

Add Sentences to Introduce, Conclude, and Transition

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

Date:

Directions: To revise this text, identify which sentences are best crafted to introduce, to conclude, or to transition ideas in this essay.

The Life of Charles Dickens

John Forster

¹ CHARLES DICKENS, the most popular novelist of the century, and one of the greatest humourists that England has produced, was born at Landport in Portsea on Friday, the seventh of February, 1812.

² His father, John Dickens, a clerk in the navy-pay office, was at this time stationed in the Portsmouth dockyard. He had made acquaintance with the lady, Elizabeth Barrow, who became afterwards his wife, through her elder brother, Thomas Barrow, also engaged on the establishment at Somerset-house; and she bore him in all a family of eight children, of whom two died in infancy. The eldest, Fanny (born 1810), was followed by Charles (entered in the baptismal register of Portsea as Charles John Huffham, though on the very rare occasions when he subscribed that name he wrote Huffam) ; by another son, named Alfred, who died in childhood; by Letitia (born 1816); by another daughter, Harriet, who died also in childhood; by Frederick (born 1820); by Alfred Lamert (born 1822); and by Augustus (born 1827); of all of whom only the second daughter now survives.

³ Walter Scott tells us, in his fragment of autobiography, speaking of the strange remedies applied to his lameness, that he remembered lying on the floor in the parlour of his grandfather's farmhouse, swathed up in a sheepskin warm from the body of the sheep, being then not three years old. David Copperfield's memory goes beyond this. He represents himself seeing so far back into the blank of his infancy, as to discern therein his mother and her servant, dwarfed to his sight by stooping down or kneeling on the floor, and himself going unsteadily from the one to the other. He admits this may be fancy, though he believes the power of observation in numbers of very young children to be quite wonderful for its closeness and accuracy, and thinks that the recollection of most of us can go farther back into such times than many of us suppose. But what he adds is certainly not fancy. "If it should appear from anything I may set down in this narrative that I was a child of close observation, or that as a man I have a strong memory of my childhood, I undoubtedly lay claim to both of these characteristics." Applicable as it might be to David Copperfield this was unaffectedly true of Charles Dickens.

ITEMBANK:

Although his name is well known, few know the facts surrounding the curious childhood of this gifted author.

At a glance, a few details provide facts, but to truly appreciate this writer, open one of his classics, such as *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, or *The Pickwick Papers*.

Close observation and strong memories of childhood contribute to the realism of his work and ensure continued praise and popularity.

Dickens' childhood memories are apparent in the classic novella, *A Christmas Carol*.

Dickens' style reveals great skill in detailed observation, often drawing on his life as a child in 19th century England.

Many authors gain inspiration and story lines from early childhood experiences and memories, both good and bad.

Recent movie releases have familiarized many Americans with the work of Charles Dickens, but to know the man, one needs a bit of background.

The life and works of Charles Dickens warrants study by any serious student of British literature.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens as well as an increased interest in his works, so details about his life can prove insightful.

With recent book to film adaptations, the life and works of Charles Dickens is likely to remain a topic of great interest.

Introduce

Transition

Conclude