***David Copperfield***

***Chapter 3 – I Have a Change***

***Summary:***

* David and Peggotty finally arrive at Yarmouth, after a long, slow journey by cart (driven by "the carrier," who gets a name later in the novel: Mr. Barkis).
* Peggotty loves Yarmouth; she finds it "the finest place in the universe" (3.6).
* It's now been several years since David's birth, and Ham Peggotty (who was there the night of Mrs. Copperfield's delivery in the first chapter) has grown to be a huge six foot tall grown up.
* Ham carries David on his back up to the Peggotty house, which is, in fact, an old ship.
* The ship totally reeks of fish because Peggotty's brother sells lobsters, crabs, and crawfish, which he keeps in an old shed outside.
* David meets Mr. Dan Peggotty, Peggotty's brother, and a lovely little girl, Emily, whom David immediately likes.
* Mr. Peggotty asks after Mrs. Copperfield and welcomes David to the Peggotty home.
* Eventually, David manages to work out the Peggotty family's relations: Mr. *Dan* Peggotty had a brother, Joe Peggotty, who is the father of Ham. But Joe drowned a while back.
* And the lovely little girl who David's a bit smitten with, Emily, is *not* Mr. Peggotty's daughter. Her father was Mr. Peggotty's brother-in-law, Tom, who has also drowned.
* Mr. Peggotty is, in fact, a bachelor.
* He has adopted Ham and Emily because they are orphans.
* Mr. Peggotty has also taken in Mrs. Gummidge, the widow of a business partner of his who has no money at all.
* So, Mr. Peggotty is a fantastic guy. Even though he doesn't have much money of his own, he has still taken in three people who need him: Emily, Ham, and Mrs. Gummidge.
* David goes to bed feeling contented and safe.
* The next day, he and Emily head out to the beach.
* Emily reveals that she is afraid of the sea because it has taken away so many fishermen (including, of course, her own father).
* David and Emily compare notes about what it means to be an orphan – even though they've both lost their fathers, the similarity in their lives pretty much ends there.
* Emily wants to be a lady (a.k.a. a wealthy woman), because if she were a lady, her uncle Dan Peggotty and her cousin Ham would both be safe from the storms that make a fisherman's life so dangerous.
* She's afraid of the sea as an abstract thing, but she doesn't worry about it so much in person: she proves this to David by running quickly along the dock in a way that makes him think she's going to fall in. But she doesn't.
* David is totally head over heels in love with Emily: he thinks she's an angel.
* David tells Emily that, if she doesn't say she loves him back, he'll kill himself. So, of course, Emily says she does, and David believes her.
* All the adults think that Emily and David's puppy love is really cute.
* Mr. Peggotty likes to go to a local pub/bar called The Willing Mind.
* One night, when he's a bit late coming back because the weather is bad, Mrs. Gummidge starts saying that she is driving Mr. Peggotty out to the bar more and more often.
* Mrs. Gummidge says, "I am a lone lorn creetur' [...] and everythink goes contrary with me" (3.83). What she means is that she's alone and sad in the world, and everything goes against her.
* In fact, Mrs. Gummidge thinks that she feels all bad things worse than other people do: when a storm blows up, Mrs. Gummidge says she's colder than everyone else.
* She's a big ol' pile of self-pity.
* When Mr. Peggotty comes home and asks how everyone is, he notices how gloomy Mrs. Gummidge seems.
* Mrs. Gummidge apologizes for driving Mr. Peggotty to The Willing Mind.
* Mr. Peggotty laughs this off: he doesn't exactly need encouragement to go, and it's not Mrs. Gummidge's fault.
* Mrs. Gummidge frets that she has been annoying Peggotty and David all day.
* David feels bad for her, and assures Mrs. Gummidge that she hasn't been getting on his nerves (although, of course, she has).
* Mrs. Gummidge goes off to bed after telling everyone that it would be better if she just *died* and relieved them all of the burden of her presence (!!).
* Mr. Peggotty doesn't react to this speech except to tell the others that Mrs. Gummidge has been thinking of her dead husband ("the old 'un" (3.108)).
* In fact, whenever Mrs. Gummidge gets passive aggressive or self-pitying, Mr. Peggotty just feels more sympathetic towards her because she is a lonely widow.
* And so two weeks pass pretty fast.
* Finally, David and Peggotty have to leave.
* David really doesn't want to part with Little Emily, and promises to write her all the time.
* As David and Peggotty head home, David suddenly becomes more and more excited to see his mother again.
* Peggotty doesn't seem to be as excited as David is to be going back.
* Finally, they arrive at the Rookery, and the door is opened by a servant David doesn't know.
* Peggotty finally confesses to David that she has something to tell him.
* David gets so nervous at Peggotty's weird behavior that he thinks his mother has died.
* Oh no! reassures Peggotty. But Mrs. Copperfield has gotten David a new father.
* Peggotty takes David to the best parlor.
* Sitting next to the fire is Mr. Murdstone and Mrs. Copperfield (now Clara Murdstone).
* Mr. Murdstone warns the new Mrs. Murdstone (though we're going to keep calling her Mrs. Copperfield for the sake of clarity) not to get too emotional.
* David climbs upstairs and finds that his bedroom has been moved down the hall. The whole house looks different: the kennel that had once been empty now has a huge, scary dog.

***Brief Summary:***

David arrives in Yarmouth to visit Peggotty's family. Various relatives live in a boat that has been converted into a house on dry land. The relatives welcome David kindly and his first impressions of Peggotty's family are very positive. Peggotty's brother, Mr. Peggotty, is a retired sailor who has taken in two orphaned relatives, Emily and Ham, as well as the widowed wife of an old friend, Mrs. Gummidge. David strikes up a friendship with Emily. They wander the seashore together and develop a childhood crush on each other. David has a very pleasant time at the Peggotty home. He regrets having to leave, but looks forward to seeing his mother again.

On arriving home, Peggotty informs him that his mother has married Mr. Murdstone while they were away. David finds his familiar childhood home greatly changed with the addition of Mr. Murdstone.

***Brief Analysis:***

The trip to Yarmouth provides many clues about David's future. His crush on Emily is the first of many such attachments that David develops towards young women in his life; attachments usually based on their poetic features instead of their practical ones. His conversations with Emily foreshadow her own future, as she discusses how she would wish to be a lady rather than a fisherman's wife. Mrs. Gummidge, the sad widow, foreshadows many of the developments that will take place with David's mother, including the problems in her marriage to Mr. Murdstone.

***Critical Study:***

In the seaside town of Yarmouth, David and Peggotty stay with Peggotty's kind-hearted brother, Mr. Peggotty, a fisherman. He lives in a charming old boat converted into a house on the beach. Also living in the house are Mr. Peggotty's orphaned nephew, Ham Peggotty, his orphaned niece, Emily, and Mrs. Gummidge, his former partner's widow. David adores "little Em'ly," as she is often called, and the two become fast friends. When Peggotty and David return to Blunderstone, David is told his mother has married Mr. Murdstone. The marriage brings sudden and unwelcome changes to David's life. Mr. Murdstone cautions Clara to treat her son with restrained formality instead of the usual warm hugs, and David finds his "old dear bedroom" has been moved far away from hers. Even outside, there are changes: the old empty dog kennel is now occupied by a large, angry black dog. [Charles Dickens](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/David-Copperfield/author/) uses first-person narration in this novel, allowing [David Copperfield](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/David-Copperfield/character-analysis/#David_Copperfield) to tell his own story. Although David Copperfield has a remarkable memory for details of his childhood, he doesn't explain how he knows so much about the night he was born. Readers must assume he obtained the details from his mother or [Peggotty](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/David-Copperfield/character-analysis/" \l "Peggotty). Many of the settings in the novel are actual locations familiar to Dickens. There was a place named Blundeston that Dickens may have been familiar with from visiting Suffolk and Norfolk. In his novel, he changed the name to Blunderstone and used it as the name of the Copperfields' home to suggest the family trait of making blunders, or errors in judgment.

Dickens develops a fondness for the characters he creates, and he likes to bring back even minor characters throughout his story. Over the several decades of David Copperfield's life recounted here, readers will have occasion to meet all of the characters introduced in these first three chapters again—even Mr. Chillip.

The hard-working Peggotty family in Yarmouth provides a counterpoint to the more genteel lifestyle at Blunderstone. Dickens emphasizes their honesty and kindness and uses dialect to represent their working-class speech patterns. Dickens used a source for this dialect that can be found online today: *Suffolk Words and Phrases*, by Edward Moor, published in 1823.

The themes of naïveté and life choices are introduced in [Chapters 1–3](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/David-Copperfield/chapters-1-3-summary/), as exemplified by [Miss Betsey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/David-Copperfield/character-analysis/#Miss_Betsey), who made a poor choice in her own marriage and is critical of the choice her nephew made. Before David turns out to be a boy, Betsey has determined she will "guard" her great-niece from "reposing any foolish confidences where they are not deserved." Clara's youth and naïveté work against her when Mr. Murdstone enters the scene, and it's as evident to the reader as it is to Peggotty that Clara makes a poor life choice when she decides to marry Mr. Murdstone.

***Critical Analysis(Ch1-3):***

Peggotty takes David to Yarmouth, where her family lives in a boat they have converted into a home. Peggotty’s brother, Mr. Daniel Peggotty, adopted his nephew, Ham, and his niece, Little Em’ly, who are not siblings, when their fathers drowned. Mrs. Gummidge, the widowed wife of Mr. Peggotty’s brother, lives with them too.

Mr. Peggotty and Ham fish during the day, while David and Little Em’ly roam the beaches, collect shells, and fall in love. In retrospect, David muses that he has at times wished that the sea had closed over Little Em’ly then so that she would not have suffered all that she has suffered since.

When David returns home, he observes that he has hardly thought of his mother or his home since he left. When he arrives, Peggotty tells him that his mother married Mr. Murdstone while they were away. David is reunited with his mother. Mr. Murdstone orders David’s mother to control herself in her behavior toward her son. David sees Mr. Murdstone again, for the first time as his mother’s husband. David thinks that Mr. Murdsone, with his great black beard, looks like an enormous and threatening dog.

Dickens uses foreshadowing and cultivates an atmosphere of mystery in order to make his story dramatic and capture our interest from the start. The surreal circumstances under which David is born, including the appearance of Miss Betsey, mark the first example of mystery in the novel. Although Miss Betsey is absent for much of the story, she returns when David is in his hour of most dire need. The darkness and abruptness established around Miss Betsey in the opening chapter characterize her throughout the novel. Likewise, David’s comment that Little Em’ly might have been better off in the long run if the sea had swallowed her up as a child foreshadows painful events that come later. By alluding to these future difficult circumstances early in the novel, Dickens keeps us wondering what will happen to the various characters as the novel unfolds. Throughout David Copperfield, Dickens uses such foreshadowing not only to create suspense about future events but also to establish an ominous tone.

Dickens portrays David as a gentle, naïve child in order to limit the novel’s perspective and set up the dramatic irony of many of the story’s episodes. We see many signs of David’s youth: his memory of Mr. Murdstone as doglike, his failure to understand that Mr. Quinion and Mr. Murdstone make jokes at his own expense, his memory of his mother’s hair and form, and so on. We also see David’s innocence in his narrative voice, which focuses on other characters’ best aspects and never hints at infidelity or betrayal. Additionally, as a child, David often fears and dreads aspects of characters that an adult would not. We might expect the adult David to rewrite the story using his adult perspective to make sense of the things that baffled him as a child. But David does not recast his childhood through an adult perspective. As a result, we see the characters and the story as the young David did at the time. David’s naïve voice preserves an element of surprise in the novel, as David repeatedly fails to notice parts of the story that, if shown, would reveal upcoming events.

By matching his characters’ physical traits to their emotional traits, Dickens helps us categorize the many people we meet in the novel. Mr. Murdstone, for example, sports a large black beard and evil-looking face that make him appear like a beast—and indeed, he turns out to be a less than savory character. In this way, David Copperfield is generally straightforward in its depiction of good and evil characters. In most cases, characters are more or less what they appear, which makes it easy for us to remember both their outward appearances and internal traits. Also, because Dickens tends to associate good with light and beauty and evil with dark and ugliness, the images in the novel come into sharp contrast. Thus, when David’s mother and Mr. Murdstone are together, the image is as physically and aesthetically repugnant as it is morally unappealing. Though there are exceptions to this general rule, the alliance of good with beauty and evil with ugliness persists fairly regularly throughout David Copperfield.

***Summary and analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) and [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) have a long trip to Yarmouth in a cart driven by a silent man David will later learn is named [Barkis](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/mr-barkis). [Ham](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/ham-peggotty) is waiting for them when they arrive and greets David as an old friend before leading him and Peggotty to his uncle [Mr. Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty)'s "house." In fact, the house is an abandoned and beached boat, which David finds charming and "romantic."

***Analysis Part 1:***

The men of the Peggotty family all earn their living as fishermen or boat builders, so their house is another point of connection between the family and the sea. In its makeshift quality, however, the house also mirrors the family itself, which is comprised of an uncle, an orphaned niece and nephew, and the widow of a former partner in trade. Finally, its somewhat precarious location on the beach foreshadows the events that will later overtake and break up the family.

***Summary Part 2:***

[David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) describes his impressions of the Peggotty home, which is clean and tidy but smells strongly of fish: [Mr. Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) fishes for and sells lobsters, crabs, and crawfish. He also notices several pictures of biblical subjects, which he says he has "never seen since in the hands of pedlars, without seeing the whole interior of Peggotty's brother's house again, at one view." David also meets a woman and a "most beautiful" girl, who he will soon learn are [Mrs. Gummidge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/mrs-gummidge) and [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily).

***Analysis Part 2:***

One aspect of David's good memory is his tendency to quickly form associations between people, places, and things. Here, he only needs to see a print like the ones at Mr. Peggotty's to visualize the whole house again. Because these associations are so vivid and immediate, they can sometimes be overpowering in their intensity and threaten David's grasp on the present. The house itself, meanwhile, is an idealized take on working-class life that associates the Peggotty's basic decency with their housekeeping: although they're poor, the Peggottys do their best to maintain a comfortable and homey atmosphere.

***Summary Part 3:***

After the family has tea, [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) sits with [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily) on a locker (for storing sails), and pleasurably takes in the sights and sounds, including the wind howling outside and the fire burning inside. Eventually, he asks [Mr. Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) why he named his "son" [Ham](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/ham-peggotty), which prompts Mr. Peggotty to explain how he is related to the house's other residents. Ham and little Em'ly are his nephew and niece (by his brother and sister, respectively); both Ham and Emily are orphans, their fathers having died at [sea](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/symbols/the-sea). Mr. Peggotty also introduces his "wife" as [Mrs. Gummidge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/mrs-gummidge) but does not explain who she is. Later, however, David learns from [Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) that Mrs. Gummidge is the widow of a former partner of Mr. Peggotty's, who now supports her.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Because the Peggottys superficially resemble a traditional nuclear family, David assumes that they are one. In reality, they are one of the many makeshift or fractured families in the novel, although it's worth noting that they seem to function well despite this. The one possible source of friction is the fact that Ham and Emily are cousins rather than siblings. In the Victorian era, this meant that a romantic relationship was possible, and the fact that Ham later desires such a relationship while Emily does not contributes to her later elopement with Steerforth.

***Summary Part 4:***

The next morning, [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) and [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily) walk along the beach, comparing their family lives and noting the differences between them. Emily remarks that while they have both lost their fathers, there is a significant difference in class between them: David's father was a "gentleman," whereas hers was only a fisherman.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The fact that it is little Em'ly rather than David who first brings up the class difference between them is significant. Up until this point, David has led a fairly comfortable, respectable, middle-class life. Consequently, he has never needed to think about class in the way that a working-class girl like Emily has, and sees only the similarities between their situations.

***Summary part 5:***

[Emily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily) then fantasizes about being a lady: she would like to buy her uncle, [Mr. Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty), an expensive outfit to repay him for his kindness. She would also like to move away from the [sea](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/symbols/the-sea), which she says frightens her. This puzzles [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield), because Emily seems, if anything, careless about the ocean. Emily, however, says she is only afraid of the sea when it "blows," and demonstrates her point by running out along an old jetty. The image of Emily "springing forward to her destruction" sticks in David's mind forever, and he remarks that he has sometimes thought it would have been better for her if she actually had drowned that day.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Little Em'ly's desire to be a lady leaves her vulnerable to seduction by the upper-class Steerforth: for a woman (and especially a working-class woman) there were few avenues for social advancement outside of relationships with wealthy or powerful men. Emily's ambition also marks her as suspect in a society where women were meant to be selfless, although her desire to help her family tempers this slightly. Regardless, seems to drive Emily is a need to escape the precariousness of working-class existence, as symbolized by the sea. Ultimately, however, she only succeeds in trading the uncertainties of working-class life for the uncertainties of life as a mistress, and this passage foreshadows the self-destructiveness of her actions with the image of her running out along the unstable jetty.

***Summary Part 6:***

As the days go by, [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) and [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily) develop a youthful (though "pure" and "disinterested") infatuation with one another. Their class differences do not matter to them, because they "[make] no more provision for growing older, than [they] do for growing younger."

***Analysis Part 6:***

David's childhood romance with Emily illustrates the novel's complex relationship with the past. On the one hand, David explicitly indicates that the relationship isn't one that could last, because neither David nor Emily are thinking of the future. In a way, however, this total absorption in the moment is what gives the relationship its "purity," and there's a hint of regret that this kind of purity can't carry over into adulthood.

***Summary Part 7:***

The adults find [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) and [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily)'s romance charming—even [Mrs. Gummidge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/mrs-gummidge), who otherwise has a habit of complaining about everything and constantly declaring her own unhappiness. On one occasion, she attempts to pick a fight with Mr. Peggotty by complaining that she knows he was out at a public-house (tavern) to escape from her "contrairy" nature. Mr. Peggotty, however, remains calm and generous even when Mrs. Gummidge goes off announcing her intention to "die and be a riddance." He attributes her bad mood, as he always does, to grief over her husband’s passing.

***Analysis Part 7:***

The adults' reaction to David and little Em'ly once again highlights the nostalgia at work in the novel's depictions of childhood; the innocence of the children's relationship is so sweet that it even moves Mrs. Gummidge. Mrs. Gummidge's supposed grief for her husband also gently satirizes the tendency of characters like David and (later on) Mr. Wickfield, to become stuck in their recollections of the past. Although Mr. Peggotty charitably chalks up Mrs. Gummidge's behavior to memories of "the old'un," the truth is that she is simply grumpy by nature.

***Summary Part 8:***

[David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) spends two weeks with the Peggottys and develops a particular set of mental associations with Yarmouth—like "the bells ringing for church, [and] [little Em'ly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/little-em-ly-emily) leaning on my shoulder." However, while he is distressed to leave Emily, he finds himself eager to return home to [Clara](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/clara-copperfield) as soon as he and [Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) are on their way back to Suffolk.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Like the Rookery, Yarmouth becomes the site of some of David's most childhood memories. Also like the Rookery, it's a place that David will eventually "lose" when Steerforth runs away with little Em'ly, stripping the place of its former innocence.

***Summary Part 9:***

When [David](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/david-copperfield) and [Peggotty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/peggotty) arrive at the Rookery, however, it is a strange servant who opens the door. David is distressed, so Peggotty leads him into the kitchen, where she awkwardly explains that [Clara](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/clara-copperfield) is not away or dead, but that David has a new "Pa": Clara has remarried. Peggotty then leads a reluctant David inside, where he sees his mother with [Mr. Murdstone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/david-copperfield/characters/mr-murdstone). As David watches, Murdstone scolds Clara for her excited response to seeing her son. Despondently, David wanders around the rest of the house, trying "to find anything that was like itself."

***Analysis Part 9:***

Peggotty's reference to David's new "Pa" is ironic in light of the changes Murdstone brings to the Copperfield home: far from making the family more complete, his marriage to Clara makes everything about home feel alien and unfamiliar to David. Meanwhile, Mr. Murdstone's warning to Clara foreshadows the ways in which he will attempt to significantly reshape her character.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Mr. Murdstone

'Now, Clara my dear,' said Mr. Murdstone. 'Recollect! control yourself, always control yourself! Davy boy, how do you do?'  
  
I gave him my hand. After a moment of suspense, I went and kissed my mother: she kissed me, patted me gently on the shoulder, and sat down again to her work. I could not look at her, I could not look at him, I knew quite well that he was looking at us both; and I turned to the window and looked out there, at some shrubs that were drooping their heads in the cold. (3.138-9)

***Explanation:***

First of all, it makes our blood boil that Mr. Murdstone can talk to his wife this way – how dare he tell her to "control herself," like a dog or something. Second of all, what is Mr. Murdstone asking Mrs. Copperfield to control? He doesn't want Mrs. Copperfield to be too obvious in her affection for David, so he wants her to repress her demonstrations of love for him. What damage do you think Mr. Murdstone imagines Mrs. Copperfield's emotions will do?

***Quotation 2:***

But there were some differences between Em'ly's orphanhood and mine, it appeared. She had lost her mother before her father; and where her father's grave was no one knew, except that it was somewhere in the depths of the sea.  
  
"Besides," said Em'ly, as she looked about for shells and pebbles, "your father was a gentleman and your mother is a lady; and my father was a fisherman and my mother was a fisherman's daughter, and my uncle Dan is a fisherman." (3.57-8)

***Explanation:***

Emily is only, like, five years old at this point, but she already knows the important difference between herself and David. And it's not the difference you might expect – it's not gender difference. No, it's that David's father "was a gentleman and [his] mother is a lady," while Emily's father "was a fisherman and [her] mother was a fisherman's daughter." It's at this early stage that we learn what the primary organizing logic of this book is going to be. It's not going to be (mainly) about men and women. The primary divisions in this book are between the working, middle, and upper classes.

***Quotation 3:***

David Copperfield

[Mr. Peggotty] was but a poor man himself, said Peggotty, but as good as gold and as true as steel—those were her similes. The only subject, she informed me, on which he ever showed a violent temper or swore an oath, was this generosity of his; and if it were ever referred to, by any one of them, he struck the table a heavy blow with his right hand (had split it on one such occasion), and swore a dreadful oath that he would be 'Gormed' if he didn't cut and run for good, if it was ever mentioned again. It appeared, in answer to my inquiries, that nobody had the least idea of the etymology of this terrible verb passive to be gormed; but that they all regarded it as constituting a most solemn imprecation. (3.46)

***Explanation:***

Mr. Peggotty is a poor man, but a generous one: he has adopted his orphaned niece and nephew and allowed widowed Mrs. Gummidge to share his home. But the real mark of Mr. Peggotty's greatness as a character is that he does these things without wanting to be thanked. We can compare Mr. Peggotty's generosity with the charitable institutions that produce Uriah Heep, in which Uriah Heep is constantly reminded that he should be grateful to his betters. Mr. Peggotty's generosity produces other sympathetic human beings – fallible, maybe, but good-hearted – while Uriah Heep's institutions produce an angry, destructive jerk. Perhaps this is a lesson about how Dickens think the poor should be treated: with unselfish generosity rather than grudging charity

***Quotation 4:***

Emily

"I'm not afraid in this way [of the sea]," said little Em'ly. "But I wake when it blows, and tremble to think of Uncle Dan and Ham and believe I hear 'em crying out for help. That's why I should like so much to be a lady." (3.72)

***Explanation:***

When Emily is rushing towards the sea, David admires her courage. But Emily isn't afraid of the sea for herself. She's worried about what the sea has done and will do to her family. Emily's father and uncle (Ham's father) were drowned, and this childhood trauma has strongly affected her development as a character. It's because of her sorrow at the loss of her family that Emily is so desperate to become a lady. She wants to have the money to protect Mr. Peggotty and Ham from their dangerous profession, fishing. And it's because Emily so wants to be a lady that she becomes vulnerable to Steerforth's seduction.