

Charles Dickens Hard Times

Hard Times illustrated Charles Dickens - Hard Times: For These Times (commonly known as Hard Times) is the tenth novel by Charles Dickens, first published in 1854. The book surveys English society and satirises the social and economic conditions of the era. "Now, what I want is, Facts. . . . Facts alone are wanted in life." Thus begins Superintendent Mr. Gradgrind—a wealthy, retired merchant—addressing a group of young students at his school in the industrial town of Coketown, England. A rigid man of fact, rational self-interest and realities, he not only teaches his pupils according to the utilitarian principles, but also raises his children with the same philosophy. When they grow up, as their lives begin to turn chaotic, they reproach their father for their upbringing. Will Mr. Gradgrind realize his flaws and become a humble man? Satirizing the laissez-faire system, Dickens' Hard Times lays bare the wide gap between the rich and the poor. Criticizing the materialistic world, this Victorian novel throws light on the value of emotions and the human heart. It has undergone several film and theatre adaptations.

Dickens's widely read satirical account of the Industrial Revolution. Dickens creates the Victorian industrial city of Coketown, in northern England, and its unforgettable citizens, such as the unwavering utilitarian Thomas Gradgrind and the factory owner Josiah Bounderby, and the result is his famous critique of capitalist philosophy, the exploitative force he believed was destroying human creativity and joy. This edition includes new notes to the text. From the Trade Paperback edition.

“An excellent collection of critical and social commentary that will help to make Dickens’ image of Victorian England meaningful to all students.” —John Howard Wilson, Dakota Wesleyan University This Norton Critical Edition includes: - Sylvere Monod’s superbly edited text, based on the 1854 edition and accompanied by Fred Kaplan’s expanded annotations. - Fourteen illustrations from 1854 to circa 1890. - Contextual pieces by social critics and theorists of Dickens’ time that give readers outstanding examples of views on industrialism, education, and utilitarianism in the nineteenth century. - Eight new critical essays by Paulette Kidder, David M. Levy, Christopher Barnes, Theodore Dalrymple, Christina Lupton, Efraim Sicher, Nils Clausson, and Kent Greenfield and John E. Nilsson. - A Chronology and a Selected Bibliography.

This stimulating study takes a fresh look at two of Dickens' most widely-studied texts. Part I uses carefully selected short extracts for close textual analysis, while Part II examines the historical and literary contexts and key criticism. The volume is an ideal introductory guide for those who are studying Dickens' novels for the first time.

Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, language: English, abstract: Hard Times is arguably Dickens’s most controversially discussed work. It was published in 1854 as a serial in his weekly periodical Household Words. Critics such as F.R. Leavis reprehend his novel for having flat and stereotypical characters that seem to be crude caricatures of reality, whereas others applaud him for his socio-economic critique of 19th century England and his amiable characters. In this paper I will show that Dickens strongly criticizes the utilitarian ideas of Jeremy Bentham and his ideological followers through the characters and the plot as well as the stylistic device of repetition.

Includes the life and background of Charles Dicken's, the characterization of this novel, chapter-by-chapter analysis, critical notes, and more.

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Hard Times for These TimesHard TimesWordsworth Editions

Winner of the 2017 Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime Book! From the internationally bestselling author, a deeply researched and atmospheric murder mystery of late Victorian-era London In the summer of 1895, Robert Coombes (age 13) and his brother Nattie (age 12) were seen spending lavishly around the docklands of East London -- for ten days in July, they ate out at coffee houses and took trips to the seaside and the theater. The boys told neighbors they had been left home alone while their mother visited family in Liverpool, but their aunt was suspicious. When she eventually forced the brothers to open the house to her, she found the badly decomposed body of their mother in a bedroom upstairs. Robert and Nattie were arrested for matricide and sent for trial at the Old Bailey. Robert confessed to having stabbed his mother, but his lawyers argued that he was insane. Nattie struck a plea and gave evidence against his brother. The court heard testimony about Robert's severe headaches, his fascination with violent criminals and his passion for 'penny dreadfuls', the pulp fiction of the day. He seemed to feel no remorse for what he had done, and neither the prosecution nor the defense could find a motive for the murder. The judge sentenced the thirteen-year-old to detention in Broadmoor, the most infamous criminal lunatic asylum in the land. Yet Broadmoor turned out to be the beginning of a new life for Robert--one that would have profoundly shocked anyone who thought they understood the Wicked Boy. At a time of great tumult and uncertainty, Robert Coombes's case crystallized contemporary anxieties about the education of the working classes, the dangers of pulp fiction, and evolving theories of criminality, childhood, and insanity. With riveting detail and rich atmosphere, Kate Summerscale recreates this terrible crime and its aftermath, uncovering an extraordinary story of man's capacity to overcome the past.

This text, that of the 1854 first edition, has been re-edited in light of recent scholarly findings. Annotations have been revised and expanded.

Thomas Gradgrind, a practical man, brings up his two children, Louisa and Tom, accordingly, thoroughly suppressing the imaginative and emotional sides of their natures with devastating consequences.

'This is a marvellous, endlessly illuminating book ... It doesn't go on the shelf alongside other critics; it goes on the shelf alongside Dickens' Howard Jacobson Discover the tricks of a literary master in this essential guide to the fictional world of Charles Dickens. From Pickwick to Scrooge, Copperfield to Twist, how did Dickens find the perfect names for his characters? What was Dickens's favourite way of killing his characters? When is a Dickens character most likely to see a ghost? Why is Dickens's trickery only fully realised when his novels are read aloud? In thirteen entertaining and wonderfully insightful essays, John Mullan explores the literary machinations of Dickens's eccentric genius, from his delight in clichés to his rendering of smells and his outrageous use of coincidences. A treat for all lovers of Dickens, this essential companion puts his audacity, originality and brilliance on full display.

Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,7, University of Stuttgart (Anglistik), course: Critical Idioms - Allegory, 3 entries in the

bibliography, language: English, abstract: The industrialization in England, started in the eighteenth and continued in the nineteenth century. It caused a radical change to working habits and ways of life. Especially to the majority of the people which now is spending most of its time in factories, getting only few amounts of money, just enough to earn its living. The invention of the steam engine and automated production processes, along with an immense population growth, caused a considerable accumulation of people close to industrial locations. This labour surplus led to low salaries, because of too much supply of workers and too less demand of workers. That constellation gave a lot of power to a few people, those people that owned the factories and industrial complexes. In short, the employers, which where homo okonomici had only profit in their minds. At these times we are far away from social services or standard wages. These circumstances lead to serious problems among the working class, which had been the majority. They lived in bad conditions in a polluted surrounding, dirty streets and a filthy environment. Leisure time was not known. Life mainly consists of working, eating and sleeping. In these times, where structural change in all aspects of life took or had taken place, Charles Dickens grew up among the most intensive stage of England's industrialization. Growing older and becoming a writer, he refuses the money making and profit orientated society more and more. This critical attitude to people's pursuit of money utters itself in his novel "Hard Times," that he wrote in 1854. In this novel he blames the social differences in the then-society and in the then-life in a satiric and as well melodramatic way. The novel on the one hand shows the struggle"

Journalist Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary and their four children lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family. When the money ran out, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town Rex had tried to escape. As the dysfunction escalated, the children had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they found the resources and will to leave home. Yet Walls describes her parents with deep affection in this tale of unconditional love in a family that, despite its profound flaws, gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life. -- From publisher description.

This Squid Ink Classic edition of *Hard Times* includes the full text of the work plus MLA style citations for scholarly secondary sources, peer-reviewed journal articles and critical essays for when your teacher requires extra resources in MLA format for your research paper.

"Have a heart that never hardens and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts." *Hard Times* is Charles Dickens's tenth novel that has been considered much seriously by literary critics and historians. It concentrates on the portrayal of the English society of the nineteenth century as well as on its different cultural and economic aspects. The story, which is set in a fictional Victorian town, is divided into three parts which are respectively entitled "Sowing," "Reaping," and "Garnering." The central character of the first part is Mr. Thomas Gradgrind, a wealthy man, a school headmaster and a father to 5 children. Generally, Mr. Gradgrind is a man of reason and thought, but also of strict rules and codes of behavior. The narrative gives minute details of his daily activities and habits as well as of the way he brings up his children, teaching them principles of rationalism and self-interest. The story then follows the existence of his children and family in the remaining parts of the novel. Dickens mainly deals with the much-debated social issues of the time such as the importance of professional careers, love and marriage. By the end of the narrative, Mr. Gradgrind eventually seems to become less categorical as to his strict principles of rationalism and utilitarianism.

A Study Guide for Charles Dickens's "Hard Times," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

A collection of eight critical essays on the Dickens novel, arranged in chronological order of original publication.

From the editor of the popular *Annotated Pride and Prejudice* comes an annotated edition of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* that makes the beloved novel an even more satisfying and fulfilling read. Here is the complete text of *Persuasion* with hundreds of annotations on facing pages, including: ? Explanations of historical context ? Citations from Austen's life, letters, and other writings ? Definitions and clarifications ? Literary comments and analysis ? Plentiful maps and illustrations ? An introduction, a bibliography, and a detailed chronology of events Packed with all kinds of illuminating information—from what Bath and Lyme looked like at the time to how “bathing machines” at seaside resorts were used to how Wentworth could have made a fortune from the Napoleonic Wars—David M. Shapard's delightfully entertaining edition brings Austen's novel of second chances vividly to life.

“It was a town of red brick, or of brick that would have been red if the smoke and ashes had allowed it; but as matters stood, it was a town of unnatural red and black like the painted face of a savage. It was a town of machinery and tall chimneys, out of which interminable serpents of smoke trailed themselves for ever and ever, and never got uncoiled. It had a black canal in it, and a river that ran purple with ill-smelling dye, and vast piles of building full of windows where there was a rattling and a trembling all day long, and where the piston of the steam-engine worked monotonously up and down, like the head of an elephant in a state of melancholy madness.” “*Hard Times*” by Charles Dickens surveys English society and satirises the social and economic conditions of the Victorian era. The story of “*Hard Times*” is set in the fictitious Victorian industrial Coketown, a generic Northern English mill-town.

The scene was a plain, bare, monotonous vault of a school-room, and the speaker's square forefinger emphasized his observations by underscoring every sentence with a line on the schoolmaster's sleeve. The emphasis was helped by the speaker's square wall of a forehead, which had his eyebrows for its base, while his eyes found commodious cellarage in two dark caves, overshadowed by the wall. The emphasis was helped by the speaker's mouth, which was wide, thin, and hard set. The emphasis was helped by the speaker's voice, which was inflexible, dry, and dictatorial.

New York reporter Paige MacKenzie has a hidden motive when she heads to the small town of Timberton, Montana. Assigned to research the area's unique Yogo sapphires for the *Manhattan Post*, she

hopes to reconnect romantically with handsome cowboy Jake Norris. The local gem gallery offers the material needed for the article, but the discovery of an old diary, hidden inside the wall of a historic hotel, soon sends her on a detour into the underworld of art and deception. Each of the town's residents holds a key to untangling more than one long-buried secret, from the hippie chick owner of a new age café to the mute homeless man in the town park. As the worlds of western art and sapphire mining collide, Paige finds herself juggling research, romance and danger. With stolen sapphires and shady characters thrown into the mix, will Paige escape the consequences of her own curiosity?

"Set in Coketown, the fictitious English mill-town modeled after Preston, *Hard Times* follows the stories of Thomas Gradgrind, a wealthy mill owner, his family, and the poor mill workers in the town. The storylines of Gradgrind's children, Louisa, Tom, and Sissy, run parallel to the troubles of the hard workers struggling to survive in a time of severe inequality. This Norton Critical Edition is based on the 1854 first edition, with new edits made to encompass more recent scholarly findings. The text comes paired with explanatory footnotes, illustrations and photographs depicting the scenes of the novel in contrast with their historical counterparts, and an introduction by the editor that brings *Hard Times* into a twenty-first century analysis on the social, economic, and political themes of the novel. "Contexts" carries over most of the contextual materials that help a modern reader acclimate to the harsh realities of mid-nineteenth century industrial England. "Criticism" brings together eighteen essays on *Hard Times*, five of which were seen in the third edition by Taine, Ruskin, Gissing, Leavis, and Shaw. New essays by Christopher Barnes, Christine Lupton, Victor Sage, Efraim Sicher, and Nils Clausson reexamine the novel as literary art, while Tamar Ketabgian, Kent Greenfield and John E. Nilsson, David M. Levy, Paulette Kidder, Martha Nussbaum, David Lodge, David L. Cowles, and Theodore Dalrymple provide perspectives ranging from the connections to the natural world to the study of law and the word of human experience in between. A Chronology and revised Selected Bibliography are also included."--

The *Purple Decades* brings together the author's own selections from his list of critically acclaimed publications, including the complete text of *Mau-Mauing* and the *Flak Catchers*, his account of the wild games the poverty program encouraged minority groups to play.

Charles Dickens's tenth novel, which was first published serially in Dickens's own periodical journal "Household Words" in 1854, "*Hard Times*," is a work that sought to highlight the social and economic divide that was growing between capitalistic mill owners and workers during the Victorian era of Great Britain. Set in the fictitious Coketown, "*Hard Times*" is a critical examination of the poor working conditions in many English factory towns of the time as well as the changing nature of the aristocracy and the working-class in the second half of the 19th century. The novel centers on the lives of Thomas Gradgrind, senior, the superintendent of the local school, his children, Louisa and Thomas, junior, and Sissy Jupe, a free-spirited circus girl who struggles to fit in as a student under the rigidly utilitarian instruction of the Gradgrind school. Through the lives of Gradgrind's children, Dickens's seeks to criticize the failure of excessively utilitarian philosophy which was so prevalent during his time. As Louisa finds herself in an unhappy marriage and Thomas, junior, descends into a life of moral corruption, their father begins to realize the shortcomings of the philosophy that he has so rigidly applied in raising them. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper and includes an introduction by Edwin Percy Whipple.

Hard Times and Reprinted Pieces by Charles Dickens. Worldwide literature classic, among top 100 literary novels of all time. A must read for everybody. In the 1980s, Italo Calvino (the most-translated contemporary Italian writer at the time of his death) said in his essay "Why Read the Classics?" that "a classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say", without any doubt this book can be considered a Classic. This book is also a Bestseller because as Steinberg defined: "a bestseller as a book for which demand, within a short time of that book's initial publication, vastly exceeds what is then considered to be big sales".

In the city of Coketown, young and stifled Louisa accepts the marriage proposal of a man 30 years her senior, Stephen strives to earn a living by honest means, and Sissy has to decide between an education and the circus she grew up in. In this classic of great renown, Charles Dickens brings to life a world where each character has a choice and every choice has the power to evoke good or the greatest of evils. Thomas Gradgrind destroys the spiritual and emotional lives of his children by denying the importance of human feelings

A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for Charles Dickens's *Hard Times*, a novel that brought to light the harsh conditions of factory workers during the nineteenth century. As a novel set in nineteenth-century England, many lower class citizens worked factory jobs and were very poorly treated. Dickens comments on this treatment and the abuse of power regarding the wealthy. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Dickens's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons it has stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.

Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,7, <http://www.uni-jena.de/> (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), course: The Social Novel in 19th Century England, language: English, abstract: Charles Dickens was born on the 7th of February 1812 and the British Empire was about to become the greatest empire on the planet. Unfortunately not all citizens have profited from this development. Dickens himself had to quit school and started his work in Warren's Blacking Factory, a period in his life which had - by his own comments - a huge impact on his lifetime and on his works thus, too. His biographer and friend John Forster also points out this factor. This assumption correlates with the sociology of the Frenchman Hippolyte Taine (1828 - 1893) who has said that each individual is determined by the three factors: race, milieu and moment. Stronger related to literary criticism Wilhelm Scherer (1841 -1886) had searched explicitly in the lives of authors for reasons which explain their works. Especially *Hard Times* which was written in 1854 is strongly suitable because it mirrors these bad experiences Dickens made during his life. It reflects firstly the current conflict between the class of the working people (proletariat) and the smaller class of the manufacturers (bourgeoisie), secondly the sympathy for the first group resulting from his own youth. In a letter to Charles Knight (17th March 1854) he wrote: "The English are, so far as I know, the hardest worked people on whom the sun shines. [...] They are born at the oar, and they live and die at it." Hans Ulrich Seeber adds that English society decayed into two parts which know almost nothing about each other. Dickens wanted to give a signal which should wake up both sides to stop this development before a revolution would destroy much more. To guarantee an impact on his readers it seems obvious that he has to describe the milieu and the moment of th

Presents new critical approaches to two Dickens' best known novels.

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