

The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club Study Guide

**The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club by
Charles Dickens**

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Contents

The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Section I, ch. 1-4.....	6
Section II, ch. 5-10.....	8
Section III, ch. 11-14.....	10
Section IV, ch. 15-17.....	12
Section V, ch. 18-21.....	13
Section VI, ch. 22-25.....	15
Section VII, ch. 26-30.....	17
Section VIII, ch. 31-33.....	19
Section IX, ch. 34-37.....	20
Section X, ch. 38-41.....	22
Section XI, ch. 42-45.....	24
Section XII, ch. 46-47.....	26
Section XIII, ch. 48-51.....	27
Section XIV, ch. 52-54.....	29
Section XV, ch. 55-57.....	31
Characters.....	33
Objects/Places.....	40
Themes.....	44
Style.....	47
Quotes.....	49
Topics for Discussion.....	52



Plot Summary

The Pickwick Club by Charles Dickens is the story of a fraternity of men who begin a traveling society in order to advance their scientific knowledge. Throughout the novel, the founder of the club, Mr. Pickwick, loses his innocence and begins to attain knowledge of the evils of the world. The Pickwick Club displays the many interactions and complications that occur between men and men and between men and women.

The Pickwick Club votes to begin a traveling club in order to extend their knowledge. On their way to Rochester, they are joined by an arrogant young man who borrows Winkle's coat for the ball. When the stranger seduces the widow that Dr. Slammer is courting, a duel nearly ensues between Dr. Slammer and Winkle. Next, the Pickwickians go to Chatham to see the army and meet Mr. Wardle who invites them to join his family picnic. Snodgrass likes Emily Wardle, and Tupman likes Rachael, Mr. Wardle's spinster sister. Mr. Wardle invites the Pickwickians to his home in Dingley Dell, and the Pickwickians visit him on Manor Farm. The party goes crow hunting, and when Winkle accidentally shoots Tupman in the arm, Rachael nurses Winkle as the other go to a cricket match and encounter Jingle. Tupman declares love to Rachael which upsets Mr. Wardle when he discovers it. Jingle sues Rachael and elopes with her. Mr. Wardle and Mr. Pickwick pursue them. At the White Hart Inn in London, Sam Weller directs them to Jingle's lodgings. Mr. Perker, Mr. Wardle's lawyer, convinces Mr. Wardle to buy Jingle off.

Mr. Pickwick returns home and asks to discuss something with Mrs. Bardell, his landlady. She misunderstands him, thinking he wants to propose. Mr. Pickwick hires Sam Weller as a personal servant. The Pickwickians attend the Eatanswill election where Mr. Perker introduces them to Mr. Pott. The Pickwickians attend a costume breakfast where they encounter Jingle, and Mr. Pickwick pursues Jingle to Bury St. Edmunds in order to expose him. Sam Weller meets Job Trotter, Jingle's servant who plays a trick on Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller. Winkle flees when he is accused of seducing Mrs. Pott who likes him. Mr. Wardle invites the Pickwickians to Isabella's wedding over Christmas. When Mr. Pickwick receives a letter from Mrs. Bardell announcing her intent to sue him for breach of promise, he returns to London for legal advice. From Dodson and Fogg's office, he learns about the damages that he is being sued for.

Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller run into Sam's father, Tony Weller who informs them that Jingle and Job Trotter are on their way to Ipswich. Mr. Pickwick and Sam register at a large inn in Ipswich where Mr. Pickwick nearly causes a duel with Peter Magnus when he accidentally enters and undresses in the wrong room. The Pickwickians are arrested, but Mr. Pickwick informs the justice, Mr. Nupkins, that Jingle is his daughter's suitor. Sam Weller begins a romance with the Nupkins' housemaid. Mr. Pickwick returns to London, moves out of Mrs. Bardell's house and learns about the lawsuit. The Pickwickians attend Isabella's wedding at Manor Farm where Winkle meets Arabella Allen and becomes jealous of Bob Sawyer. Back in London, Mr. Pickwick's trial commences; he is found guilty, but he refuses to pay the damages. The Pickwickians go to Bath with the Dowlers for two months, but Winkle has a misunderstanding with Mr.



Dowler and flees to Bristol where he runs into Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen. Winkle confesses his love for Arabella to Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller, and she returns his affections. Mr. Pickwick returns to London and is arrested. Sam Weller obtains debt and also goes to Fleet Prison where they encounter Jingle and Job Trotter with whom they reconcile. Mrs. Bardell is arrested for not paying her attorney fees, and Mr. Perker, along with Winkle and Arabella, convince Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines and be released from prison in order to reconcile Winkle and Arabella's relatives to their elopement.

Mr. Pickwick goes to Bristol where he reconciles Ben Allen to Arabella's marriage, but he is less successful with Mr. Winkle, Sr. Back in London, Mr. Pickwick pays for Jingle and Job Trotter's release and positions in the West Indies where they succeed. He pays Dodson and Fogg and runs into Wardle who announces Emily's intent to elope with Snodgrass. Arabella eventually wins Mr. Winkle, Sr. over, and Mrs. Weller dies, leaving her money to Sam and Tony. Tony Weller gives his money to Mr. Pickwick who invests it for him. Mr. Pickwick buys a house in Dulwich, and the Pickwick Club disbands. Snodgrass marries Emily and retires to the country, Sam Weller marries Mary, and Tupman remains a bachelor. Tony Weller retires on his investments while Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen become surgeons in India. Mr. Pickwick lives as a respected, well-loved gentleman.



Section I, ch. 1-4

Section I, ch. 1-4 Summary

In May, 1827, the Pickwick Club gathers to listen to Mr. Samuel Pickwick's paper entitled "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with Some Observations on the Theory of Tittlebats." Then, they vote to extend their knowledge by creating a traveling club which consists of Samuel Pickwick, Tracy Tupman, Augustus Snodgrass and Nathaniel Winkle. Each man will be required to pay his own expenses for their travels. As Mr. Pickwick elaborates on his desire to benefit mankind through scientific research, another member, Blotton, makes a derogatory comment, causing an argument. Mr. Pickwick and Blotton are reconciled after Blotton explains that he meant the comment in a "Pickwickian" sense.

Mr. Pickwick prepares for his first trip and takes a cab to meet the other Pickwickians. In the cab, Mr. Pickwick takes notes about the cabbie, but the cabbie, thinking Mr. Pickwick is an informer, raises a mob against the Pickwickians. A greedy young man rescues the Pickwickians and joins them on their journey to Rochester. In Rochester, they obtain lodgings in a fashionable inn. They decide to attend a ball, but the stranger does not have a coat. Tupman loans the stranger Winkle's coat. At the ball, the stranger gains the affection of a wealthy widow Dr. Slammer has been courting, and Dr. Slammer vows revenge.

The next morning, a lieutenant arrives at the hotel, and identifying the offender by his coat, challenges Tupman to a duel in Dr. Slammer's name. That evening, Winkle, with Snodgrass as his second, meets the lieutenant to answer the challenge; luckily, Dr. Slammer realizes that Winkle is the wrong man and calls off the duel. Winkle and Snodgrass return to the inn where they meet the stranger's actor friend, Dismal Jemmy, who tells them a story. Dr. Slammer and his companions arrive, see Winkle with the offensive stranger, and demand an explanation. After an argument with the Pickwickians, Dr. Slammer's party leaves. The enraged Mr. Pickwick is restrained from following.

Next, the Pickwickians travel to Chatham to see the army practicing maneuvers. They are caught in a chaotic crowd but meet a nice gentleman, Mr. Wardle. Mr. Wardle invites the Pickwickians to join his family's picnic. At the picnic, Snodgrass is attracted to Emily, Mr. Wardle's daughter, while Tupman is attracted to the spinster, Rachael, Wardle's sister. After having an enjoyable picnic, Mr. Wardle invites the Pickwickians to visit him at his home, Manor Farm, in Dingley Dell.

Section I, ch. 1-4 Analysis

The introduction to the Pickwick Club, along with the observation of their mannerisms and intentions, allows the reader to realize that Dickens is satirizing scientific clubs.



Another important hint that this is a satire is the title of Mr. Pickwick's paper which is verbose and absurd, insinuating that the paper probably shares the same characteristics. The name of the club demonstrates Mr. Pickwick's importance since it is named after him. It becomes apparent that he is the founder of the club. In his anger with Blotson, Mr. Pickwick's pride reveals itself. The Pickwick Club consists of all males, making it a fraternity of sorts. The fact that the club is all male foreshadows the romantic entanglements that the members become involved in throughout the novel. It also emphasizes the importance of male friendships throughout the story. The Pickwickians blindly follow Mr. Pickwick, showing their inexperience with the world.

The introduction of the stranger, especially his involvement with Winkle's coat at the ball, foreshadows the trouble he will present for the Pickwickians throughout the novel. Winkle demonstrates the importance of his reputation and honor by keeping the duel with Dr. Slammer, even though he does not know the reason for it. The duel foreshadows the many repetitious duels that will be offered to the Pickwickians as a result of romantic entanglements. Dismal Jemmy's story is a tale of corruption which contrasts sharply with the innocence of the Pickwickians. In Chatham, the physical maneuvers of the army contrast with the picnic with the Wardles; the Wardles are very similar to the Pickwickians while the army is decidedly anti-Pickwickian.



Section II, ch. 5-10

Section II, ch. 5-10 Summary

Early the next morning, Mr. Pickwick walks to Rochester Bridge where he finds Dismal Jemmy contemplating suicide. Mr. Pickwick dissuades Dismal Jemmy, who promises to send Mr. Pickwick a copy of his manuscript. Mr. Pickwick returns to the hotel in order to prepare for the Pickwickians' visit to Manor Farm. The Pickwickians hire a chaise, but the horses are unruly and the Pickwickians arrive at Manor Farm in confusion and agitation. Brandy refreshes their spirits, and Mr. Wardle introduces the Pickwickians to his mother and several of his neighbors.

A party gathers to play cards and the local parson recites a poem and tells the story of "The Convict's Return." After the story, everyone retires for the evening. The next day, the Pickwickians go crow hunting with Mr. Wardle. The inexperienced Winkle accidentally shoots Tupman in the arm, and Tupman is carried back to Mr. Wardle's farm. Rachael is hysterical over Tupman's injury, and the Pickwickians leave him in her care while they go to Muggleton to see a cricket match with Mr. Wardle. At the match, they run into the stranger again who introduces himself as Alfred Jingle. The Dingley Dell team loses, but everyone is reconciled as they drink until the early morning.

Tupman declares his love to Rachael, but Joe the Fat Boy catches Tupman kissing her. Mr. Wardle, the Pickwickians and Jingle return to Manor Farm late and drunk. Jingle makes a favorable impression on Rachael. Joe reports Tupman and Rachael's romance to Mr. Wardle, upsetting their benevolent host. Jingle overhears Mr. Wardle and Joe's conversation and, thinking Rachael has money, informs Mr. Wardle that Tupman is greedy and deceptive. Jingle also tells Tupman that he should avoid Rachael since their romance has been unveiled and Mr. Wardle disapproves. Jingle borrows ten pounds from Tupman, replacing him as Rachael's suitor.

A few days later, Jingle elopes with Rachael, and Mr. Wardle is furious when he finds out. Mr. Pickwick joins Mr. Wardle on his journey to rescue Rachael during which they have many misadventures, such as being misled by a bribed gatekeeper and delayed by changing horses. They learn that Jingle is directly ahead of them and almost catch up until a wheel falls off their chaise. Jingle mocks them impertinently, and they are forced to continue their journey on foot. Jingle stops at the White Hart Inn in London, and Sam Weller provides directions to the Doctor's Commons where Jingle buys a marriage license. Shortly after, Mr. Wardle and Mr. Pickwick arrive at the White Hart Inn with Mr. Wardle's lawyer, Mr. Perker. Sam Weller informs them where Jingle is lodging, and they confront him. Since Rachael is of legal age, Mr. Perker suggests that Mr. Wardle compromise with Jingle, so Mr. Wardle buys Jingle off for one hundred and twenty pounds. As he leaves, Jingle mocks Tupman, causing Mr. Pickwick to throw an inkstand at him in rage. Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Wardle and Rachael return to Manor Farm.



Section II, ch. 5-10 Analysis

The difficulty of the journey to Manor Farm contrasts with the pleasant time that the Pickwickians have at Manor Farm, making the visit even more enjoyable. Tupman's injury ironically places him exactly where he wants to be—with Rachael. Also, it is ironic that Winkle is the man who shoots Tupman, suggesting that it may not have been an accidental injury; it may have been Winkle's vengeance for Tupman loaning the stranger his coat and almost causing a duel for Winkle. The story that the parson tells discusses a man's imprisonment, which foreshadows Mr. Pickwick's arrest. The sports in these chapters present a contrast of consequence. The men first try the dangerous, solitary sport of hunting where Tupman is injured. Then they go to see the cooperative sport of cricket where the two teams are reconciled by drinking together until the wee hours of the morning. Mr. Pickwick and the Pickwickians contrast sharply with Dismal Jemmy and the clergyman's story. While the Pickwickians are innocent, Dismal Jemmy and the clergyman's story present corruption. This juxtaposition serves to emphasize the innocence of the Pickwickians.

Jingle shows his true colors in this section; he is a greedy, mercenary rascal who wants to marry Rachael for her money. He is easily dissuaded from marriage by a bribe from Mr. Wardle. He even mocks Tupman after the matter is settled, showing a lack of repentance. Tupman makes a ridiculous figure in his courtship of Rachael by his easily yielding to Jingle's advice to cease the courtship. His actions throughout this section show that he does not take love seriously. Rachael also proves ridiculous by eloping with Jingle, a man half her age. The fact that Jingle is so easily able to dissuade Rachael and Tupman from their romance proves the insincerity of their feelings for one another.

In London, Sam Weller and Mr. Perker are introduced for the first time, foreshadowing their involvement in the remainder of the novel. The fact that Mr. Perker is a lawyer foreshadows his reappearance in his professional role, thus also foreshadowing Mr. Pickwick's trial. Sam Weller's honesty and virtue parallels Mr. Pickwick's traits of the same nature, suggesting that the two may become friends and foreshadowing Mr. Pickwick hiring Sam Weller as his personal servant. The main difference between the two men is that Sam Weller is worldlier than Mr. Pickwick, who is too innocent to survive in society. During Jingle and Rachael's elopement and Mr. Wardle's bribery, Mr. Pickwick loses some of his innocence by realizing evil can triumph. The remainder of the novel reflects this in his ambition of thwarting evil and mercenary motives. The theme of romantic complications arises again, foreshadowing the many other romantic complications that will arise. The addition of a mercenary motive to this romance particularly foreshadows Mr. Pickwick's misunderstanding with Mrs. Bardell.



Section III, ch. 11-14

Section III, ch. 11-14 Summary

Back at Manor Farm, Mr. Pickwick learns that Tupman is gone, leaving a suicide letter behind him. The Pickwickians leave Manor Farm in order to search for Tupman and find him in Cobham, eating a large meal. After the Pickwickians are reconciled, Mr. Pickwick reveals his plan to travel to Eatanswill in order to witness an election. Later, Mr. Pickwick finds a stone with a strange inscription and assumes it to be ancient. He also reads a manuscript given to him by the parson at Mr. Wardle's house, about a man who goes crazy after marrying a woman who is in love with someone else.

The Pickwickians return to London with the stone which Blotton translates as "Bill Stumps, his mark," earning his expulsion from the Pickwick Club. Mr. Pickwick returns to his apartment and tells his landlady, Mrs. Bardell, that he needs to discuss something of consequence with him. She assumes that he is about to propose and faints in his arms just as the Pickwickians and Tommy, Mrs. Bardell's son, enter. Tommy attacks Mr. Pickwick for injuring his mother while Tupman, Snodgrass and Winkle look on in shame, thinking Mr. Pickwick is up to something. Sam Weller enters, and Mr. Pickwick hires Sam Weller as his personal servant; this is what Mr. Pickwick wanted to discuss with Mrs. Bardell.

The Pickwickians arrive in Eatanswill to a chaotic election race between the Blues and the Buffs. Mr. Pickwick instructs his companions to shout with the loudest mob. The Pickwickians encounter Mr. Perker, now an election advisor for the Blues, who tells them about the dirty tactics of both parties in an attempt to obtain votes. Mr. Perker introduces the Pickwickians to Mr. Pott, the editor of the Blue paper, and Mr. Pott invites the Pickwickians to stay at his house. At the Pott's home, Mrs. Pott treats her husband sarcastically and expresses interest in Winkle. The next morning, there is much excitement regarding the elections, and Sam Weller tells Mr. Pickwick a story about his father dumping a group of voters into a canal. The Pickwickians join the Blue procession which is attacked by the Buffs. After campaigning ends, voting begins, resulting in a tie between the Blue candidate, Samuel Slumkey, and the Buff candidate, Horatio Fizkin. Mr. Perker locates and bribes the last group of voters, resulting in Slumkey's victory. Back at the Peacock Inn, Tupman and Snodgrass listen to an argument about women; the argument induces a one-eyed bagman to tell them the story of Tom Smart.

Section III, ch. 11-14 Analysis

This section presents the first incongruity in time which continues throughout the novel. It is ironic when Blotton is expelled from the Pickwick Club for talking sense, further clarifying the Pickwick Club as a satire on scientific organizations of the time. Tupman writes a suicide note after Rachael's elopement but is found eating a large meal; this further emphasizes the insincerity of his romance while simultaneously revealing his



dramatic, but false actions. The parson's story parallels Dismal Jemmy's story in its portrayal of corruption, which sharply contrasts the innocence and virtue of the Pickwickians. Another example, and the most important in the novel, of romantic confusion is introduced when Mrs. Bardell misunderstands Mr. Pickwick's intentions when he asks to speak with her. This misunderstanding foreshadows the charges that are brought against Mr. Pickwick for breach of promise.

Sam Weller can be seen as a character similar to Blotton since they are both truthful; however, Sam Weller is more diplomatic in his revelations of truth which causes less conflict to surround him. After Blotton is expelled from the Pickwick Club, Sam Weller is hired as Mr. Pickwick's servant which helps the plot by constantly providing a character to represent the truth of matters that occur. Sam Weller and Mr. Pickwick are very similar, being virtuous and honest, but they also have some major differences. While Mr. Pickwick is innocent, Sam Weller has more experience, and though Mr. Pickwick is the older of the two and becomes a sort of father-figure to Sam Weller, Sam Weller often protects Mr. Pickwick from the devilry of the world. It seems that Mr. Pickwick hires him for this purpose since their alliance occurs shortly after Mr. Pickwick's discovery of Jingle's dishonesty. The frantic election is juxtaposed with the relaxed scene in the hotel that follows. The chaotic election is made more ridiculous by the fact that there is no distinction between the politics of the Blues and Buffs. When a rumor circulates of Mr. Pickwick's involvement with Mrs. Pott, Mr. Pickwick is very concerned for her honor while Mrs. Pott demonstrates no concern for her own honor in her pursuance of Winkle.



Section IV, ch. 15-17

Section IV, ch. 15-17 Summary

Mrs. Leo Hunter invites the Pickwickians to a costume breakfast. Tupman makes Mr. Pickwick angry with his plan to dress as a bandit, but the Pickwickians are reconciled and attend the breakfast. Many poseurs are at the party, including Jingle who attends as "Mr. Fitz-Marshall." Mr. Pickwick pursues Jingle to Bury St. Edmunds, intending to expose him. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller lodge at the Angel Inn, and the next morning, Sam meets Job Trotter, Jingle's servant, who reveals Jingle's plan to elope with a rich girl from the local boarding school. Job Trotter reveals a plot to save the girl to Mr. Pickwick. In accordance with Job's plot, Mr. Pickwick waits in the garden at the boarding school in order to confront Jingle, but a storm rages and Mr. Pickwick enters the school to escape it. The girls lock the intruder in a closet, and he asks them to send for Sam Weller. Sam arrives with Mr. Wardle and Mr. Trundle who assist in explaining the matter. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller vow vengeance against Job Trotter and Jingle for the trick. Mr. Pickwick is sick with rheumatism for several days, but he recovers his spirits and tells Mr. Wardle and Mr. Trundle the tale of the parish clerk.

Section IV, ch. 15-17 Analysis

Mr. Pickwick is confronted with the existence of dishonesty and malice and seeks to battle and overcome it. He begins his assault against these malicious traits in his attempt to expose Jingle. At the costume party, the costumes reflect the attendees' aspirations in life. It is ironic to have a costume breakfast since the idea of a costume party is to conceal one's identity while breakfast occurs during the light, making it more difficult to do so. Mr. Pickwick is the only person at the party who goes only as himself, revealing his desire to be no one else, as well as showing the fact that he is incapable of deception. Jingle, a poseur, is comfortable at the costume breakfast, in the company of like-minded people. These chapters reveal the growth of Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller's friendship. The tale of the parish clerk concerns mercenary motives, paralleling Jingle's constant activities and plots.



Section V, ch. 18-21

Section V, ch. 18-21 Summary

Winkle leaves the Potts' house after a poem appears in the opposition paper accusing Winkle of romancing Mrs. Pott. Tupman, Snodgrass and Winkle join Mr. Pickwick in Bury St. Edmunds. Mr. Wardle invites the Pickwickians to attend Mr. Trundle's marriage to Isabella Wardle during Christmas. Mr. Pickwick lectures Winkle and Tupman about guests causing romantic turmoil when he learns about the accusations against Winkle. Mr. Pickwick receives a letter from Mrs. Bardell informing him of her intent to sue him for breach of promise. He decides to seek legal assistance. The Pickwickians go hunting with Wardle and Trundle. Mr. Pickwick reproves Winkle and Tupman for inexperience with guns. Tupman gains a reputation as a marksman when he accidentally shoots a partridge. The party stops to eat lunch, and Mr. Pickwick, after drinking too much, falls asleep. The others decide to continue and return for him later. Captain Boldwig, the owner of the land, finds Mr. Pickwick sleeping and carts him to the animal pound from which Sam Weller and Mr. Wardle rescue him from the mob that gathers.

Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller return to London and visit Dodson and Fogg's office where they learn that the damages against him are set at fifteen hundred pounds. They also obtain a copy of the writ against him. Mr. Pickwick and Sam go to a tavern where they encounter Sam's father, Tony Weller. Tony tells them that he saw Jingle and Job Trotter boarding the Ipswich coach, and Mr. Pickwick decides to pursue his enemies. Mr. Pickwick and Sam go to Mr. Perker's office to have him examine the writ. The charwoman directs them to the clerk, Peter Lowton, at a local tavern. Peter promises to take care of the writ, and Mr. Pickwick joins him at his table. Peter introduces Mr. Pickwick to his seedy friends, and Jack Bamber tells ghost stories about Gray's Inn. Mr. Pickwick pays and leaves the tavern.

Section V, ch. 18-21 Analysis

Winkle's departure from Eatanswill and Mr. Pickwick's departure from Bury St. Edmunds are both due to romantic misunderstandings, creating a parallel between the two incidents. The irony of the situation with the Potts is that Mr. Pott is not concerned about his wife's fidelity so much as he is concerned with his public image. It is ironic that Mr. Pickwick lectures Winkle and Tupman about romantic entanglements while Snodgrass is having an affair with Emily Wardle. It is also ironic that this lecture occurs shortly before Mr. Pickwick receives the letter detailing the charges against him by Mrs. Bardell. Mr. Pickwick's imprisonment in the animal pound and Mrs. Bardell's letter foreshadow his imprisonment in debtor's prison. Captain Boldwig's capture of Mr. Pickwick contrasts with the romantic difficulties that occur during this section, highlighting the differences and difficulties amongst the sexes. The law shows itself to be corrupt by furthering mercenary ends. Tony Weller is introduced in these chapters, and his information about Jingle and Job Trotter foreshadows Mr. Pickwick's journey to Ipswich. Jingle's

mercenary schemes parallel Mrs. Bardell's suit against Mr. Pickwick, but while Jingle will marry for money, Mrs. Bardell seeks money as recompense for remaining unmarried.



Section VI, ch. 22-25

Section VI, ch. 22-25 Summary

On the way to Ipswich, Tony Weller tells Sam Weller about his wife's association with an evangelist, Reverend Stiggins. Mr. Pickwick meets Peter Magnus on the coach, and the pair start up a friendly conversation. Mr. Pickwick and Peter Magnus register at a large inn where Peter tells Mr. Pickwick that he intends to propose to a woman at the inn.

That night, Mr. Pickwick accidentally enters the wrong room and undresses, scaring the middle-aged lady who inhabits the room. Mr. Pickwick quickly exits the room, and Sam Weller suspects him of seducing ladies when he finds Mr. Pickwick in the hallway in his nightgown. The next morning, Tony Weller tells his son that allowing Job Trotter to trick him in Bury St. Edmunds is a disgrace to the family. Later that day, Sam Weller encounters Job Trotter who is unsuccessful in his attempts to evade Sam. Job refuses to provide information about Jingle, but he confesses his own plan to marry a cook because of her savings, which Sam Weller conveys to Mr. Pickwick.

Mr. Pickwick breakfasts with Peter Magnus who asks his advice on proposing. Tupman, Snodgrass and Winkle arrive in Ipswich. After the lady accepts his proposal, Peter Magnus introduces his fiancée to Mr. Pickwick; she is the same lady whose room Mr. Pickwick accidentally entered the night before. Peter Magnus, enraged, threatens to duel Mr. Pickwick. The lady, Miss Witherfield, reports Mr. Pickwick and Tupman to Mr. Nupkins, the local justice, and Mr. Nupkins arrests them. Sam Weller and the other Pickwickians are also led to Mr. Nupkins when they try to protect Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Nupkins fines Snodgrass and Winkle but requires a large bail for Mr. Pickwick and Tupman's release. Mr. Pickwick heeds Sam Weller's advice and privately informs Mr. Nupkins that Jingle is his daughter's suitor. Mr. Nupkins agrees to permit Mr. Pickwick to confront Jingle, but Mrs. Nupkins and Miss Nupkins privately send Jingle and Job Trotter away. Sam Weller dines with the servants at the Nupkins' residence and begins a romance with the housemaid, Mary. Job Trotter arrives to pursue the cook who has been informed of his intentions, and she attacks him. Jingle retains his composure even as the butler throws Jingle and Job Trotter into the bushes. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller return to London.

Section VI, ch. 22-25 Analysis

Foreshadowing is fulfilled when Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller journey to Ipswich. Jingle and Job Trotter finally receive retribution from Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller for their trickery in Bury St. Edmunds. In these chapters, the servants demonstrate the fact that they imitate their masters as Sam Weller shows himself to be honest and seek justice while Job Trotter attempts mercenary marriages. Since Sam Weller is honest in his first appearance, it can be assumed that the servants do not conform to their masters' virtues so much as the masters choose servants with similar virtues. Sam Weller and



Tony Weller's relationship is further revealed to be one of equality and friendship more than patriarchy.

It is ironic that Peter Magnus seeks Mr. Pickwick's advice concerning his proposal since Mr. Pickwick is currently involved in a breach of promise lawsuit with Mrs. Bardell, making him appear to be the least capable person of giving such advice. It is also ironic that everyone suspects Mr. Pickwick of sexual liaisons when he is the most sexually innocent character in the novel. He never participates in any intrigues but is suspected constantly. The fact that the lady that Mr. Pickwick intrudes upon turns out to be Peter Magnus' fiancée shows situational irony while Peter's threat to duel repeats the many other dueling offers that occur during the novel due to romantic mis-communication. The housemaid, Mary, is introduced in this section, as is her romance with Sam Weller, which foreshadows their eventual marriage.



Section VII, ch. 26-30

Section VII, ch. 26-30 Summary

Mr. Pickwick moves out of Mrs. Bardell's house and into a hotel. Sam Weller goes to Mrs. Bardell's house to pay the rent and give one month's notice. He tells Mr. Pickwick that Mrs. Bardell intends to take him to court and she has a good chance of winning the suit. Mr. Pickwick plans the Christmas visit to Dingley Dell for Isabella Wardle's wedding. Sam Weller takes two days leave in order to visit his father. At his father's house, he finds his stepmother, Susan Weller, sitting with Reverend Stiggins who obviously takes advantage of the Wellers' hospitality. Tony arrives, and he and Sam discuss Reverend Stiggins' hypocrisy. Sam advises his father to get rid of Stiggins, but Tony states that it is one of the burdens of marriage.

The Pickwickians take a coach to Muggleton where they are met by Joe the Fat Boy. They walk to Manor Farm where they are greeted with a friendly reception. Several of Isabella's young female friends are visiting the Wardles because of Isabella's wedding, and Winkle begins a romance with one of them, Arabella Allen. Snodgrass is very happy to see Emily Wardle again, and they continue their romance. Isabella is married to Mr. Trundle and cards, dancing and good spirits compose the revelry. Mr. Wardle tells the story of the goblins who stole a sexton.

One morning, Mr. Pickwick enters the kitchen to find two medical students, Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen, discussing dissection over breakfast. Winkle and Arabella enter together, and Arabella is surprised to see her brother. Bob Sawyer's attentions to Arabella make Winkle very jealous. The party attends church, and then they go to an ice-skating party. Mr. Pickwick falls through the ice and has to be rushed to bed. He is saved from illness only by a large quantity of punch. Before the Pickwickians depart to London, Bob Sawyer invites them to attend his party in the city.

Section VII, ch. 26-30 Analysis

During these chapters, Sam Weller is the main character, but he acts primarily as an observer of other people's actions. Susan Weller and Reverend Stiggins' attitude toward drinking can be seen as highly hypocritical since they outwardly condemn the act while secretly delighting in it. Mr. Pickwick's preparations to visit Dingley Dell foreshadow the Pickwickians' attendance at Isabella Wardle's wedding.

Isabella's wedding occurs, fulfilling the foreshadowing of the Pickwickians' journey to the Wardles' home. Ironically, the wedding occurs during Christmas time, but nothing is mentioned about the birth of Christ. Mr. Pickwick, the epitome of good cheer and generosity, contrasts with the story of the sexton, Gabriel Grub, who symbolizes cruelty and frugality. It is interesting to note that while Mr. Pickwick is often suspected of sexual liaisons, he never participates in any; yet women adore Mr. Pickwick, just not

romantically. The romance of Winkle and Arabella Allen is introduced, along with the complication of Bob Sawyer's flirtation with Arabella. Their romance foreshadows their marriage. The continuation of Snodgrass and Emily Wardle's romance foreshadows their marriage as well. Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen are introduced and portrayed as mercenary and quite simple, foreshadowing their later intentions toward Arabella. These intentions are also foreshadowed by Bob Sawyer's attentions to Arabella. The sincerity of Winkle's feelings for Arabella is displayed through his jealousy toward Bob Sawyer.



Section VIII, ch. 31-33

Section VIII, ch. 31-33 Summary

Mr. Jackson, Dodson and Fogg's clerk, arrives in Mr. Pickwick's hotel room to announce that the trial will be held on the fourteenth of February. He also subpoenas Tupman, Snodgrass, Winkle and Sam Weller as witnesses for the offense. Mr. Perker informs Mr. Pickwick that his case is doubtful, so Mr. Pickwick insists on seeing Serjeant Snubbin, the courtroom attorney. Although Mr. Pickwick proclaims his innocence, he receives little reassurance. Meanwhile, Bob Sawyer's landlady, Mrs. Raddle, harasses him continually because he is unable to pay his rent. The Pickwickians go to Bob Sawyer's party, but it is a disaster; there is a dispute over cards, the dinner is a complete failure, there is no hot water available for drinks, two men nearly duel, and there is no harmony in the singing. The party disperses when Mrs. Raddle enters, screaming.

The day before the trial, Sam Weller sends Mary a valentine card, but signs it "your love-sick Pickwick" when his father advises him to avoid women. Tony Weller believes that Mr. Pickwick needs an alibi in order to escape the charges in court. Tony invites his son to a temperance meeting to see the outlandish testimonies about the evils of liquor. Reverend Stiggins enters the meeting, obviously drunk, and begins a fight. When the lights go out, Tony punches Reverend Stiggins, and Sam Weller hurries his father away.

Section VIII, ch. 31-33 Analysis

This section reminds the reader that the novel is a satire as it satirizes the legal and medical professions through the characterization of Mr. Jackson, Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen. Temperance organizations are also satirized through the appearance of Reverend Stiggins and the absurdity of the testimonies regarding the iniquities of alcohol. Mrs. Raddle appears as a satirizing of middle-aged women as well as a parallel to Mrs. Bardell. The date of Mr. Pickwick's trial is ironic since it is to occur on Valentine's Day, a day renowned for celebrating love, while the trial is for the offense of refusing to marry Mrs. Bardell. The signature on Mary's valentine foreshadows more romantic difficulties for Mr. Pickwick, though the card is from Sam Weller. The fact that Sam Weller sends a valentine to Mary demonstrates his feelings for her. Reverend Stiggins' appearance at the temperance meeting is ironic since he is drunk at the time. His behavior contrasts with the sober people at the meeting and demonstrates his hypocrisy since he obviously attends the meeting regularly and joins the others in their condemnation of alcohol. Tony Weller punches Reverend Stiggins, revealing his feelings about the hypocrite and foreshadowing the way he later treats him.



Section IX, ch. 34-37

Section IX, ch. 34-37 Summary

The morning of the trial, Snodgrass and Mr. Perker express their hopes that the jury has a good breakfast which will make them more likely to decide in Mr. Pickwick's favor. The trial is held at Guildhall. Mrs. Bardell acts miserable as everyone is seated and the jurors are sworn in. Justice Stareleigh begins the trial. Serjeant Buzfiz, the prosecuting attorney, begins the trial by proclaiming Mrs. Bardell's innocence and virtue while condemning Mr. Pickwick for his villainy. He portrays Mr. Pickwick's casual notes to Mrs. Bardell as suspect before calling his witnesses. Mrs. Cluppins claims she eavesdropped on the proposal, and Mrs. Sanders tells the jury of rumors she has heard about Mr. Pickwick. Winkle, Snodgrass and Tupman confusedly add evidence against Mr. Pickwick, while Sam Weller is the only witness to speak for Mr. Pickwick, claiming to know nothing about the proposal but accusing Dodson and Fogg of mercenary motives since they took the case on speculation in hopes of obtaining money from Mr. Pickwick. The jury finds Mr. Pickwick guilty and fines him seven hundred and fifty pounds, but Mr. Pickwick decides he would rather go to prison than give his money to propagate corruption.

Upon learning that it will be two months before he can be imprisoned, Mr. Pickwick, the Pickwickians and the Dowlers travel to Bath. In Bath, the Pickwickians meet Angelo Cyrus Bantam who invites them to a ball which proves to be trivial and during which Mr. Pickwick loses at cards. The Pickwickians and the Dowlers take private lodgings and settle down to a pleasant routine. Mr. Pickwick reads "The True Legend of Prince Bladud" about the founder of Bath. One night, Mr. Dowler falls asleep while waiting for his wife to return home. The coachman pounds on the door, and Winkle opens it in his nightgown but gets locked outside. Winkle tries to hide in Mrs. Dowler's sedan, but Mr. Dowler awakes and, thinking someone is trying to run off with his wife, chases Winkle with a knife. Winkle escapes from Mr. Dowler and plans to leave at dawn. Sam Weller attends a footman's soiree where he is the life of the party and has some good-humored fun at the expense of others. The next day, Mr. Pickwick informs Sam that Winkle has run off and asks Sam to retrieve him. Sam Weller learns that Winkle is in Bristol and journeys there to bring him back.

Section IX, ch. 34-37 Analysis

The trial is not about law but about putting on a show. The witnesses called and the evidence given are not substantial proof to convict Mr. Pickwick and, especially since the reader knows of Mr. Pickwick's innocence, the whole trial becomes a mockery and a satire of the legal system. To further this mockery, Serjeant Buzfuz's interpretation of Mr. Pickwick's menu requests as erotic can be seen as the lengths to which an attorney will go to prove their case, regardless of the absurdity of the accusations. Besides being a satire on the legal system itself, this scene is also a satire on the profession of lawyers.



Buzfuz, Dodson and Fogg serve as a contrast to Mr. Perker who, though a lawyer who enjoys legal anomalies, is still a decent human being and capable of friendship without regard to pecuniary benefits. Even though more than half of the witnesses are friends of Mr. Pickwick, only Sam Weller says anything in Mr. Pickwick's favor. Likely Sam Weller's testimony is the cause of Mr. Pickwick's fines being cut in half. Mr. Pickwick's decision to go to jail rather than fund corruption demonstrates his advocacy of virtue and honor.

In Bath, many new characters are introduced. The Pickwickians make friends everywhere they go, showing their general affability. The situation between Mr. Dowler and Winkle parallels the many other duel threats that have occurred during the story, but it is particularly similar to that of Peter Magnus since it occurs with someone the Pickwickians have befriended and is a complete accident. Once again, Winkle flees over trouble with women; everyone seems to accuse him of attempting their wives which is ironic since he is in love with Arabella Allen. The ball at Bath can be contrasted to the ball at Rochester, the ball at Bath being much fancier. Meanwhile, the ball at Bath can also be compared to the footman's soiree which demonstrates the differences between high and low society. "The True Legend of Prince Bladud" refers to mercenary marriages and the examples of such that it provides parallel the occurrences in the story.



Section X, ch. 38-41

Section X, ch. 38-41 Summary

Winkle looks for directions in Bristol and inquires in a doctor's office where he happens to encounter the physicians Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen. Bob Sawyer confesses his secrets of acquiring business to Winkle while Ben Allen reveals that Arabella is hidden in the area from an unknown suitor, since Ben wants his sister to marry Bob Sawyer. Since Winkle loves Arabella dearly, he is very disturbed and leaves shortly after obtaining this knowledge. At the hotel, Winkle meets Mr. Dowler, and both fear the other will retaliate due to their earlier problems; however, Winkle forgives Mr. Dowler and they are reconciled. Sam Weller wakes Winkle that night and, accusing him of adding to Mr. Pickwick's anxieties, locks him in his room. Winkle begs to be allowed to remain in Bristol until he is able to see Arabella. Mr. Pickwick arrives the next morning, and Sam Weller relates the situation. Once Winkle assures Mr. Pickwick that he has honorable intentions toward Arabella, Mr. Pickwick sends Sam Weller to search for her. Sam finds his love, Mary, instead, and Mary reveals that Arabella lives next door to her. Sam Weller goes to Arabella and tells her that Winkle loves her. Arabella agrees to allow Winkle to see her the next night, and Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller accompany Winkle to his interview with Arabella where Arabella and Winkle confess their love for each other.

After spending two months in Bath, Mr. Pickwick returns to London and is arrested three days later. Mr. Pickwick restrains Sam Weller from fighting in an attempt to defend his master. At the sheriff's office, Mr. Perker tries unsuccessfully to persuade Mr. Pickwick to avoid prison by paying the fines. Mr. Pickwick cannot go to prison until they receive the writ of habeas corpus which arrives later in the day. Mr. Pickwick is taken to Fleet Prison for debtors, and Sam Weller follows him. Mr. Pickwick allows the guards to memorize his face, which they refer to as taking a portrait, and is incarcerated. Tom Roker, the warder, leads Mr. Pickwick to his room, insisting upon the excellence of his accommodations along the walk. Sam Weller tries again to persuade Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines by stating the prison wrecks honest men, but Mr. Pickwick sends Sam for his belongings and goes to bed. Mr. Pickwick is later awoken by his drunken roommates. One of his roommates takes Mr. Pickwick's nightcap and places it on another's head, causing Mr. Pickwick to punch him. Smangle, a roommate, suggests that they all have a drink at Mr. Pickwick's expense, and Mr. Pickwick agrees. Smangle obtains drink and cigars with Mr. Pickwick's money; drunk, Smangle boasts of his prowess for hours as Mr. Pickwick attempts to sleep.

Section X, ch. 38-41 Analysis

Winkle's ironic encounter with Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen serves to reveal their mercenary plot for Bob Sawyer to marry Arabella for her dowry. Winkle's interview with Arabella furthers the status of their romance by revealing that she returns his love; this



foreshadows their eventual marriage. Ben Allen's disapprobation of any suitor except Bob Sawyer foreshadows Arabella's elopement with Winkle. Bob Sawyer serves as a foil to Winkle in terms of being Arabella's suitor. Although Winkle is a simpleton and a dolt, he is the more acceptable suitor because he is not mercenary and he truly loves Arabella. Also, Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen can be compared and contrasted since they are both similar creatures. While they are both mercenary and disagreeable characters, Bob Sawyer serves for much comic relief, providing him a redeeming feature for his vices while Ben Allen has no redeeming features.

Winkle's agitation about the situation verifies the depth of his feelings. His encounter and reconciliation with Mr. Dowler at the hotel concludes that episode. It is ironic that Mr. Dowler is in Bristol since Winkle had just fled from him in Bath; it seems Mr. Dowler also fled from Bath, either in pursuit of Winkle or in embarrassment for the encounter. It is ironic that Sam Weller meets his love while searching for Winkle's love; it is also ironic that Mary and Arabella live next door to each other. Sam Weller's loyalty to Mr. Pickwick is demonstrated when he reproaches Winkle for causing Mr. Pickwick more anxiety. His loyalty is also revealed in his attempt to save Mr. Pickwick from arrest and in following Mr. Pickwick to Fleet Prison. Mr. Pickwick shows his virtue and dedication to the fight against mercenary motives and dishonor by his acceptance of punishment rather than reward Mrs. Bardell, Dodson and Fogg. He sees evil can triumph as he feels the consequences of his virtues. The scene of Mr. Pickwick's initiation into prison introduces Mr. Pickwick to some unsavory characters, such as Smangle. Smangle can be compared to Bob Sawyer in his schemes and ideas, but Bob Sawyer sees Mr. Pickwick as a friend while Smangle only sees Mr. Pickwick as someone to take advantage of.



Section XI, ch. 42-45

Section XI, ch. 42-45 Summary

The next morning, Sam Weller returns to Fleet prison with Mr. Pickwick's wardrobe and nearly fights Smangle when the prisoner tries to obtain some of the clothes. Mr. Pickwick decides to change rooms and goes to see Tom Roker who gives him a new room with three ruffians. Mr. Pickwick goes to see Tom Roker again when he learns that he can obtain a private room if he pays for it. He leases a room from a destitute Chancery prisoner. Mr. Pickwick goes to the poor prisoner's section to hire a man to run his errands, and he encounters Jingle and Job Trotter. Touched by their extreme poverty, he gives them money before returning to his room to find Sam Weller waiting for him. Mr. Pickwick believes that prison is no place for a young man and attempts to dismiss Sam Weller while continuing his wages, but Sam refuses.

At the Insolvent Court, Tony Weller and his companions converse with a lawyer, Solomon Pell, in an attempt to obtain a position in the courtroom to see a friend's trial. Sam Weller sees his father and tells him that Mrs. Weller is showing the effects of too much liquor. Tony states that Reverend Stiggins is suffering from the same effects. Sam relates Mr. Pickwick's attempt to dismiss him, and Sam and Tony agree that Mr. Pickwick will be taken advantage of in prison without Sam to protect him. Therefore, Sam borrows twenty-five pounds from Tony who files suit against Sam, sending him to debtor's prison. Once there, Sam Weller refuses to reveal his creditor to Mr. Pickwick.

Mr. Pickwick gives Smangle money for announcing the arrival of Snodgrass, Tupman and Winkle. The Pickwickians enjoy a nice dinner together, but Winkle stays after the others leave because he has something on his mind. Winkle is unable to talk to Mr. Pickwick, but Sam Weller guesses at what is going on and asks Winkle for a favor. Tom Roker informs Mr. Pickwick that the Chancery prisoner is about to die, and Mr. Pickwick goes to visit the man in his last hours. A few days later, Tony Weller brings Mrs. Weller and Reverend Stiggins to visit Sam Weller. Reverend Stiggins and Mrs. Weller drink heavily all afternoon while criticizing Sam Weller for being imprisoned. Meanwhile, Tony tells Sam that he has a plan for smuggling Mr. Pickwick out of prison and shipping him to America. Sam finds Mr. Pickwick conversing with Jingle and Job Trotter and is shocked at their destitution and desolation. Mr. Pickwick suggests something to Jingle as Sam treats Job Trotter, who admires Mr. Pickwick now, to a drink. Mr. Pickwick, distressed by the misery and dirt in Fleet Prison, decides to keep to his room except for his evening walks. He stays there for three months while his friends try to persuade him to obtain his release by paying his fines.

Section XI, ch. 42-45 Analysis

The hypocrisy of Reverend Stiggins and Mrs. Weller is displayed in their moralizing while they are intoxicated. This is especially ironic in light of the true facts of Sam



Weller's imprisonment. It is ironic that Mr. Pickwick spends a lot of money in prison in order to obtain a private room and to treat other prisoners to luxuries while refusing to be released by paying his fines. These chapters convey the utter desolation and degradation of prison, an image which contrasts sharply with Mr. Pickwick's usual environment. Mr. Pickwick shows his friendship and love for Sam Weller by attempting to dismiss his services, incurring discomfort for himself but trying to save Sam Weller from being in an unsavory and degrading environment. Sam Weller once more demonstrates his loyalty to Mr. Pickwick in refusing his dismissal and obtaining debt in order to be imprisoned to protect Mr. Pickwick. Sam's character contrasts with Jingle and many others in his abhorrence of mercenary actions since Mr. Pickwick offers to continue his wages; protecting Mr. Pickwick is more important to Sam Weller than the money he receives for serving him.

The reintroduction of Jingle and Job Trotter shows the results of their crimes and evils, and their current portrayals contrast greatly with their past actions. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller forgive their former enemies, showing the magnanimity of honorable people. Jingle and Job Trotter's shock at this treatment shows that they are unaccustomed to such treatment and such people. Once more, the servants duplicate their masters as Sam Weller follows Mr. Pickwick's example in forgiving Jingle and Job Trotter, while Job Trotter follows Jingle's example of reformation. Mr. Pickwick befriends everyone in prison, showing his pity for those in lesser circumstances. Winkle's attempt to discuss something with Mr. Pickwick foreshadows his elopement with Arabella Allen and his request of Mr. Pickwick's assistance in reconciling Mr. Winkle Sr. and Ben Allen to their marriage.



Section XII, ch. 46-47

Section XII, ch. 46-47 Summary

Mrs. Raddle, Mr. Raddle and Mrs. Chuppins join Mrs. Bardell and her son, Tommy, on a coach to Hampstead. As they have tea, Mr. Jackson of Dodson and Fogg arrives to take Mrs. Bardell back to London, presumably to finish some paperwork from the trial. The party returns to London, unaware of Mr. Jackson's true purpose until Mrs. Bardell is arrested and imprisoned in Fleet Prison for not paying her attorney's fees. Sam Weller gets an idea when he sees Mrs. Bardell and sends Job Trotter to summon Mr. Perker.

Mr. Perker arrives at Fleet Prison the next morning and tries to convince Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines, relating that Mrs. Bardell has agreed to forego damages if Mr. Pickwick pays her lawyer fees which will release her from prison. She also signs a statement declaring that Dodson and Fogg instigated her pursuit against Mr. Pickwick, proclaiming his innocence. Mr. Perker also points out that Sam Weller will remain in prison as long as Mr. Pickwick does. This conversation is interrupted when Winkle enters and introduces Arabella as his bride. They ask Mr. Pickwick to inform her brother, Ben Allen, and his father, Mr. Winkle Sr. Winkle believes that Mr. Pickwick is the only person who can reconcile their relatives to their elopement. Mr. Pickwick agrees to their request and pays his fines, obtaining his and Mrs. Bardell's releases. Sam Weller also obtains his release, and after a night of celebrations, Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller leave Fleet Prison the next morning.

Section XII, ch. 46-47 Analysis

Mrs. Raddle and Mrs. Bardell parallel one another since they both take advantage of men, though Mrs. Bardell takes financial advantage while Mrs. Raddle completely demolishes her husband's pride and others' respect for Mr. Raddle. Ironically, Mrs. Bardell is tricked by Mr. Jackson from her lawyer's office, the same office that injured Mr. Pickwick. Mrs. Bardell is sent to Fleet Prison which is ironic since Mr. Pickwick is also there because of her greed, the same reason she ends up in Fleet Prison. It is ironic that Mrs. Bardell and Mr. Pickwick are sent to the same place for the same reason by the same people since they are on opposite sides of the breach of promise lawsuit. It is poetic justice and evidence of his virtue that Mr. Pickwick is the one who releases Mrs. Bardell from her imprisonment when she is the reason for his imprisonment. While Mr. Perker presents the rational reasons for Mr. Pickwick to obtain his release, Winkle and Arabella present the romantic reasons, which seem to be more effectual in persuading Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines. Mr. Pickwick undertakes their request to promote their love, foreshadowing his next adventures with Ben Allen and Mr. Winkle, Sr.



Section XIII, ch. 48-51

Section XIII, ch. 48-51 Summary

Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer discuss their prospects in their Bristol shop. Since few clients can afford to pay, they decide it will be best if Bob Sawyer marries Arabella since her dowry is one thousand pounds. The only problem is that Arabella does not like Bob Sawyer. As the pair discusses their revenge against anyone else who attempts to marry her, Arabella and Ben's aunt enters and announces Arabella's elopement. Ben Allen suspects that his aunt's servant is an accomplice and beats him until Mr. Pickwick arrives and breaks up the fight. Mr. Pickwick reveals Arabella's marriage to Winkle. Although Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer are both initially angry, their anger is subdued by liquor and they are reconciled to the marriage. Ben Allen agrees to go to Birmingham to visit Mr. Winkle Sr. with Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller return to their hotel where they hear the story of the one-eyed bagman's uncle.

The next morning, Mr. Pickwick picks Ben Allen up at the shop, but Bob Sawyer, uninvited, decides to close the shop for good and join them. When people on the street stare at them, Mr. Pickwick realizes that Bob Sawyer is performing pranks on the top of the coach, but he begins to enjoy the pranks the more he and Ben Allen drink. As they approach Birmingham, Mr. Pickwick worries about Bob Sawyer's presence, and his fear is justified as Bob Sawyer continues to act foolishly as Ben Allen sleeps in a drunken stupor. Mr. Winkle, Sr. reads a letter from his son that contains an account of his marriage to Arabella and tells Mr. Pickwick that he will think about it and decide what to do. He is very displeased and disappointed in Winkle's companions.

Mr. Pickwick leaves Birmingham with Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer, but they are caught in a downpour on their way to London and forced to stay the night at Towcester. Mr. Pickwick sends a note to Winkle announcing their arrival the next day in London. Sam Weller runs into Mr. Pott and invites him to join their party. Mr. Pott intends to attend the opposition's ball. He is glad that Winkle is married since Mrs. Pott left him and took half of his property. Mr. Slurk, the editor of the opposition paper and Mr. Pott's enemy, stops at the inn, and Bob Sawyer instigates mischief by leading Mr. Pott into Mr. Slurk's company. Their insults revert to blows, and Mr. Pickwick is hit in his attempt to separate the two men. Eventually, Sam Weller subdues Mr. Pott and someone unarms Mr. Slurk. Mr. Pickwick and his party leave for London early the next morning.

Section XIII, ch. 48-51 Analysis

Much of the action in this section is caused by Bob Sawyer and his pranks. There are several fights that occur also. Ben Allen beats his aunt's servant, the bagman's tale contains a fight, and Mr. Pott and Mr. Slurk fight ferociously. A lot of the action also occurs in coaches as Mr. Pickwick and his companions travel between places. Mr. Pickwick enjoys food quite a bit as well which can be contrasted to his eating



experiences while in Fleet Prison. The one-eyed bagman, Mr. Pott and Mr. Slurk have not been seen since the Pickwickians witnessed the election in Eatanswill and yet all reappear ironically in Towcester. This reappearance begins to tie up loose ends in the plot and foreshadows the conclusion of the novel.

The bagman's tale about his uncle parallels Winkle's marriage to Arabella saving her from Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen's mercenary motives. The foreshadowing that occurred previously of Mr. Pickwick's journey to reconcile Ben Allen and Mr. Winkle, Sr. to Winkle and Arabella's marriage is fulfilled though he is less successful in reconciling Mr. Winkle, Sr. to the event. This is ironic since Ben Allen has something to lose by his sister marrying Winkle since he no longer can force her to marry Bob Sawyer and obtain her dowry for use in their business pursuits. Mr. Winkle, Sr. is not concerned about mercenary ends so much as he is concerned about the impropriety and the dishonor of marrying her; however, he is still worried about her dowry because he expected more for his son. The mercenary motives behind Mr. Winkle, Sr. and Ben Allen's disapprobation of Winkle and Arabella's marriage parallel Jingle and Bob Sawyer's intentions to marry for pecuniary means.



Section XIV, ch. 52-54

Section XIV, ch. 52-54 Summary

In London, Mary becomes Winkle's maid, and she delivers a letter to Sam Weller that conveys the news of Mrs. Weller's death and Tony Weller's desire for Sam Weller to visit him. Sam goes to Dorking where he finds his father melancholy because of his wife's death. The Dorking spinsters and widows try to catch Tony Weller. Before her death, Mrs. Weller repents of her wrong religion, leaves two hundred pounds to Sam Weller, and leaves the bulk of her estate to Tony Weller. When Reverend Stiggins enters and asks if Mrs. Weller left him anything while helping himself to rum, Tony Weller kicks Reverend Stiggins into the street.

In London, Mr. Pickwick tells Arabella about his lack of success with Mr. Winkle, Sr. but reassures her that if he does not change his mind, Mr. Pickwick will help Winkle financially. Mr. Pickwick goes to Mr. Perker's office and arranges for Jingle and Job Trotter's release and positions for them in the West Indies. Jingle is very confused but appreciative. Mr. Pickwick talks to Mr. Perker about Mr. Winkle, Sr. relenting in his condemnation of Winkle and Arabella's marriage, but Mr. Perker believes that Arabella can charm anyone. Dodson and Fogg arrive and are very pleased with their money, and Mr. Perker laughs when Mr. Pickwick insults the other lawyers as they leave. A knock sounds on the door, and Joe the Fat Boy enters and announces Mr. Wardle, who is very happy to see his two friends. He explains he is in London because Emily wants to see Arabella. He also admits that Emily intends to elope with Snodgrass. The three men decide to dine together, and Mr. Wardle sends Joe to make arrangements at their hotel.

At the hotel, Joe discovers Emily with Snodgrass and has to be bribed to keep their secret. Joe has a crush on Mary. When Mr. Wardle enters, Snodgrass hides in the bedroom. The Wardles, Winkles, Ben Allen and Mr. Pickwick have dinner during which Joe arouses everyone's suspicions when Snodgrass sends him for help in escaping. When Snodgrass appears, Mr. Wardle is angry, and Mr. Pickwick is shocked. Snodgrass proclaims his love and devotion to Emily, Mr. Wardle is gratified and the gathering continues peacefully.

Section XIV, ch. 52-54 Analysis

The reunion of Mr. Wardle and Mr. Pickwick hastens the end of the plot as do several other events in this section. Mrs. Weller dies, signaling her demise as a result of her excessive consumption of alcohol. Reverend Stiggins receives his punishment when Tony Weller unceremoniously kicks him into the street. Snodgrass and Emily's romance finally reaches its climax as Mr. Wardle gives his permission for the match. The main characters of the novel approach a happy ending. The immoral characters, such as Jingle and Job Trotter, also seem to get a happy ending but only as a result of the efforts of Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick's benevolence causes him to seek joy for everyone



around him. The male friendships that occur in this section are portrayed well in the examples of Sam and Tony Weller and Mr. Wardle, and Mr. Perker and Mr. Pickwick. As friends are reunited, the conflicts of the story begin to be resolved. Jingle's gratitude to Mr. Pickwick demonstrates his reformation and penitence for his wrongdoings of the past.



Section XV, ch. 55-57

Section XV, ch. 55-57 Summary

When Tony Weller finds his wife's Will, Sam Weller informs him that it must be probated before they receive their inheritance. Tony and Sam go to see Solomon Pell, and the legalities take a week. After the Will is passed through probate, Solomon Pell takes them to a broker, Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, to invest Sam Weller's two hundred pounds. Solomon Pell takes a large fee, leaving Tony with a little over eleven hundred pounds. Tony decides to give the money to Mr. Pickwick but is speechless when he visits Mr. Pickwick. He manages to mutter his intentions and tries to escape, but Sam Weller restrains his father from leaving. Mr. Pickwick is reluctant to accept the money but agrees to use it to set Sam up in business and enable him to marry Mary. Sam Weller refuses to leave Mr. Pickwick's service, stating that Mary will have to wait. Tony is pleased with his son's loyalty to Mr. Pickwick. An old gentleman arrives, looking for Arabella's room. He tells her that he represents Mr. Winkle, Sr. and charges her with imprudence in marrying Winkle. Though she does not deny the imprudence of her actions, Arabella defends herself through her tears, causing the old man to relent a bit. Winkle enters, recognizes his father and defends his choice and his wife. Mr. Winkle, Sr. is reconciled to the match, which makes Mr. Pickwick very happy. Sam Weller learns of Joe's crush on Mary and kicks him.

After a week of mysterious trips, Mr. Pickwick announces his intent to settle in a house in Dulwich. The Pickwick Club disbands. Everything is prepared for Snodgrass and Emily's wedding, which takes place at Mr. Pickwick's new home. Winkle obtains a position in London through his father, while Snodgrass settles down as a country gentleman. Tupman rents rooms in Richmond and remains a bachelor. Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen go to India as surgeons and do well after they cease drinking. Jingle and Job Trotter become useful members of society in the West Indies. Tony Weller retires one year later because of the gout and lives on the income from the money that Mr. Pickwick invested for him. After two years, Sam Weller marries Mary, and they both serve Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick lives as a respected and beloved old man, surrounded by the children of his many friends, his godchildren.

Section XV, ch. 55-57 Analysis

Much of the concluding action of the novel revolves around money. Arabella and Mr. Winkle, Sr. come to a reconciliation, but the fight is initiated over her lack of money. Mr. Pickwick sets up Winkle and Sam Weller in business. Tony and Sam Weller deal with the legalities of obtaining their inheritance. This is very appropriate since much of the novel involved mercenary motives and irresponsible use of money. Many different attitudes toward money are revealed amongst these characters, such as Tony's intentions to give his money to Mr. Pickwick. Tony Weller demonstrates his goodwill towards Mr. Pickwick through this episode as well. During the legalities of getting the



Will probated, Sam Weller acts as Tony Weller's father, guiding him through the process. Through the story, there are three basic father and son motifs. Mr. Pickwick and Tony Weller represent the benevolent father, while Mr. Wardle and Mr. Winkle, Sr. demonstrate the examples of rough but soft-hearted fathers. The interpolated tales of the novel provide examples of savage, mercenary fathers. The story's ending contrasts with the story's beginning. The story begins with the characters deciding to start a traveling society while it ends with the characters settling down in their respective homes.



Characters

Samuel Pickwick

Samuel Pickwick is the founder of the Pickwick Club and the hero of the novel. He is a fat, balding, elderly gentleman. He is very generous and innocent, though he grows more experienced throughout the novel. Mr. Pickwick plans the events for the traveling portion of the Pickwick Club after creating it in order to benefit mankind through scientific research.

Mr. Pickwick first leads the Pickwickians to Rochester where he is enraged when Dr. Slammer insults his companions. Next, he leads his friends to Chatham where they meet Mr. Wardle who befriends them. At the Rochester Bridge, Mr. Pickwick dissuades Dismal Jemmy from committing suicide. Mr. Pickwick joins Mr. Wardle in his pursuit when Jingle elopes with Rachael, and he meets Sam Weller at the White Hart Inn in London. When he returns to London, he tells his landlady, Mrs. Bardell, that he needs to discuss something with her, intending to convey his desire to hire Sam Weller as a personal servant. Mrs. Bardell misunderstands him, thinking he intends to propose. Mr. Pickwick hires Sam Weller. Mr. Pickwick and the Pickwickians go to Eatanswill to witness an election, and Mr. Pickwick encourages his companions to shout with the loudest mob. They meet Mr. Pott who agrees to be their host. When the Pickwickians attend a costume breakfast that includes Jingle, Mr. Pickwick pursues Jingle to Bury St. Edmunds to expose him. In Bury St. Edmunds, Jingle and Job Trotter play a trick on Mr. Pickwick that results in his being locked in the supply closet of the local boarding school.

When Mr. Pickwick receives a letter stating that Mrs. Bardell intends to sue him for breach of promise, he returns to London to seek legal advice. He learns from Tony Weller that Jingle and Job Trotter are in Ipswich and pursues them there. In Ipswich, he accidentally enters and undresses in the room of a middle-aged lady, nearly causing a duel between himself and the lady's fiancée, Peter Magnus. When he is arrested, he tells the justice, Mr. Nupkins that his daughter is being courted by Jingle, and Mr. Nupkins allows Mr. Pickwick to confront Jingle, but Jingle is warned ahead of time and escapes. In London, Mr. Pickwick moves out of Mrs. Bardell's house and into a hotel. The Pickwickians attend Isabella Wardle's wedding, and during an ice-skating party Mr. Pickwick falls through the ice and has to be rushed to bed. Mr. Pickwick's trial takes place, and he is found guilty and fined seven hundred and fifty pounds. Mr. Pickwick prefers to go to prison than pay for corruption and greed. He learns it will be two months before he can be imprisoned and travels to Bath. After Winkle has an unfortunate encounter with Mr. Dowler, Mr. Pickwick sends Sam Weller to find him, and Winkle convinces them to allow him to see Arabella Allen.

After two months, Mr. Pickwick returns to London and is sent to Fleet Prison for debtors. After two attempts with roommates, he procures himself a private room. Mr. Pickwick encounters and forgives Jingle and Job Trotter while in prison. Mrs. Bardell is



imprisoned for being unable to pay her lawyer's fees, and Winkle and Arabella ask Mr. Pickwick to intercede with their relatives concerning their elopement. Due to these circumstances, Mr. Pickwick agrees to pay his fines and obtain his release from prison. Mr. Pickwick travels to Bristol and reconciles Ben Allen to his sister's marriage. He then travels to Birmingham where he is less successful with Mr. Winkle, Sr. Back in London, Mr. Pickwick arranges for Jingle and Job Trotter's release and obtains positions for them in the West Indies. He pays and insults Dodson and Fogg at Mr. Perker's office. After Mrs. Weller dies, Tony Weller gives his inheritance to Mr. Pickwick who invests it for him. Mr. Pickwick buys a house in Dulwich and disbands the Pickwick Club. He lives as a respected, beloved man for the remainder of his days.

Sam Weller

Sam Weller is a handyman and boot cleaner at the White Hart Inn in London when Mr. Pickwick first meets him. He becomes Mr. Pickwick's personal servant and closest friend. He is very honest, virtuous and loyal and protects Mr. Pickwick from those who try to take advantage of him.

Sam Weller accompanies Mr. Pickwick to Bury St. Edmunds to expose Jingle, and he rescues Mr. Pickwick from Jingle and Job Trotter's boarding school trick, vowing vengeance against the conspirators. He rescues Mr. Pickwick again when Captain Boldwig has Mr. Pickwick carted to the animal pound. Sam Weller attends Mr. Pickwick in learning about the charges brought against him by Mrs. Bardell. Sam Weller suspects Mr. Pickwick of seducing ladies and reveals Job Trotter's intent to marry a cook for her savings in Ipswich. He also begins a romance with the Nupkins' housemaid, Mary. In London, Sam Weller goes to Mrs. Bardell's house to pay the rent and give one month's notice, as well as learning as much as he can about the lawsuit. He visits his father and advises him to get rid of Reverend Stiggins. When his father punches Reverend Stiggins at a temperance meeting, Sam hurries him away.

At Mr. Pickwick's trial, Sam Weller is the only person to give evidence in support of Mr. Pickwick, mentioning the mercenary motives behind the lawsuit. During their time in Bath, Sam attends a footman's soiree before searching for the runaway Winkle. He finds Winkle in Bristol and locks him in his room. After Winkle convinces Mr. Pickwick of his honorable intentions toward Arabella Allen, Sam Weller finds Arabella and arranges a meeting. Sam attends and protects Mr. Pickwick during his imprisonment, refusing Mr. Pickwick's attempt to dismiss him and even acquiring debt in order to be imprisoned himself. When Sam Weller sees Mrs. Bardell being imprisoned, he summons Mr. Perker who assists in persuading Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines and obtain his release. When Mrs. Weller dies, Sam inherits two hundred pounds to invest, and he helps his father through probating the Will. Tony Weller gives his inheritance to Mr. Pickwick who intends to use it to set Sam up in business and allow him to marry Mary, but Sam refuses to leave Mr. Pickwick's service. Two years later, Sam Weller finally marries Mary, and they both serve Mr. Pickwick.



Nathaniel Winkle

Nathaniel Winkle is a young member of the Pickwick Club. At Rochester, he nearly duels Dr. Slammer when Jingle borrows his coat. In Dingley Dell, he accidentally shoots Tupman. In Eatanswill, Mrs. Pott is attracted to Winkle, and Winkle flees when the opposition paper publishes a story, accusing him of cuckolding Mr. Pott. At Isabella's wedding, Winkle meets and begins a romance with Arabella Allen; he is very jealous of her other suitor, Bob Sawyer. During Mr. Pickwick's trial, Winkle becomes confused and accidentally provides evidence for the prosecution. Winkle has a misunderstanding with Mr. Dowler in Bath and flees to Bristol where he encounters Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer and learns that Arabella Allen is hidden there from potential suitors. Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller find Winkle, but he refuses to leave Bristol until he talks to Arabella. He meets with her, and she confesses her love for him. Winkle visits Mr. Pickwick in Fleet Prison with the intent to ask a favor but is unable to do so. He returns several days later with Arabella, his new wife, and asks Mr. Pickwick to intercede and reconcile his father and her brother to their elopement. Winkle recognizes his father when he arrives in London to meet Arabella and defends his choice. After his father approves of the match, Mr. Winkle, Sr. obtains a position for Winkle in London.

Alfred Jingle

Alfred Jingle is a romantic adventurer and a mercenary schemer. Throughout the novel, Mr. Pickwick attempts to thwart his schemes. He first meets the Pickwickians on their way to Rochester where he borrows Winkle's coat and seduces a widow away from Dr. Slammer, nearly causing a duel. He re-encounters the Pickwickians at a cricket match and joins them at Manor Farm from which he elopes with Rachael Wardle. Jingle agrees not to marry Rachael in exchange for one hundred and twenty pounds. When they accidentally see each other at Mrs. Leo Hunter's costume breakfast, Mr. Pickwick pursues Jingle to Bury St. Edmunds where Jingle and Job Trotter play a trick on Mr. Pickwick, which results in his being locked in a closet in a boarding school. Jingle goes to Ipswich where Mr. Pickwick appears and ruins his chances of marrying Miss Nupkins, causing Jingle to flee. Jingle reappears in Fleet Prison where Mr. Pickwick takes pity on him and gives him money, initiating his reformation. After Mr. Pickwick pays his own fines, he also arranges for Jingle's release and obtains a position for Jingle in the West Indies where Jingle becomes a respected member of society.

Mr. Wardle

Mr. Wardle is a hospitable country squire who lives in Dingley Dell on Manor Farm. He meets the Pickwickians in Chatham and invites them to join his family on a picnic. After that, he invites them back to his farm where Tupman pursues his sister, Rachael, and Snodgrass begins a romance with his daughter Emily. When Jingle elopes with Rachael, Mr. Wardle agrees to buy him off for one hundred and twenty pounds. Mr. Wardle appears in Bury St. Edmunds and helps Sam Weller extricate Mr. Pickwick from his situation at the boarding school. Then he invites the Pickwickians to attend his



daughter Isabella's wedding over Christmas. He entertains the Pickwickians during Isabella's wedding, but he does not see them again until he appears in London with Emily who intends to elope with Snodgrass. As he dines with Mr. Pickwick and Mr. Perker, Snodgrass discovers himself. Although Mr. Wardle is enraged at first, he quickly becomes reconciled to the match when Snodgrass declares his love and devotion to Emily Wardle. Mr. Wardle can be seen as a rough, but soft-hearted, father.

Mrs. Bardell

Mrs. Bardell is Mr. Pickwick's landlady. When Mr. Pickwick approaches her to discuss his intent to hire Sam Weller, she misunderstands his intentions and assumes he plans to propose to her. She sues Mr. Pickwick for breach of promise, hiring the seedy law firm, Dodson and Fogg. Although she wins the trial, Mr. Pickwick refuses to pay his fines. This means Mrs. Bardell is unable to pay her legal fees, and Mr. Jackson places her in Fleet Prison. Mrs. Bardell agrees to forego the damages the trial awarded her if Mr. Pickwick will pay her lawyer fees and obtain her release. She also signs a paper stating that Dodson and Fogg instigated her suit against Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick pays her lawyer fees, and Mrs. Bardell is released.

Job Trotter

Job Trotter is Jingle's immoral servant. He tricks Sam Weller and Mr. Pickwick in Bury St. Edmunds by convincing them that Jingle intends to elope with a boarding school girl for her money. In Ipswich, he intends to marry a cook for her savings, but Sam Weller prevents this by revealing his plan to the cook. Job Trotter is sent to Fleet Prison with Jingle where they encounter Mr. Pickwick. After Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller forgive them, Job Trotter and Jingle reform. After Mr. Pickwick's release, he obtains Job Trotter and Jingle's release and secures them positions in the West Indies where they become valuable members of society.

Arabella Allen

Arabella Allen is one of Isabella Wardle's friends and attends Isabella's wedding. At the wedding, she meets Nathaniel Winkle, and the two begin a romance. Her brother's friend, Bob Sawyer, attempts to court her, but she does not like him at all. When Winkle begs an interview with her in Bristol, they confess their mutual love. Arabella and Winkle elope to the chagrin of their families, and they ask Mr. Pickwick to talk to their families to reconcile them to the match. Although Mr. Winkle, Sr. disapproves of the match at first, he changes his mind after meeting Arabella. Arabella and Winkle live in London where Winkle obtains a good job through his father's help.



Tony Weller

Tony Weller is Sam Weller's kind but irresponsible father. He is a coachman by profession. Tony Weller is plagued by his wife's friendship with Reverend Stiggins and their alcoholism. He tells Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller when he sees Jingle and Job Trotter on the Ipswich coach, and he advises Sam against marrying. He acts as more of a friend than a father to Sam Weller. After his wife dies and the legal fees are taken care of, Tony inherits over eleven hundred pounds from his wife which he gives to Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Pickwick invests the money for Tony, and Tony uses it to retire several years later when he begins to suffer from gout.

Emily Wardle

Emily Wardle is Mr. Wardle's youngest daughter who begins a romance with Augustus Snodgrass during his first visit to Manor Farm. They continue their romance through several brief encounters, including one at her sister Isabella's wedding. Mr. Wardle brings Emily to London to visit Arabella Allen after her elopement with Winkle, and Emily intends to elope with Snodgrass. After Snodgrass reveals himself at a dinner gathering, Mr. Wardle is reconciled to the marriage, and the couple plan a beautiful wedding which takes place at Mr. Pickwick's near residence in Dulwich. Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass settle in the country.

Tracy Tupman

Tracy Tupman is a member of the Pickwick Club. He is a fat, middle-aged man. In Rochester, Tupman loans Jingle a coat which happens to belong to Winkle, almost resulting in a duel between Winkle and Dr. Slammer. When hunting in Dingley Dell, Winkle accidentally shoots Tupman, but Rachael Wardle nurses him back to health. Tupman begins a flirtation with Rachael but is easily dissuaded when Jingle tells him that Mr. Wardle does not approve. After the Pickwick Club is dissolved, Tupman rents rooms in Richmond and lives as a bachelor.

Augustus Snodgrass

Augustus Snodgrass is a member of the Pickwick Club. He is a harmless young man who often is viewed as the poet of the club though he never actually writes. On the Pickwickians' first trip to Manor Farm, he begins a romance with Emily Wardle which continues until he finally marries her at Mr. Pickwick's new home at the end of the novel. After the dissolution of the Pickwick Club, Snodgrass settles down as a country gentleman with his wife by his side.



Mr. Perker

Mr. Perker is Mr. Wardle's lawyer who is introduced to Mr. Pickwick during Jingle and Rachael Wardle's elopement. He becomes Mr. Pickwick's lawyer during Mrs. Bardell's breach of promise lawsuit. While he admires legal tricks, he is fairly honest and has a good heart. With the help of Winkle and Arabella, he eventually convinces Mr. Pickwick to pay his fines and obtain his release from Fleet Prison. Mr. Perker is a very good friend to Mr. Pickwick and Mr. Wardle.

Ben Allen

Ben Allen is Arabella's brother. He wants her to marry his friend, Bob Sawyer. He is a medical student and unsuccessfully practices medicine in Bristol with Bob Sawyer. Mr. Pickwick is successful at reconciling him to Winkle and Arabella's marriage, and Ben Allen agrees to travel to Birmingham to help reconcile Mr. Winkle, Sr. to the match. Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer go to India where they become surgeons and do quite well once they learn temperance.

Reverend Stiggins

Reverend Stiggins is a hypocritical, alcoholic evangelist who befriends Mrs. Weller and takes advantage of the Wellers. He enters a temperance meeting, drunk, and Tony Weller beats him when the lights go out. After Mrs. Weller's death, Reverend Stiggins arrives at the Wellers' home to inquire whether Mrs. Weller bequeathed anything to him. Tony Weller kicks him into the street.

Dodson and Fogg

Dodson and Fogg are the greedy, immoral lawyers who handle Mrs. Bardell's lawsuit against Mr. Pickwick. When Mrs. Bardell is unable to pay her legal fees, they have her imprisoned as well. They are overjoyed when Mr. Pickwick pays them, and Mr. Pickwick calls them "a well-matched pair of mean, rascally, pettiflogging robbers."

Bob Sawyer

Bob Sawyer is Ben Allen's friend and wants to marry Arabella Allen for her dowry. He is a medical student and unsuccessfully practices medicine in Bristol with Ben Allen. Bob Sawyer joins Mr. Pickwick and Ben Allen on their way to Birmingham, pulling pranks on the coach and at the home of Mr. Winkle, Sr. Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen go to India where they become surgeons and do quite well once they learn temperance.



Mary

Mary is originally the Nupkins' housemaid. While she works there, she encounters Sam Weller and they begin a romance. Sam Weller meets her in Bristol accidentally while looking for Arabella, and she directs him to Arabella's house which is, incidentally, next door. Mary assists Winkle and Arabella in their elopement and becomes their housemaid. Eventually, she marries Sam Weller, and both serve Mr. Pickwick.

Mr. Winkle, Sr.

Mr. Winkle, Sr. is Nathaniel Winkle's father. He is a businessman and very interested in money. Initially, he disapproves of Winkle's marriage to Arabella Allen, but when he meets her, he changes his mind and approves of the match. He, like Mr. Wardle, can be seen as a rough, but soft-hearted, father. After he accepts his son's marriage, he assists his son in obtaining a position in London to support his family.



Objects/Places

Pickwick Club

The Pickwick Club is a fraternity for scientific discovery founded by Mr. Pickwick. In the beginning of the novel, they develop a traveling society, and the club is dissolved at the end of the novel.

London

London is the home office of the Pickwick Club and where the Pickwickians live.

Rochester

Rochester is the Pickwickians' first stop where they first meet Jingle and where Winkle nearly duels with Dr. Slammer.

Dingley Dell

Dingley Dell is the name of the town where Mr. Wardle lives.

Manor Farm

Manor Farm is the name of Mr. Wardle's residence.

Chatham

The Pickwickians stop in Chatham to watch army maneuvers, and it is here that they first meet Mr. Wardle.

White Hart Inn

The White Hart Inn is where Jingle stops for directions when attempting to elope with Rachael, Mr. Wardle's sister. It is also where Mr. Pickwick first encounters Sam Weller.

Mrs. Bardell's house

Mr. Pickwick rents a room in Mrs. Bardell's house, and this situation creates his conflict with her regarding the breach of promise lawsuit.



Breach of promise lawsuit

Mrs. Bardell brings a breach of promise lawsuit against Mr. Pickwick because she thinks he proposed to her and refuses to marry her. Dodson and Fogg prosecute the case; Mr. Perker defends it.

Eatanswill

Eatanswill is the town where the Pickwickians travel to see the election.

Blues and Buffs

The Blues and the Buffs are the political parties competing in the election at Eatanswill.

Costume breakfast

Mrs. Leo Hunter invites the Pickwickians to a costume breakfast. They attend and encounter Jingle there.

Boarding school

In Bury St. Edmunds, Job Trotter convinces Sam Weller and Mr. Pickwick that Jingle schemes against a rich girl at the local boarding school. Mr. Pickwick waits in the garden to confront Jingle, is stuck in a rainstorm and is forced to take shelter in the school where the girls lock him in a supply closet.

Bury St. Edmunds

After encountering Jingle at Mrs. Leo Hunter's costume breakfast, Mr. Pickwick pursues him to Bury St. Edmunds.

Ipswich

Tony Weller informs Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller that Jingle and Job Trotter are on their way to Ipswich. Mr. Pickwick and Sam travel to Ipswich to expose them.

Isabella Wardle's wedding

Isabella Wardle's wedding occurs at Manor Farm during Christmas. It is here that Winkle first meets Arabella Allen.



Valentine's Day, 1831

Mr. Pickwick's trial takes place on Valentine's Day, 1831.

Bath

The Pickwickians travel to Bath during the two months between Mr. Pickwick's trial and his imprisonment.

Fleet Prison

Mr. Pickwick is imprisoned in Fleet Prison for debtors for refusing to pay his fine. He encounters Jingle and Job Trotter there. Sam Weller also incurs debt in order to watch after Mr. Pickwick. Mrs. Bardell ends up being thrown in Fleet Prison as well for being unable to pay her attorney fees.

Bristol

Bristol is the town Winkle flees to after his encounter with Mr. Dowler. This is also where Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen have a medical office.

Liquor

Liquor is used in the story to settle disputes that arise.

Birmingham

Mr. Winkle, Sr. lives in Birmingham, and Mr. Pickwick, Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen travel there to reconcile him to Winkle and Arabella's marriage.

West Indies

Mr. Pickwick obtains positions for Jingle and Job Trotter in the West Indies in order for them to start fresh after their reformations.

Mr. Pickwick's home

Mr. Pickwick buys a home in Dulwich at the end of the novel. Snodgrass marries Emily Wardle at Mr. Pickwick's home.



Winkle's coat

In Rochester, Tupman loans Winkle's coat to Jingle, and Jingle seduces a wealthy widow away from Dr. Slammer, nearly resulting in a duel between Dr. Slammer and Winkle.

Chancery prisoner's bedroom

A poor Chancery prisoner in Fleet Prison sublets his room to Mr. Pickwick.



Themes

Drinking

Drinking is a major recurring theme throughout the novel. It is often used as a means of reconciliation. It is especially commonly used to restore peace after a dispute between a group of men. When Dr. Slammer angers Mr. Pickwick in Rochester, Mr. Pickwick is soothed by the consumption of alcohol. After their coach trouble on the way to Manor Farm, the Pickwickians are provided with brandy which restores their spirits. When the All-Muggleton team beats the Dingley Dell team at cricket, both teams drink together and become friendly. The Pickwickians search for Tupman after he leaves a suicide note over Rachael's elopement with Jingle; when they find him, they drink and are reconciled. Sam Weller offers to buy Job Trotter a drink in Fleet Prison as a means of reconciliation. Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer are angry about Arabella's elopement with Winkle until liquor subdues their anger and makes them quite amiable.

Sometimes drinking is just a source of merriment and entertainment. Sam Weller and his father, Tony Weller, run into each other at a tavern and have a drink together. There is much alcohol passed around at Isabella Wardle's wedding. Mr. Pickwick buys his roommates in Fleet Prison drinks that they might enjoy themselves. The consumption of alcohol also causes some of the problems in the novel. During a hunting trip, Mr. Pickwick drinks too much and falls asleep. Captain Boldwig carts him to an animal pound as a result. Reverend Stiggins attends a temperance meeting, drunk, and Tony Weller punches him. Reverend Stiggins and Mrs. Weller drink heavily and hypocritically as they condemn alcohol consumption in public while drinking heavily in private. After visiting Sam Weller in prison, they drink heavily all afternoon. Mrs. Weller dies, supposedly of over consumption of alcohol since Sam Weller previously comments that she is showing the effects of drinking too much. Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen do quite well in India as surgeons once they learn to control their drinking.

Mercenary Motives

Mercenary motives are the cause of many of the conflicts throughout the novel and appear both in the action of the novel and in the interpolated tales in the novel. In Rochester, Jingle seduces a wealthy, middle-aged widow away from Dr. Slammer. Both of them are interested in the woman because of her financial status. On Manor Farm, Jingle's interest in Rachael Wardle originates with his belief that she has money. As a result, he tells Mr. Wardle that Tupman has mercenary intentions. He borrows money from Tupman in order to elope with Rachael, but he is easily bought off when Mr. Wardle corners him in London. Jingle also intends to marry Miss Nupkins for her father's wealth while Job Trotter plans to marry the Nupkins' cook for her savings. Bob Sawyer wants to marry Arabella Allen for her dowry of one thousand pounds, yet Mr. Winkle, Sr. disapproves of his son's marriage because Arabella does not have enough money to suit him.



Meanwhile, Mrs. Bardell sues Mr. Pickwick for breach of promise, urged on by Dodson and Fogg's greed. Sam Weller accuses Dodson and Fogg of mercenary motives at the trial, but Mr. Pickwick is still declared guilty. Mr. Pickwick refuses to pay, choosing to go to prison rather than reward corruption. In Fleet Prison, Mr. Pickwick is able to obtain privileges, such as a private room and liquor, in exchange for money. Eventually, Mrs. Bardell is also imprisoned for her inability to pay Dodson and Fogg, showing the lawyers' lack of loyalty to their clientele. Bob Sawyer is unable to pay his rent at Mrs. Raddle's house, causing her to treat him rudely. Reverend Stiggins drains the Wellers, and when Mrs. Weller dies, he arrives to ask if she bequeathed anything to him while helping himself to a drink. Solomon Pell charges the Wellers exorbitant fees for probating Mrs. Weller's Will.

Included in the novel are also the interpolated tales about Tom Smart tricking a wealthy widow into marrying him and the story about Nathaniel Pipkin falling in love with Maria Lobbs and her father's money. Contradictorily, Tony Weller gives his inheritance to Mr. Pickwick who invests it for Tony's retirement. Mr. Pickwick treats the other prisoners at Fleet Prison to drinks. Mr. Pickwick offers to continue Sam Weller's salary while dismissing his servants to prevent the younger man from spending time in prison. He also pays for Mrs. Bardell, Jingle and Job Trotter's release from prison.

Romantic Confusion

Romantic confusion is another theme that pervades this novel. Many of the disputes that arise are the result of romantic confusion. Many of the plots revolve around romantic confusion. The greatest romantic confusion that occurs is Mrs. Bardell's misunderstanding of Mr. Pickwick's need to talk to her. Ironically, he receives a letter telling him about the lawsuit shortly after lecturing Tupman and Winkle about the impropriety of causing romantic turmoil as a guest in someone else's home. It is also ironic that his trial occurs on Valentine's Day.

Some of the romantic confusions that occur lead to fights. When Jingle steals the wealthy widow from Dr. Slammer, Dr. Slammer challenges Winkle to a duel. When Mr. Pickwick accidentally enters the wrong room in Ipswich, Peter Magnus challenges him to a duel. Sam Weller kicks Joe the Fat Boy for having a crush on Mary. Tupman begins a romance with Rachael Wardle, but Jingle takes his place as Tupman's suitor and elopes with Rachael. Mr. Wardle pays one hundred and twenty pounds to buy Jingle off, but Tupman leaves a suicide note at Manor Farm because of the drama. Jingle also pursues Miss Nupkins, but Mr. Pickwick thwarts his scheme. There is also an encounter at Eatanswill between Winkle and the Potts when the opposition paper accuses Winkle of cuckolding Mr. Pott. Tony Weller warns his sons against marriage. After Mrs. Weller dies, the Dorking spinsters try to catch Tony Weller.

Some of the complex romances are reconciled at the end of the novel. Snodgrass meets Emily Wardle, and they begin a romance. Emily plans to elope with Snodgrass, but her father is reconciled to the match. Snodgrass and Emily are married at Mr. Pickwick's new home. Isabella Wardle marries Mr. Trundle. At the wedding, Winkle



meets and falls in love with Arabella Allen. Unfortunately, Bob Sawyer and Ben Allen plan for Bob to marry Arabella for her dowry. Winkle is very jealous of Bob Sawyer's attentions to Arabella. In Bristol, Winkle and Arabella admit their love for one another. After Winkle and Arabella elope, they ask Mr. Pickwick for help in reconciling their families to their marriage. Although Mr. Winkle, Sr. disapproves of the marriage initially, he is eventually won over by Arabella. Sam Weller meets Mary in Bury St. Edmunds and begins a romance which culminates in their marriage.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel begins as a character named Boz who is supposed to be reworking the Pickwickian papers into a coherent, unified story. This persona quickly dissolves into a third person narrator. The point of view is omniscient and reliable. Although the narrator can enter the characters' thoughts, he usually portrays them through a limited third person view. The story is told in the past tense, since the narrator is compiling papers that have already been written.

The story is told as though it is a play and the characters are actors on a stage. This allows the characters to develop naturally, like an acquaintance one gets to know gradually, rather than someone thrust upon one. The story contains a fairly equal combination of exposition and dialogue. A lot of the novel is spent in traveling from one place to another so the scenery is often described, but the focus of the novel is the growth of the characters so there is much conversation in order to display this growth.

Setting

This novel is set in Southern England during the years 1827 to 1831. Some of the locations described in the story are real while others are imaginary. The concept of the novel revolves around a traveling society, so many different places are visited throughout the novel. A lot of the action also occurs in coaches and hotels or inns along the way. The Pickwick Club is located in London which is where the members reside and return sporadically throughout the novel. The first place the Pickwickians visit is Rochester where they meet Alfred Jingle and attend a ball. Winkle nearly duels Dr. Slammer because Jingle seduces a widow while wearing Winkle's coat. Next, they go to Chatham to see the military procedures, and they meet the Wardles who invite them to their home in Dingley Dell. The Pickwickians visit the Wardles at Manor Farm and also travel to nearby Muggleton to see a cricket match. Mr. Pickwick joins Mr. Wardle in London to prevent Jingle's marriage to Rachael Wardle, and they stop at the White Hart Inn while there.

The Pickwickians go to Eatanswill to witness an election, and Mr. Pickwick pursues Jingle to Bury St. Edmunds to expose him. After returning to London to learn about the lawsuit Mrs. Bardell intends to bring against Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller pursue Jingle and Job Trotter to Ipswich where Mr. Pickwick reveals Jingle's intentions to marry Miss Nupkins. Mr. Pickwick attends his trial in London and visits Bath for two months. In Bath, Winkle has a misunderstanding with Mr. Dowler and flees to Bristol. Mr. Pickwick pursues him before returning to London and being imprisoned in Fleet Prison. After obtaining his release, Mr. Pickwick returns to Bristol to reconcile Ben Allen to his sister's marriage and then travels to Birmingham in an attempt to do the same with Mr. Winkle, Sr. Mr. Pickwick finally buys a house in Dulwich and settles there.



Language and Meaning

The language in this novel is full of contrasting images. The sentences are structured conversationally for the majority of the novel and are very easy to read and understand. The structure provides an intimate view of the world of the characters and their feelings while managing to convey the author's satiric tone throughout the novel. Much of the novel is comical and skeptical, tending to indirectly criticize certain aspects of society. In particular, the language is often extremely irreverent to many established institutions, such as the legal system and the medical institution.

The language conveys the attitude of the narrator and the characters toward specific organizations and ideologies in a comical manner so as to maintain the entertainment of the novel. Some episodes are handled more sentimentally than the majority of the novel. The time period of the novel is slightly irregular, skipping over months at a time without any reference to the events that occur during that period. The novel is nearly equally divided between exposition and dialogue. The exposition is important since the characters travel to many places and each place is distinguished, while the dialogue provides understanding of the individual characters and their motives. The dialogue also tends to reflect the class and education of the person who is speaking. Much scientific nonsense is mentioned but not explained in depth, adding to the satiric tone of the novel toward clubs for scientific discovery.

Structure

The novel is composed of fifty-seven chapters, each being around ten to fifteen pages long. Each chapter is titled in reference to the main action of the chapter. The chapters are action-packed and each includes at least one major episode or misunderstanding that occurs. The time passes in a relatively stable manner with a few exceptions where time appears to jump several months ahead for apparently no reason. The pace of the novel moves pretty quickly due to the continual action, conflicts and resolutions. The story is linear, containing no flashbacks. It is entertaining and comic, allowing the reader to become well-acquainted with the characters that are portrayed.

The main plot of the novel is the creation of a traveling unit of the Pickwick Club and their travels. There are many subplots as well. Mrs. Bardell misunderstands Mr. Pickwick's intentions when he asks to talk to her, resulting in a lawsuit and both being imprisoned. Nathaniel Winkle falls in love with Arabella Allen. Sam Weller falls in love with Mary, the Nupkins' housemaid. Augustus Snodgrass falls in love with Emily Wardle. Additionally throughout the novel, Alfred Jingle and Job Trotter, his servant, appear, creating mischief and chaos. Ben Allen and Bob Sawyer also sporadically cross paths with the Pickwickians. Besides the disputes and romances, the story also focuses on the friendships between Mr. Pickwick, Sam Weller, Mr. Wardle, and Mr. Perker. Most of the smaller subplots contain a conflict with an immediate resolution, such as Winkle's encounter with Dr. Slammer in Rochester or Mr. Pickwick's misunderstanding with Peter Magnus.



Quotes

"Waiter! raw beef-steak for the gentleman's eye,—nothing like raw beef-steak for a bruise, sir; cold lamp-post very good, but lamp-post inconvenient—damned odd standing in the open street half-an-hour, with your eye against a lamp -post—eh,—very good—ha! ha!" Chapter 2, p. 10.

"I don't remember forms or faces now, but I know the girl was beautiful. I know she was; for in the bright moonlight nights, when I start from my sleep, and all is quiet about me, I see, standing still and motionless in one corner of this cell, a slight and wasted figure with long black hair, which streaming down her back, stirs with no earthly wind, and eyes that fix their gaze on me, and never wink or close. Hush! the blood chills at my heart as I write it down—that form is HERS; the face is very pale, and the eyes are glassy bright; but I know them well. That figure never moves; it never frowns and mouths as others do, that fill this place sometimes; but it is much more dreadful to me, even than the spirits that tempted me many years ago—it comes fresh from the grave; and is so very death-like." Chapter 11, pp. 153-154.

"Tom gazed at the chair; and, suddenly as he looked at it, a most extraordinary change seemed to come over it. The carving of the back gradually assumed the lineaments and expression of an old shrivelled human face; the damask cushion became an antique, flapped waistcoat; the round knobs grew into a couple of feet, encased in red cloth slippers; and the old chair looked like a very ugly old man, of the previous century, with his arms a-kimbo. Tom sat up in bed, and rubbed his eyes to dispel the illusion. No. The chair was an ugly old gentleman; and what was more, he was winking at Tom Smart." Chapter 14, p. 198.

"He was bolder in the daylight—most men are." Chapter 14, p. 202.

"She dotes on poetry, sir. She adores it; I may say that her whole soul and mind are wound up, and entwined with it. She has produced some delightful pieces, herself, sir. You may have met with her 'Ode to an Expiring Frog,' sir." Chapter 15, p. 209.

"His wardrobe was extensive—very extensive—not strictly classical perhaps, not quite new, nor did it contain any one garment made precisely after the fashion of any age or time, but everything was more or less spangled; and what can be prettier than spangles!" Chapter 15, p. 213.

"A silent look of affection and regard when all other eyes are turned coldly away—the consciousness that we possess the sympathy and affection of one being when all others have deserted us—is a hold, a stay, a comfort, in the deepest affliction, which no wealth could purchase, or power bestow." Chapter 21, p. 306.

"He saw that men who worked hard, and earned their scanty bread with lives of labour, were cheerful and happy; and that to the most ignorant, the sweet face of Nature was a



never-failing source of cheerfulness and joy. He saw those who had been delicately nurtured, and tenderly brought up, cheerful under privations, and superior to suffering, that would have crushed many of a rougher grain, because they bore within their own bosoms the materials of happiness, contentment, and peace. He saw that women, the tenderest and most fragile of all God's creatures, were the oftenest superior to sorrow, adversity, and distress; and he saw that it was because they bore, in their own hearts, an inexhaustible well-spring of affection and devotion. Above all, he saw that men like himself, who snarled at the mirth and cheerfulness of others, were the foulest weeds on the fair surface of the earth; and setting all the good of the world against the evil, he came to the conclusion that it was a very decent and respectable sort of world after all." Chapter 29, pp. 431-432.

"The jovial party broke up next morning. Breakings-up are capital things in our school-days, but in after life they are painful enough. Death, self-interest, and fortune's changes, are every day breaking up many a happy group, and scattering them far and wide; and the boys and girls never come back again." Chapter 30, p.p 444-445.

"These sequestered nooks are the public offices of the legal profession, where writs are issued, judgments signed, declarations filed, and numerous other ingenious machines put in motion for the torture and torment of His Majesty's liege subjects, and the comfort and emolument of the practitioners of the law." Chapter 31, p. 447.

"A bill, by the bye, is the most extraordinary locomotive engine that the genius of man ever produced. It would keep on running during the longest lifetime, without ever once stopping of its own accord." Chapter 32, pp. 464-457.

"Poetry's unnat'ral; no man ever talked poetry 'cept a beadle on boxin' day, or Warren's blackin' or Rowland's oil, or some o' them low fellows; never you let yourself down to talk poetry, my boy." Chapter 33, p. 484.

"Vell," said Mr. Weller, "Now I s'pose he'll want to call some witnesses to speak to his character, or p'raps to prove a alleybi. I've been a turnin' the bis'ness over in my mind, and he may make his-self easy, Sammy. I've got some friends as'll do either for him, but my advice 'ud be this here—never mind the character, and stick to the alleybi. Nothing like a alleybi, Sammy, nothing." Chapter 33, p. 487.

"Lawyers hold that there are two kinds of particularly bad witnesses—a reluctant witness, and a too-willing witness." Chapter 34, p. 514.

"It is an old prerogative of kings to govern everything but their passions." Chapter 36, p. 544.

"We know, Mr. Weller—we, who are men of the world—that a good uniform must work its way with the women, sooner or later." Chapter 37, p. 560.



"Why, I don't exactly know about perjury, my dear sir," replied the little gentleman. "Harsh word, my dear sir, very harsh word indeed. It's a legal fiction, my dear sir, nothing more." Chapter 40, p. 607.

"There is no deception now, Mr. Weller. Tears," said Job, with a look of momentary slyness, "tears are not the only proofs of distress, nor the best ones." Chapter 45, p. 686.

"She's a very charming and delightful creature," quoth Mr. Robert Sawyer, in reply; "and has only one fault that I know of, Ben. It happens, unfortunately, that that single blemish is a want of taste. She don't like me." Chapter 48, p. 717.

"The sky was dark and gloomy, the air was damp and raw, the streets were wet and sloppy. The smoke hung sluggishly above the chimney-tops as if it lacked the courage to rise, and the rain came slowly and doggedly down, as if it had not even the spirit to pour." Chapter 51, p. 766.

"There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast." Chapter 57, p. 858.

Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast Winkle and Bob Sawyer as suitors for Arabella Allen.

Give an example of how servants' behavior seems to mimic the masters' behavior.

What is Dickens saying about love and romance throughout this novel?

Why does Mr. Pickwick choose to go to prison rather than pay his fines?

What makes it ironic that Mr. Pickwick is charged with breaking his promise?

Compare and contrast Mr. Pickwick with Jingle.

Describe Mr. Pickwick's growth as a character throughout this novel.