*.

1852 American abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1854 Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*.

1855 Walt Whitman, first edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

1856 George Bernard Shaw born (d. 1950).

1859 Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, born (d. 1930).

1860 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Paul Revere's Ride."

1861 George Eliot (Marian Evans), *Silas Marner*.

Julia Ward Howe, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

1863 Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

1865 Writer Rudyard Kipling, author of *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *Captains Courageous*, born (d. 1936).

Charles Dickens' Life & Works

1840 Dickens begins writing *The Old Curiosity Shop*, completed in 1841.

1841 *Barnaby Rudge*, Dickens' first historical novel.

1842 Dickens' first trip to America, followed by publication of *American Notes*.

1843 Dickens begins *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

(November) He writes *A Christmas Carol*, his first "Christmas Book"

1844 Dickens moves his family to Genoa, Italy, and returns alone to London the following Christmas for a reading of his new Christmas Book, *The Chimes*.

1845 (Christmas) *The Cricket on the Hearth* is published.

1846 (October) Dickens begins *Dombey and Son* and moves his family to Paris.

1848 Dickens publishes *The Haunted Man* as his fifth Christmas Book.

1849 Dickens begins work on his "favorite child," *David Copperfield*.

1850 (March 30) Dickens starts a weekly magazine, *Household Words*.

1851 *A Child's History of England*.

1852 *Bleak House*.

1854 *Hard Times*.

1855 Dickens begins *Little Dorrit*.

1857 Dickens separates from his wife.

1859 *A Tale of Two Cities*.

1860 Dickens begins writing *Great Expectations*.

1864 *Our Mutual Friend* is begun.

1865 Dickens is involved in a train accident which hastens the deterioration of his health; he further wearies himself by traveling to give public readings of his works.

1867 Dickens tours the U.S.

1870 (June 9) Death of Dickens; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is left unfinished.

England and the World

1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert.

1841 British sovereignty over Hong Kong.

First university degrees granted to women in America.

1846 Potato famine in Ireland; 1,000,000 die within five years.

1847 British Factory Act: Children 13 through 18 are permitted to work only ten hours per day.

1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish *The Communist Manifesto*.

1850 Beginning of the Chinese revolt against Manchu Dynasty.

Death of French writer Honoré de Balzac (b. 1799).

1851 Isaac Singer invents modern sewing machine.

1853 Painter Vincent Van Gogh born (d. 1890).

1854 The Crimean War: Britain, Turkey, and France oppose Russia.

Commodore Matthew Perry forces Japan to open trade relations with United States.

1855 Florence Nightingale establishes hospital standards of hygiene during Crimean War.

1856 Birth of Sigmund Freud (d. 1939).

1859 Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*.

1860 Abraham Lincoln elected 16th President of the United States.

1861 American Civil War begins.

1863 Emancipation Proclamation frees American slaves.

1865 Confederate States surrender at Appomattox; Lincoln assassinated.

1869 Mahatma Gandhi born (d. 1948).