

Dickens' art of characterization

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Characters enjoy a significant place in the novels of Dickens. He has laid special emphasis on the depiction of personality of his characters. His characters are life size characters which are borrowed straightway from society. They do not roam into the of imagination but have set their feet firmly in the society which he represents. His characters are part and parcel of the Victorian society and are the outcome of the changes which gripped the society which figure prominently in the novels of Dickens. His characters are not his mouthpiece who are intended to communicate his message to the masses as we notice in the case of G.B. Shaw who conveyed the message of Fabien socialism through the mouth of his characters and thus he uses his characters as a medium to disseminate his messages to the masses. His characters are flat characters dancing at the tune of Shaw having been granted no liberty at all to take decision themselves. Dickens characters on the contrary are round characters if the categorization of characters made by E.M. Foster in his book *The Aspects of Novel* is taken into consideration .Dickens has given plenty of liberty to his characters to deal with their problems using their wit and talent. He does not come in the way of his characters .It is often said that Dickens

has projected his own personality through his characters. .He has himself accepted that some of the characters who find mention in his novels are closely associated with people he had had great affinity in his personal life .The incidents of his childhood days get reflected through the circumstances they are pitted against. Contrary to this in the novel *The Tale Two Cities* itself he has created immortal characters like Sydney Carton, Madame Defrage and Lucie Manette who no longer enjoy the proximity to the personality of Dickens and successfully forge out the way out of complete mess. He has not cast his shadow on these characters who are at liberty to tide over the impediments whenever the occasion warrants .Dickens has presented the grim reality of Victorian life in the aftermath of Industrial revolution which had worsened the condition of the working class beyond repairs which finds expression through his characters of varied hues and colours.