



Charles Dickens | D H Lawrence

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Young people addicted to television soap operas will be intrigued to learn that 150 years ago when **The Old Curiosity Shop** was first serialised in a magazine, crowds lined New York pierhead to implore the crew of the ship carrying the relevant issue to tell them 'Is Little Nell dead?'

In his very accessible introduction, Christopher Martin ably recounts why Dickens' works gained such universal popular and critical acclaim during his lifetime, and charts the development from shorthand reporter to celebrated novelist against the social and political background which so greatly influenced his choice of material.

Neil Champion has chosen a different approach for his study of D H Lawrence, one which will appeal more to the committed Eng. Lit. student. After sketching in biographical details, he concentrates almost entirely on a critical analysis of the writer's oeuvre, exploring three major books in some depth, to show how Lawrence broke new ground in the crafting of the English novel. Lawrence's values and beliefs, revealed in much of his work, are also examined in some detail.

There is a judicious blend of quotations, both literary and biographical, in these two books and they are copiously illustrated - the selection of photographs and line-drawings in the Dickens' volume being the far more illuminating. A glossary and list of dates is usefully included, and there is a selective bibliography of biographical and critical works, though neither bibliography is annotated. Filmed versions of Dickens' novels available on video are also mentioned.

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