

# More Dickens Competition



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- *Extended class project*
- *Open to classes of all ages in primary schools in the UK*
- *£500 First Prize*
- *£250 Second Prize*
- *Closing Date 1st January 2012*

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**Dickens  
Fellowship**

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# **More Dickens**

## **Primary children celebrate the bi-centenary**

To celebrate the bi-centenary of Charles Dickens' birth in 1812, the Dickens Fellowship and the English Association announce the **More Dickens Competition**.

A first prize of £500 will be awarded for an extended class project based on one of Dickens' works. The runner up will receive £250. The competition is open to classes of all ages in primary schools in the UK and can be completed at any time during 2011—the closing date for entries is January 1st, 2012. Projects may link with regular literacy and numeracy work and include other areas of the curriculum, for example, art, geography, history, music, science. The judges will be looking for originality and lively outcomes, but are also very much interested in hearing about the teaching and learning processes that are part of everyday good practice.

As a brilliant storyteller and creator of characters, Dickens lends himself to work on narrative: adventure and mystery stories, historical fiction, dialogue, plays, works by significant authors and the full range of non-fiction writing.

Dickens was also a keen sighted social historian and projects might make local links with Dickens, collaborating with regional Dickens Fellowship groups and local libraries.

Children involved in the Dickens project should have the opportunity to enjoy some original text by Dickens as well as using drama, film, DVDs, sound recordings and books based on his works to explore the stories.

The class might use blogs or journals throughout the project, or make books, newspapers, magazines, podcasts, videos or PowerPoint presentations of their work to share with other classes, their families or the wider school community.

Teachers of classes entering the competition will be asked to write a brief outline of their planned project and a final report, including examples of children's work captured in different modes and forms such as sound, images or words. All schools entering will receive a copy of one of Dickens' works and the winner and runner-up will receive cash prizes for the school.

Winners will be announced by the end of March 2012 and the prizes will be awarded at the English Association's Annual General Meeting in London in May 2012.

### **Possible starting points**

Focus on the characters and their lives in Victorian England, perhaps using Marcia Williams' book *Charles Dickens and Friends* (Walker Books).

Build a project starting with 'Dickens' boxes' created by the children with artefacts and documents associated with one of the stories.

Look at parts of Dickens' *A Child's History of England* (edited by Kate Agnew: Wizard Books) comparing his version with documentation and other evidence from the time.

Telling the story of one of the books, perhaps from the point of view of the central child character.

Investigating key points in Dickens' life and the dress and artefacts used in Victorian times using Mick Manning and Brita Granström's richly illustrated book *Charles Dickens: Scenes from an Extraordinary Life* (forthcoming from Frances Lincoln).

### **Notes for Guidance and Registration Forms**

Are available from the English Association—contact details overleaf—or check out our website

[www.le.ac.uk/engassoc/prizes/moredickens.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/engassoc/prizes/moredickens.html)