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Charles Dickens 查尔斯·狄更斯

Andrea: Charles Dickens. One of the best and most read English authors.

Jean: 而由查尔斯·狄更斯的小说而改编制作的电影和电视剧也有至少 180 部了。

Andrea: And today we're going to be finding out a little bit more about him.
Hello. I'm Andrea.

Jean: 大家好，我是董征。

Andrea: In these programmes we're focussing on famous Britons, both old ones and new!

Jean: 而说到英国历史上的著名人物，我们就绝对要说到这位英国近代史上最著名的一位英国作家。

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I haven't read any Charles Dickens books, so I don't know. I always kind of perceived them as being quite long and boring and too much detail.

Andrea: Long, boring and too much detail?

Jean: 又长又闷而且细节过多。这是这位男士对狄更斯小说所作的一个评价。

Andrea: Shame on him! Dickens is a fantastic writer. But that man used an interesting word: perceived.

Jean: Perceived 被旁人看来是怎么样的。在他看来，狄更斯的小说没实在是没有太多的趣味性。

Andrea: And there he is wrong.

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The characterisations are one of the strongest aspects of his writing. And throughout his life he absorbed all the characterisations of the people that he met, and the different personalities that he met, and lots of those were fed back into the novels. And I think that they really appeal still today to people.

Jean: 这是伦敦的查尔斯·狄更斯博物馆工作人员 Sophie Slade 给我们做的讲解，她对那位男士的论断表示了彻底的否定。

Andrea: She thinks that the characterisations, or the different people in the novels, are what make Dickens' novels so special. So his books are far from boring!

Jean: Sophie 说到了狄更斯是如何在自己的生活中汲取到了身边不同人物的性格，并把这些观察和积累注入到了自己书中的人物中。 **Absorbed** 就是“吸收了”的意思。

Andrea: She also uses the phrase: fed back. Dickens' own experiences, and the people he met throughout his life, fed back into or contributed to the novels we all know today. Can you think of any Dickens' novels that you've particularly enjoyed?

Jean: 最让我难忘的应该是狄更斯作品 **Great Expectations** 《孤星血泪》当中那位性格怪诞的老寡妇 **Miss Havisham**, 真不知道他是怎样构思出这么一个奇特的人物的!

Andrea: And I would say *Oliver Twist* is one of my favourites. And it's a perfect example of a book that has characters that Charles Dickens actually met during his lifetime.

Jean: 是的，狄更斯对当时社会的批评和抨击是他小说的一大特点。“社会评论”就是 **social commentary**.

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Oliver Twist has had a very long-lasting effect because of the issues, such big issues as child poverty and child labour. But I just think that it's very relevant today and I think it really hasn't dated as a novel. It's just one of the most poignant novels.

Andrea: Sophie talks about the social commentary in *Oliver Twist* and she feels that it's a novel that is still important and relevant today.

Jean: Relevant --恰当的，有关联的。 Sophie 也认为狄更斯的这些书时至今日也没有过时。 **It is still very poignant** 同样的动人心魄。

Andrea: And that's what's so amazing about this old Briton. Charles Dickens' novels are just as popular today as they were during the Victorian era. Listen to what these people think about his characters and books.

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Nancy. Great character. For that era, and the way that it's all portrayed, she's a strong woman. I think that says a lot. Very unlike any other woman of that time.

I like Pip. He's a good character and it's a really good story.

Andrea: Do you know which books those characters are from?

Jean: 我知道 **Nancy** 这个人物是来自《雾都孤儿》 *Oliver Twist*, 正如 Sophie 所说, **Nancy** 这位独立自强的人物和当时其它文学作品中的出现的女性人物极为不同。 **To portray something** 就是“去描写某事”。

Andrea: And here's another interesting fact about Dickens. His pen name was Boz. A pen name is the name that some writers sometimes use if they don't want to reveal their real name.

Jean: 不过狄更斯也确实没有必要隐瞒自己的真实身份，不管是用什么样的笔名，他独特的笔触都能让人印象深刻。时至今日，狄更斯的多本著作依然为现代人所喜爱，他的短篇故事更是一如既往的畅销。

Andrea: Well, until the next time we meet another well-known Briton, it's goodbye from both of us at BBC Learning English. Keep reading! Bye!

Jean: 谢谢大家的收听，我们下次节目再见！