APPENDICES

1. A Summary of Hard Times

Dickens' Hard Times is divided into three different 'books' entitled Sowing, Reaping and Gardening. The first book, 'Sowing' consists of sixteen chapters, the second, 'Reaping', of twelve, and the last book, 'Gardening', of nine chapters.

Mr. Gradgrind was a man of fact and calculation. He called a student number twenty, who replied that her name was Sissy Jupe. Mr. Gradgrind corrected her name was Cecilia regardless of what her father called her. Sissy's father was involved in a horse-riding circus and this was not respectable (in Mr. Gradgrind's opinion). He advised Sissy to refer to her father as a ferrier, the person who shoes horses, or perhaps a veterinary surgeon. Sissy was a slow learner among the group of stragglers who admitted that she would dare to carpet a room with representations of flowers because she was fond of them. Sissy was taught that she must not fancy and that she was to be all things regulated and governed by fact.

One day, Mr. Gradgrind was walking home from school. Unexpectedly, he caught his two children, Louisa and Young Thomas peeping at a circus booth. He was embarrassed and ordered them home. Mr. Bounderby convinced him that Cecilia (Sissy) Jupe, one of Mr. Gradgrind's students (a child of traveler circus), had influenced the Gradgrind children with her ideas. Therefore, they intended to remove Sissy from school.

The next day, they walked along to find an address called Pod's End where Sissy lived. Suddenly, they saw Sissy who was being chased by Bitzer. Afterwards, they proceeded to the public house called Pegasus's Arms where Sissy and her father lived.
After they came into the house, Sissy was surprised that her father had gone away. The other members who also lived in the public house tried to explain to her that her father had abandoned her. Unintentionally, Mr. Gradgrind offered her a choice to make on the spot: either she could stay with the Sleary performing group and remained in Pegasus's Arms and never returned school, or she could leave Sleary's company, lived with the Gradgrinds and attended school. Later on, Sissy chose to leave Pegasus's Arms and joined the Gradgrinds.

Mr. Bounderby did not like the idea of the Gradgrinds bringing up the tumbling-girl into their community because Sissy might provide a bad influence on Louisa. Meanwhile, Louisa and Young Thomas were not unbearable for their sort of dullness life.

Time went on in Coketown and Mr. Gradgrind noted that his children had grown into adults. He decided that his son, Young Thomas, should join Bounderby's bank and found work. Sissy was very useful to Mrs. Gradgrind, she kept the family in better spirits and took a part of the household. While Louisa and Mr. Bounderby were united in the tangible fact of marriage. The marriage had little to do with love, as her father explained that it was Mr. Bounderby who had made the marriage proposal and expected Louisa to convey some emotion, but she was entirely stoic and remained silent. She realized that it was no matter because her upbringing had prevented her from expressing emotions. Sissy felt a mixture of wonder, pity and sorrow for Louisa. Somehow, she was the only one person who was able to sense the bitterness in Louisa.

On the other hand, in chapter ten the story turns to the workers of Coketown, a group of laborers known as 'the Hands'. Among them lived a decent man named Stephen Blackpool. He lived in a small and dirty house near the loud noises and the
smoke of the factory with his best friend, Rachel, who was also a laborer.

Stephen worked under Mr. Bounderby regulations. His life seemed unbearable and filled with many unpleasant things.

One day, a drunk and disable woman entered his room. She laughed at Stephen scornfully. Apparently, Stephen realized that she was a woman that he had married nineteen years before. She had returned from some part of the past to ruin his life and gave him problems to worry about.

Then, Stephen came to Mr. Bounderby to have advice. He wanted to know how he might be rid of his wife, but Mr. Bounderby and Mrs. Sparsit (Mr. Bounderby's household keeper) were both against that sort of divorce. Stephen would much rather be with Rachel but he learned from Bounderby that any sort of annulment or separation from marriage would cost a great deal of money, far more than what Stephen would ever have.

Afterward, Stephen came back to his home, and found his drunken wife in there lying in bed. Her condition was not in a very good state. Rachel was also in there, Stephen was grateful to see Rachel because he could not guarantee that he would be able to overcome his desire to do harm to himself or to his wife. In his half-asleep state, Stephen saw his wife make a move for the bottle on the table in order to kill him, but Rachel woke up and prevented her from doing such dangerous things. Later on, Rachel was able to save Stephen from his wife's murder plan.

When there was a strike in the mill where Stephen worked, Stephen was ostracized by his fellow workmen as a traitor and he was deliberately ignored and shunned. Stephen supported the union but he could not join and would simply like to continue his job without any trouble.

Due to that received a summon to see Mr. Bounderby in his residence. He
explained that he had resisted the movement and made a promise not to join the union. But, Mr. Bounderby intended to make an example of Stephen and presented him to Mr. Harthouse as a sort of specimen of the lower class. Mr. Bounderby described the group as a gang of rascals and rebels. Stephen argued in their favor and explained that economics was at the root of their crisis. The problem was rich people were always corrected and that the poor were always in the wrong simply because of how much money they had. Bounderby did not appreciate the criticism and on a whim he decided to repay Stephen's loyalty by accusing him of being disloyal. He went as far as to say that Stephen had betrayed both his employer and his fellow employees and he cut his argument off by firing Stephen. Later on, Stephen left the factory even though he believed that he would not be able to find work in another place.

In the night, Louisa and Young Tom came to Stephen's house. She offered some money to Stephen, but he refused the larger sum she offered and he instead took two pounds. Tom seemed to have some sort of plans in mind. He told Stephen that he would be able to help him further and instructed him to loiter outside of the bank to wait for more instruction. Stephen did all of this for two days. He finished his assignment and began his journey to a new town and a new life.

Tom had become quite wayward despite the rigors of his education and he was incredibly hypocritical and disrespectful. He made friend with Mr. James Harthouse - Mr.Gradgrind's school hired teacher - and without realizing it, Tom was laying the seeds for a potential affair between Harthouse and his sister, Louisa.

On the other hand, Mr. Sparsit made an attempt to watch this affair. She believed that time would prove the story to be one of interest. She kept constant watch on everything that was happening. She watched from her post at the bank and then when the timing was right she hastily made her way to the country - house and sure
enough she found Louisa and Mr. Harthouse sitting in the garden together. He confessed his love to Louisa but Louisa remained resistant. He implored her to at least commit to seeing him but she refused. He suggested a change of venue and the entire time, Mrs. Sparsit, hidden behind the shrubs, gloated to herself that the two young people had no idea that they were being watched. Mrs. Sparsit assumed that Louisa had eloped and they had a planned meeting place and so she trailed Louisa as best as she could.

Actually, Louisa arrived at her father's house in Coketown. She was incredibly perturbed, but far from Mrs. Sparsit's expectations, she was not engaged in any romantic enterprise. She explained to her father that he had done her a horrible disservice and that she was now in a ruined positions. Her capacity to love and to differentiate between emotions was incredibly, deliberately deformed. Mr. Gradgrind was moved with pity and he began to make apology to Louisa, who had become move distraught than ever before. She implored her father to save her situation for he had gotten her into it. She then passed out on the ground and Mr. Gradgrind's educational system had come crashing down with her.

When Louisa woke up, she apologized for her unpleasant attitude and she insisted that Sissy must be disgusted by her. But throughout the conversation, Sissy only extended the kindest emotions towards Louisa who eventually ended up sobbing in Sissy's arms.

James Harthouse had been restless for the last day for he had received no word from Louisa. He found Louisa's brother, Tom, and interrogated him but Tom had not seen Louisa. Mr. Harthouse spent the hours in his hotel room and after a certain point, he was convinced that Mr. Bounderby must be aware of his relationship
with Louisa. A moment later, he received a message that there was a young lady waiting to see him. It was Sissy and she had arrived to inform him that he was no longer to see Louisa again and that he had to depart from Coketown and never return.

Back to Mrs. Sparsit, she was still stirring up trouble. She went as far as London to find Mr. Bounderby and confronted him with the news of Louisa's conversation in the garden with Mr. Harthouse. After giving the news, Mrs. Sparsit collapsed in an incredibly display. Bounderby brough her back to Coketown and he carried her along with him to Stone Lodge, where he intended to confront Mr. Gradgrind.

Mrs. Sparsit's story was presented and Mr. Gradgrind confessed that he was already aware of these details and that Louisa had preserved her honor by returning to her father's house when she did not know how to defend herself from temptation on her own.

Mr. Gradgrind and Mr. Bounderby continued their conversation and Gradgrind made it clear that he felt that his daughter had been wronged. Mr. Bounderby was not less pleased by this than by the rumored infidelity and he demanded to have his wife back at his house by noon the next day. Otherwise, the marriage would be annulled. Mr. Gradgrind insisted that a marital union was not a casual thing to be rejected and Mr. Bounderby was irritated by the repetition of words with which he once abused Stephen Blackpool. When Louisa did not arrive the next day, Bounderby made good on his threat. Therefore, her marriage ended up in failure.

With his marriage dissolved, Mr. Bounderby was increasingly wealthier. He took a renewed interest in his bank. He was especially interested in solving the robbery. Stephen Blackpool remained under heavy suspicion for he had disappeared entirely.
Mr. Bounderby eventually took the law into his own hands, making up for his lack of evidence with an abundance of power in excess. He had posters placed all over the town demanding the apprehension of Stephen Blackpool and offering a reward.

Louisa was sorry to hear that Stephen had been branded as a thief but Rachel remained highly suspicious for it seemed that Stephen's alleged guilt bore some connection to the visit that Louisa and Tom made that night.

Rachel was so confident in Stephen's innocence that she had written to him, informing him of the charges leveled against him. When Mr. Bounderby interrupted that he had word from the post office that no letters had been sent to anyone named Stephen Blackpool, Rachel replied that Stephen was living under an assumed name because he could not get work as Stephen Blackpool. Rachel was confident that Stephen would arrive and Sissy was very supportive. She mentioned that suspicion had fallen on Stephen because he was seen lingering around the bank. Messengers reported the news that Stephen had received Rachel's letter and he departed within the hour at Coketown, but there was no trace of him.

Meanwhile, Stephen had taken a shortcut to arrive in town faster but he was not aware of an old pit and accidentally fell. He could get up of the pit after Sissy and Rachael found him and roused as many people to help him. He was badly hurt. As he approached death, he was confident in his innocence and he asked Mr. Gradgrind to take the obligation of defending him and proving his innocence.

While the crowd was watching over Stephen, Sissy sent Tom to Mr. Sleary and her old friends who were in another town. Sissy, Louisa and Mr. Gradgrind found Sleary's Circus Troupe and they found that Tom had been successfully hidden as a member of the troupe. He was performing as part of the troupe. After his performing,
Tom cleaned up and he confessed his crime without remorse. His amoral attitude disappointed Mr. Gradgrind.

Mr. Gradgrind still had the shame obligation of clearing Blackpool's guilt and implicating his son in the process. He truly repented of his old philosophies.

Mr. Bounderby only lived for another five years and then all of the wealth he had built up was squandered by ill-intentioned humbugs.

Louisa remained unmarried and lived her years in comfort. Finally Tom could see the error of his youth and he wrote a letter of confession to Louisa. He began the journey home but he eventually died because of illness before he made it home. Sissy's story was the brightest of all for she had happy children and they were also a comfort to Louisa.

2. The Life of Charles Dickens

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born at Portsea on February 7\textsuperscript{th}, 1812, the second child of John Dickens, a minor clerk in the Navy Pay Office (then at Portsmouth), and of his wife Elizabeth, nee Barrow.

Owing to his father's congenital incapacity to manage his financial affairs, Charles Dickens' childhood was spent under the shadow of economic insecurity, a shadow that grew darker year by year as the family moved, first to London, then to Chatham and from there back to London, and which at one time (early in 1824) threatened to blot out for ever all prospects the boy might have had of a successful career. At that time the steadily declining family fortunes had reached their nadir with the arrest of John Dickens and his removal to the debtors' prison of the Marshalsea. Mrs. Dickens with four of her children went to join her husband in prison, and young Charles was sent to work at a blacking factory, where for six shillings a week he had
to stick labels on pots of paste-blacking. Those few months were for Dickens a time of utter misery, humiliation and despair the memory of which, as he later confessed, he could never quite shake off. However, a timely legacy came to the rescue. It enabled John Dickens to leave prison and to send his son to a school at Hampstead—he had had some previous schooling at Chatham—where he remained for two or three years.

In 1827, at the age of fifteen, he entered a solicitor's office as a junior clerk. This position, though by no means well paid, enabled him to establish certain independence for himself, to make his own friends and to indulge his taste for the theatre, which he was to retain all his life.

Having taught himself shorthand, he became (in 1829) a reporter in one of the offices of "Doctor's Common" advancing a year later to the position of a parliamentary reporter, and further still to that of a newspaper reporter on the *morning chronicle* at the respectable salary of five guineas a week.

In 1833 he wrote his first sketch for the *Old Monthly Magazine*; other sketches followed quickly, and a year later the name of "Boz" was attached to them. In 1836 the first series of *Sketches by Boz* appeared in volume form. Their success was immediate. The same year Dickens married Catherine Hogarth. The same year also Chapman & Hall commissioned him to write the letterpress for a projected series of Cockney sporting plates by the caricature artist Seymour. Dickens "thought of Pickwick" and this was the origin of the *Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* by which Dickens established his fame for all times. They appeared first in twenty monthly installments, beginning in April 1836 and were subsequently published in book form in 1837.

Dickens' rise from obscurity and relative poverty to a position of unique
eminence and of wealth was spectacular and dramatic in its suddenness. Within a very few years of the appearance of Pickwick he had become the most popular novelist his country had yet known; more than that, he had become a public institution. Book followed book, and his literary activity was henceforth not to cease until the very eve of his death some thirty years later.

*Oliver Twist* came out in 1838; *Nicholas Nickleby* followed a year later. *Master Humphrey's Clock*, in three volumes containing *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge* appeared in 1841.

In 1842 Dickens, accompanied by his wife, made his first tour to the United States and Canada. After his return in 1842 he published *American Notes* and in 1844 *Martin Chuzzlewit*, both works reflecting in a not very complimentary manner some of the author's impressions of America. 1843 also saw the appearance of *A Christmas Carol*, the first of Dickens' Christmas books which he continued later with *The Chimes*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, etc.

Dickens lived with his ever growing family—in all ten children were born to him during his married life which ended in 1858 by separation from his wife—at successive residences in London, and finally at Gad's Hill near Gravesend which had been the dream place of his childhood.

He traveled a good deal abroad, staying at—among other places—Genoa (1844-1845), Lausanne, Paris (1846) and Bologna (during the summers of 1853 - 1856).

He reached the height of his literary fame with *David Copperfield* in which he drew his father's caricatured portrait as Mr. Micawber. Shortly after its publication in 1849 Dickens re-entered journalism with the founding of the weekly magazine *Household Words* of which he was chief owner, editor and contributor. In 1859 he replaced the magazine by another almost identical one called *All the Year Round*. 


which he continued to edit until his death.

His next main works after David Copperfield were Bleak House (1853), Hard Times (1854), Little Dorrit (1857), A Tale of Two Cities (1859), The Un-commercial Traveler (1860) and Great Expectations (1861).

In later years, under the relentless pressure of work and of the many activities, which his restless nature imposed on him, his health began to suffer. In 1858 he had instituted public readings of his own works on a professional basis, a venture which proved an immediate and outstanding success but which perhaps more than anything else undermined his constitution. His second American tour, as reader of his own works was one long triumphal-and exhausting-march.

His health broke down completely in 1869, and he died from a cerebral stroke at Gad's Hill Place on June 9th 1870, leaving behind unfinished his last work The Mystery of Edwin Drood. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.