

## BEFORE READING

1 Here are some of the people in the story of Nicholas Nickleby's life and adventures. Match the sentences with the pictures.



Ralph  
Nickleby



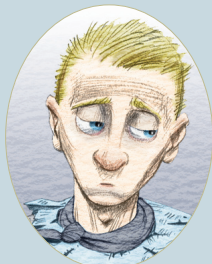
Nicholas Nickleby



Kate  
Nickleby



Wackford Squeers



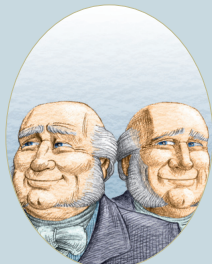
Smike



Newman  
Noggs



John  
Browdie



The Cheeryble brothers

- a He's a nice young man who's looking for work, and he's Kate's brother.
- b They're very rich and enjoy helping poor people.
- c He was once rich but is now poor. He works for Ralph Nickleby.
- d He's Nicholas's and Kate's rich uncle who lives in London.
- e He's a poor young man, and he has a sad life.
- f He's a big, strong but kind man who lives in the country.
- g She's a nice young woman, and she's Nicholas's sister.
- h He has a school but doesn't really teach his students anything.

2 Who helps Nicholas in the story, do you think? Who does he help?  
Who are his enemies?

## 第一章 新的开始

When old Mr Nick Nickleby died at home in Devon in the south-west of England, he left many **debts** behind him. Once these were paid, his wife, his son – Nicholas – and his daughter – Kate – found themselves with little money and no house to live in. There was only one person that they could turn to for help: Ralph Nickleby, the children's **uncle**. Mrs Nickleby didn't really know him, but – because he was in the London **finance** business – he was rich and knew many people. Before her husband died, he said that Ralph would help them. So she wrote a letter to say that they were coming, and the very next day they all travelled to London.

Soon after they arrived, Ralph Nickleby came to the little house where they were staying. He wore fine clothes, but had cold eyes and a hard voice. He didn't look very **sad** about his brother's death.

**debt**

*n.* money that you must pay back to someone  
债

**uncle**

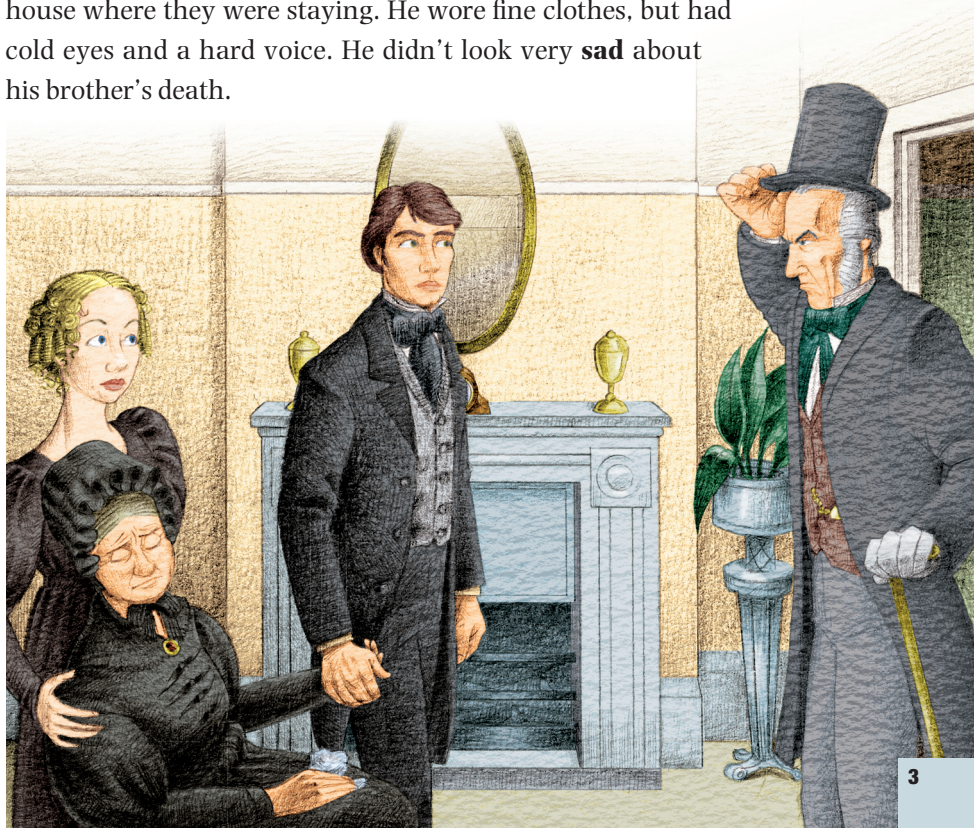
*n.* your father's (or mother's) brother  
叔叔; 舅舅

**finance**

*n.* to do with money  
金融

**sad**

*adj.* not happy  
悲伤的



‘How did he die?’ he asked Mrs Nickleby.

‘The doctors don’t really know what the problem was. We think that perhaps he died of a broken **heart**,’ replied Mrs Nickleby.

‘I’ve heard of people dying of a broken neck, but a broken heart? Never. A man can’t pay his debts and so he dies of a broken heart! Ha!’ laughed Ralph Nickleby coldly.

‘Some people have no heart to break,’ said Nicholas to himself quietly.

‘How old is this boy?’ asked Ralph Nickleby, looking angrily at Nicholas.

‘Nearly nineteen,’ replied Mrs Nickleby.

‘And how will you pay for your food now, boy?’ Ralph Nickleby asked Nicholas.

‘I shall not cost you or my mother anything at all,’ replied Nicholas.

For a while Nicholas and his uncle looked at each other without speaking. The older man saw in front of him a young man who was kind and **honest**, and from that moment he **hated** him.

Then Ralph Nickleby talked with Mrs Nickleby about finding work for poor but beautiful Kate. Turning back to Nicholas, he showed him an **advertisement** in the newspaper that he had with him.

Mr Wackford Squeers – staying at the Snow Street **Inn** in North London – needs a teacher for his school in Yorkshire. Call today.

Yorkshire was far away, in the north-east of England, but Nicholas was excited.

‘Perhaps our luck is changing!’ he thought.

**heart**

*n.* the centre of feeling in someone; this is in your chest and it sends the blood round your body  
心脏

**honest**

*adj.* saying things that are true  
诚实的

**hate**

*v.* not to love  
恨

**advertisement**

*n.* you pay to put this information in a newspaper  
广告

**inn**

*n.* an old name for a hotel near a road  
旅店

‘We must go and see Mr Squeers immediately, before he gives the job to another young man,’ said Ralph Nickleby.



When Nicholas and his uncle arrived at the inn, Squeers was busy with some new students. He was a short man, about fifty years old. He had only one greeny-grey eye in his face, where people usually prefer two, and he looked very **strange** in his black suit, which was too long for him in the arms, and too short for him in the legs.

‘Mr Squeers, this is my **nephew**, Mr Nicholas Nickleby. We’re here because of your newspaper advertisement,’ said Ralph Nickleby.

‘He’s too young to be a teacher,’ Squeers said at once, looking at Nicholas.

But after talking quietly with Ralph Nickleby for a while, he turned back to Nicholas with a smile, saying, ‘The job is yours. Our **coach** leaves at eight o’clock tomorrow morning. Be here early to help with the new students.’

‘Certainly,’ replied Nicholas. And to his uncle he said, ‘I shall never forget how kind you’ve been.’



The next day, Nicholas said goodbye sadly to his sister and his mother at the inn.

‘How will they **survive** without me?’ he thought with a heavy heart.

Just before Nicholas got onto the coach, someone pushed a letter into his hand. It was Newman Noggs, Ralph Nickleby’s **clerk**. Nicholas quickly put it into his pocket.

The journey to Yorkshire was long and hard, and they stopped at different inns on the way. Squeers ate a lot at every meal, but gave very little food to the students who were with him.

‘He worries more about the cost of the meals than he does about those poor, hungry boys,’ thought Nicholas.

**strange**

*adj.* not usual  
奇怪的

**nephew**

*n.* your sister’s (or brother’s) son  
侄子

**coach**

*n.* a kind of car with horses  
马车

**survive**

*v.* to live through a difficult or dangerous time  
存活

**clerk**

*n.* someone who does the writing work in an office  
文员

In the evening of the second day, they arrived in Yorkshire. There was snow everywhere, and in front of them was a long, low building with dark windows. It looked cold and unpleasant. This was the school – Dotheboys Hall.

Inside Mrs Squeers was waiting for them. She looked at Nicholas coldly, then turned to her husband.

‘How is my Squeery?’ she said.

‘Very well, my love,’ replied Squeers. ‘How are the cows and the other animals?’

‘Very well.’

‘And the boys?’ asked Squeers.

‘Oh, they’re well, too,’ replied Mrs Squeers quickly in a hard voice.

After that, they talked about parents who paid their debts to the school and parents who couldn’t pay. Then Mrs Squeers put a cold supper on the table for her husband – and for Nicholas. Squeers ate and drank a lot; Nicholas had only a little. Then they all went to bed. Before he went to sleep on his bed on the floor upstairs, Nicholas took Noggs’s letter from his pocket and read it:

*My dear young man,  
I know the world better than you. The place that  
you’re going to isn’t like any place that you know. If  
you ever need somewhere to stay in London, ask for  
me at the Crown Inn, in Golden Square. They know  
me there. Don’t think that I’m strange writing to  
you like this. I was once a gentleman, but I’ve come  
down in the world.*

*Your friend,  
Newman Noggs*

**crow**

*n.* a king or a queen wears this on their head

皇冠

**gentleman**

*n.* a man from a rich family who does not need to work

绅士

If Nicholas's first night at Dotheboys Hall was bad, the next day was worse. He soon saw that Mr and Mrs Squeers loved making the boys there **suffer**. Squeers **beat** them hard and often. He read their letters from home himself, telling them that their parents didn't love them and didn't want them back. The boys had no real lessons, but did jobs for Squeers in the school and its garden all day.

They were especially **cruel** to one boy – Smike. He was taller and older than the other boys at the school – perhaps eighteen or nineteen. His clothes were old and too small for him and he looked ill.

At the end of his first day, Nicholas found Smike working in the kitchen. He saw in the boy's eyes that he was afraid.

'Don't be afraid of me,' said Nicholas kindly.

'Oh, my poor heart will break, living here,' Smike cried.

'No, it won't. There's always hope.'

'Not for me,' replied Smike. 'I've got no family or friends. It doesn't matter if I live or die. There's only **suffering** for me in this life.'

**suffer**  
v. to feel hurt or unhappy  
感到痛苦

**beat**  
v. (beat-beaten) to hit strongly  
打

**cruel**  
adj. unkind and liking to hurt people  
残忍的

**suffering**  
n. when you feel hurt or unhappy  
痛苦



# ACTIVITIES

## READING CHECK

Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

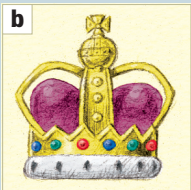
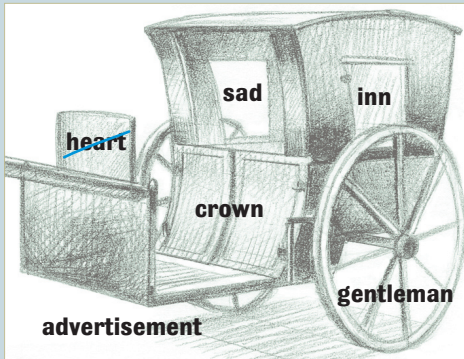
	True	False
a Mr Nick Nickleby dies of a broken neck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Mr Squeers has a school in the north-east of England.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Mr Squeers gives Nicholas Nickleby a job as a teacher.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d The journey to Yorkshire is short.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e The school is warm and beautiful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f Mr and Mrs Squeers are cruel to the boys in their school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g Newman Noggs's letter says that Nicholas can't come to him for help.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h Smike is very unhappy at Dotheboys Hall.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## WORD WORK

1 Match the words in the coach with the pictures.



heart



# ACTIVITIES

## 2 Complete the sentences with twelve other new words from Chapter One in the correct form.

- a It's not good to have many d**ebts**..... You need to pay back money that you borrow quickly.
- b It's difficult for a family to s..... without money.
- c My mother's brother, U..... Jon, lives in Devon.
- d Nicholas is h.....: he always says what he thinks is true.
- e Ralph Nickleby doesn't really love his family, and he h..... Nicholas.
- f Newman Noggs works as Ralph Nickleby's c.....
- g People who are good with money enjoy working in the f..... business.
- h Mr and Mrs Squeers are more c..... to Smike than to the other boys.
- i Squeers likes b..... the boys at the school with a big stick.
- j Nicholas is Ralph Nickleby's n.....
- k 'Dotheboys' isn't a very usual English name, and it's a s..... name for a boy's school.
- l Some people say that animals don't s....., but when you hit an animal, you hurt it.

## GUESS WHAT

### What happens in the next chapter? Tick five boxes.

- a We learn more about life at Dotheboys Hall.
- b We learn more about Ralph Nickleby's life in London.
- c Nicholas meets some new people in Yorkshire.
- d Life at Dotheboys Hall gets better.
- e Squeers beats Smike.
- f Nicholas beats Squeers.
- g Nicholas decides to stay at the school for a long time.
- h Nicholas decides to leave the school in the end.



## 第二章 多斯男童学堂的生活

After the night that they first met and talked in the kitchen, Smike followed Nicholas everywhere. But when Squeers saw this, he beat Smike more than before.

‘They’re harder with me than ever,’ Smike cried one evening to Nicholas in the empty schoolroom.

‘I know,’ Nicholas replied, putting a hand on Smike’s shoulder kindly. ‘You’ll be happier when I’ve gone.’

‘Are you leaving?’ asked Smike, suddenly worried.

‘No,’ said Nicholas. ‘I was just thinking aloud.’

‘But will you go one day?’

‘Yes, one day I must go out into the world.’

‘And can we meet – out in the world?’ asked Smike.

‘Of course,’ said Nicholas. ‘And I’ll help you there and not make your life worse, as I’ve done here.’

Just then, Squeers arrived, and Smike disappeared.

Smike was not Nicholas’s only worry at Dotheboys Hall. There was also Squeers’s daughter, Fanny. One day – not long after Nicholas arrived – Fanny went into the schoolroom to get a pen. Nicholas gave her a friendly smile. ‘What a wonderful smile he has,’ she thought, and at once she decided that she was in love.

Soon after that, Fanny asked Nicholas to tea when Mrs Squeers was out. Fanny’s best friend Tilda, and Tilda’s **fiancé**, John Browdie, also came. There was bread and butter to eat, and Nicholas ate it very fast. When he saw this, John Browdie started laughing.

‘You won’t get fat if you stay in this school!’ he said.

‘John, don’t speak to Mr Nickleby like that!’ cried Fanny.

‘Oh, Fanny. Shall we leave you and Mr Nickleby alone?’ asked Tilda, laughing.

**fiancé**

*n.* the man that a woman is going to marry

未婚夫



‘Oh, no. Please don’t go,’ said Nicholas worriedly. He suddenly saw the way that things were going. Then, because he didn’t want to **raise** Fanny’s hopes of love, and because Browdie was a man of few words, he began to talk with Tilda. This made both Fanny and Browdie very angry.

In the end, Tilda and her fiancé went home, Fanny started crying, and Nicholas went off quickly up to bed. ‘I must stop trying to be friendly to everyone!’ he thought. ‘It just gets me into trouble.’



One morning, not long after that, Squeers woke everyone by shouting from the kitchen downstairs, ‘Are you going to sleep all day, you lazy dogs?’

‘We’re coming down now,’ shouted Nicholas from the big long bedroom upstairs, where he and the boys all slept.

‘Smike!’ called Mrs Squeers. ‘Come down here at once!’ There was no reply.

Nicholas couldn’t see Smike at all.

‘He’s not up here!’ he cried.

‘That’s what you say!’ shouted Squeers. ‘I’m coming up to find him.’

‘I think that he’s run away,’ said Nicholas when Squeers came upstairs.

**raise**  
v. to lift up  
增加

Squeers was very angry. 'How do you know that?' he asked. Now Mrs Squeers came upstairs, too.

'Smike has run away, my dear,' explained Squeers.

'That's no surprise to me!' said Mrs Squeers, looking at Nicholas with an **ugly** smile. 'You helped him!'

'I did not,' replied Nicholas hotly.

'I'll beat the life out of him when we catch him! Which way do you think he went?' Squeers asked his wife.

'Who knows? You take one coach and go **towards** York. I'll borrow another coach and go the other way,' replied Mrs Squeers.

For the rest of the day, Nicholas waited at the school with the other boys and worried.

In the evening, Squeers came back, but Smike wasn't with him.

'Someone will pay for this!' said Squeers angrily. 'I'm telling you, Nicholas.'

'It's nothing to do with me, **sir**,' said Nicholas, and he went to bed.

It was **clear** that Squeers wanted Smike back at the school just because the boy did lots of work there for nothing.

Early next morning, Nicholas heard a coach arriving at the front gate, and Mrs Squeers calling for her husband. Afraid of the worst, Nicholas looked through the window and saw Smike in the coach. His tired face was covered with **mud** and rain and he looked nearly dead. Mr Squeers came from the house and took him inside. He put him in the **cellar** and **locked** the door. He was **looking forward to** beating him later.

After lunch, Squeers told all the school to come to the classroom. When everyone was there, he brought Smike into the room, pulling him by his coat.

'Well, Smike, explain yourself!'

'Please, sir, **forgive** me!'

**ugly**

*adj.* not beautiful  
丑陋的

**towards**

*prep.* in the direction of  
朝着

**sir**

*n.* you say this when you talk to a rich or important man  
先生

**clear**

*adj.* easy to understand  
明显的

**mud**

*n.* very wet earth  
泥

**cellar**

*n.* a room under the ground at the bottom of a house  
地下室

**lock**

*v.* to close with a key  
锁 ( 门 )

**look forward to**

to think happily about something that is going to happen  
盼望

**forgive**

*v.* (forgave-forgiven) to stop being angry with someone for something bad that they did  
饶恕

'Oh, yes, I'll forgive you – when I've finished beating the life out of you!'

'Ha! That's a good one,' shouted Mrs Squeers.

Squeers had a new **whip** to beat Smike with. He raised it, then brought it down hard on Smike's body. The poor boy screamed.

Then, suddenly, they heard a shout: 'Stop!'

'Who said that?' asked Squeers, looking round the room in great surprise.

'I did. This mustn't go on,' cried Nicholas, who was now very red in the face.

'Mustn't?' cried Squeers.

He took his hand from Smike's neck, raised his whip again, and used it to hit Nicholas in the face with all his **strength**. Nicholas at once pulled the whip from his hand, and began to beat him. Squeers screamed for help, but Nicholas went on beating him angrily. Mrs Squeers tried to pull her husband away, and Fanny hit Nicholas from behind with her hands, but they couldn't stop the attack. At last Nicholas left Squeers – not moving, but alive – to his wife and daughter.

He couldn't see Smike anywhere, so he hurriedly put some clothes in a bag and left the house.

He decided to go at once to London. But how? It was far away and he had no money.



**whip**  
*n.* a special long thin stick that people use to hit animals  
鞭子

**strength**  
*n.* being strong  
力气

# ACTIVITIES

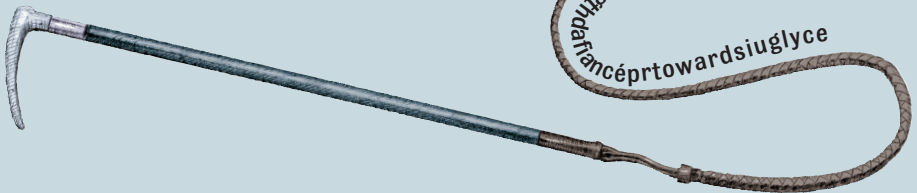
## READING CHECK

Put these sentences in the correct order.

- a  Nicholas can't find Smike and leaves for London.
- b  Mrs Squeers brings Smike back to Dotheboys Hall.
- c  Fanny asks Nicholas to tea with Tilda and John Browdie.
- d  Nicholas beats Squeers.
- e  Mr and Mrs Squeers go and look for Smike.
- f  Squeers starts beating Smike more than before.
- g  Squeers beats Smike in front of all the boys.
- h  Fanny decides that she is in love with Nicholas.
- i  Smike runs away from Dotheboys Hall.

## WORD WORK

1 Find new words from Chapter Two in the whip.



2 What is Tilda's full name? Write the other letters in the whip in order to find it.

M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3 Complete these sentences with the words from Activity 1.

- a He was very late but she ..*forgave*... him, and said that it didn't matter.
- b We ran down the hot beach ..... the sea.
- c She was tired, and didn't have the ..... to carry her bags upstairs.
- d Her ..... is French. They're planning to marry next year.
- e Please ..... your hand if you know the answer.
- f He's a very ..... man with a big nose, big ears and mouth, and small eyes.
- g I'm ..... to the party on Monday. It's going to be great.

# ACTIVITIES

## 4 Correct the boxed words in these sentences.

- a He hit his horse with a ship.
- b After he walked across the wet field there was mad on his shoes.
- c We've got a big empty caller under our house.
- d I can't understand what she's saying. It's not clean to me what she wants.
- e He closed the door and licked it.
- f 'Have you lost your way, sit?' the policeman asked him.

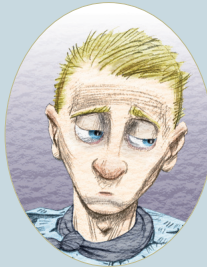
## GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick the boxes.

	Yes	Perhaps	No
a Squeers comes and takes Nicholas back to the school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Squeers becomes very ill and dies in Yorkshire.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Nicholas walks all the way to London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Smike travels to London with Nicholas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Ralph Nickleby is happy to see Nicholas again.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Mr Squeers



Smike



Nicholas



Ralph Nickleby

## 第三章 通往伦敦之路

After walking away from Dotheboys Hall for some time, Nicholas saw John Browdie on the road in front of him, carrying a big stick.

‘Oh no! Will he hit me with his stick?’ thought Nicholas. ‘After what happened at tea the other day.’

‘Good evening, young gentleman,’ said John Browdie when they met.

‘Look, I’m sorry about what happened when you came to tea,’ said Nicholas. ‘I didn’t mean anything by it. Will you forget it, and shake hands?’

‘Of course,’ said Browdie, and he gave Nicholas his hand. ‘But what’s happened to your face?’

Nicholas told him everything. When John Browdie heard about Nicholas beating Squeers, he suddenly gave a great shout of **joy**.

‘That’s the best news that I’ve heard in twenty years,’ he laughed. ‘But what will you do now?’

‘I’m going to walk to London.’

‘Good luck. It’s a long way to walk. Here, take some money, and my stick. You’ll need it,’ said Browdie kindly, and he gave Nicholas a pound and his stick, and then went on his way. Stick in hand, Nicholas walked off towards London.

He slept that night in the cheapest inn that he could find. He walked all the next day, but at night he could find only a **barn** to sleep in. After a deep sleep, he woke up early the next morning, and saw Smike standing in front of him.

‘Smike! How did you come here?’

‘When you left the school, I followed you all yesterday. I slept in this barn last night, too. I didn’t want you to see me, but this morning you woke up too quickly for me to hide.

**joy**  
n. a very happy  
feeling  
高兴

**barn**  
n. a big building on  
a farm where you  
keep crops  
谷仓

Please take me to London with you. I'll do anything. I'll be your **servant**. I just want to be with you.'

'Of course you can come with me, but not as my servant. We'll go out into the world together, and what we find there will be for both of us.'

So they started their long walk together. On the way, Nicholas thought, 'We'll go and look for Newman Nogs at the Crown Inn. He'll tell me where I can find Kate and my mother.'

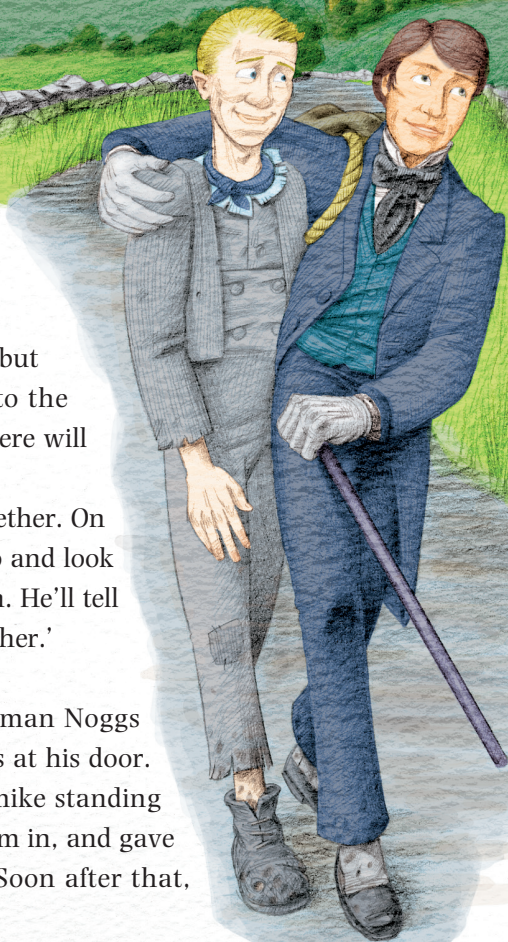


Some days later, late at night, Newman Nogs was at home when he heard visitors at his door. Opening it, he saw Nicholas and Smike standing there, both **exhausted**. He asked them in, and gave them something to eat and drink. Soon after that, they both fell asleep.

The next morning Nicholas told Nogs their story.

'I knew most of that already,' said Nogs, when he finished. 'Fanny Squeers wrote a long letter about it all to your uncle, you see.'

'And does it tell the same story?'



**servant**

*n.* a person who works for someone rich  
仆人

**exhausted**

*adj.* very tired  
疲惫不堪的



‘Not really. The letter says that you used bad language, that you nearly killed Squeers, that you attacked her mother and herself, and that you stole one of Mrs Squeers’s rings.’

‘But that’s not true!’ shouted Nicholas. ‘No one who knows me could believe it. I’ll go and see my uncle and explain what really happened.’

‘Wait a minute,’ replied Newman. ‘Ralph Nickleby hates you, so he’ll say that he believes what’s in the letter. You must go and see your mother and sister and explain things to them before your uncle talks to them. I’ll show you the way to their house.’

But when they arrived at his mother’s house, Ralph Nickleby was already there. Kate ran to Nicholas, and **embraced** him.

‘Oh Nicholas, you’re back!’ she cried, full of joy at seeing her brother again.

**embrace**

v. to take lovingly  
in your arms

拥抱

