



The Signalman
and **The Ghost at the Trial**
Charles Dickens



MACMILLAN READERS

MACMILLAN READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

CHARLES DICKENS

The Signalman
and
The Ghost at the Trial

Retold by F. H. Cornish



MACMILLAN

Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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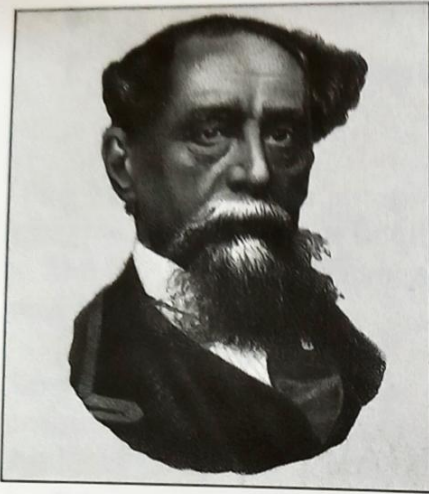
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A Map of London in the 1860s

A Note About the Author



Charles Dickens was born on 7th February 1812. The Dickens family lived near Portsmouth, on the south coast of England. Later, the family lived in London. Dickens had three brothers and three sisters. Dickens' father, John, was a clerk in an office. He worked for the British Navy. But John did not spend his money carefully. He owed people money. In 1824, he was sent to a prison.

Dickens' father, mother, brothers and sisters all lived in the prison. Dickens had to work in a factory. He never forgot this difficult time.

Dickens went to school for only a few years. But he read many books and he educated himself. In 1834, Dickens became a newspaper reporter. He also began to write stories. His first stories were printed in magazines. These stories were very, very popular. Dickens became the most famous English writer in the nineteenth century.

In 1836, Dickens married Catherine Hogarth. They had ten children. But Catherine and Charles were not happy. In 1857, Dickens met an actress, Ellen Ternan. He fell in love with her. Dickens separated from his wife in 1858.

The judge spoke to me.

'Foreman of the jury,' he said. 'Has the jury made a decision? Is the accused man Guilty or Not Guilty?'

'He is Guilty,' I said. And at that moment, the ghost disappeared!

'Thank you, members of the jury,' the judge said.

Then he spoke to the guilty man.

'You are guilty of murder,' the judge said. 'You will die. You will be hanged with a rope.'

'This trial was not fair!' the murderer shouted.

Then the murderer pointed at me.

'I had a dream about that man,' he shouted. 'I had never met him. But in my dream, that man was putting a rope round my neck!'

The murderer was screaming. Quickly, two policemen took him away. Then everybody stood up and left the courtroom. I did not leave.



I sat in the courtroom for a few minutes. I was tired. Suddenly, somebody put his hand on my arm. I looked round, but there was nobody there. I was alone.

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