Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. He was the second of eight children born to John and Elizabeth Dickens. John Dickens was a clerk in the Royal Navy, but he was often in debt. When Dickens was 12 years old, his father was imprisoned for debt, and Dickens was sent to work in a blacking factory. This experience had a profound impact on Dickens, and it would later inspire many of his novels.

Dickens began writing at a young age. He published his first story in 1833, at the age of 21. In 1836, he published his first novel, "The Pickwick Papers." The novel was a huge success, and it made Dickens a household name.

Dickens was a prolific writer. He published 15 novels, five novellas, and hundreds of short stories and essays during his lifetime. His novels are known for their social commentary, their humor, and their memorable characters. Some of his most famous novels include "Oliver Twist" (1838), "A Christmas Carol" (1843), "David Copperfield" (1850), and "Great Expectations" (1861).

Dickens was also a successful journalist and editor. He founded and edited the weekly magazine "Household Words" from 1850 to 1859. He also edited the magazine "All the Year Round" from 1859 to 1870.

Dickens was a social reformer. He was passionate about improving the lives of the poor and the working class. His novels often explored social issues such as poverty, crime, and child labor. He also wrote extensively about the importance of education and social justice.

Dickens was a great public speaker. He gave readings from his novels all over England and America. He was also a successful playwright.

Dickens was a complex and fascinating figure. He was a brilliant writer, a social reformer, and a beloved public figure. He was also a compulsive gambler and a serial adulterer.

Dickens died on June 9, 1870, at the age of 58. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, London.

Dickens's legacy continues to inspire and entertain people around the world. His novels are still widely read and studied today. He is considered to be one of the greatest novelists of all time.