**// Text : Charles DICKENS, *David Copperfield* (1850) – Reading activities**

**Read the first paragraph**

1. a) Who do the pronouns “I” (l.1, l.3) and “me” (l.3) refer to?

b) Draw conclusions about the type of narrative.

1. a) Underline the verbs used in the main clauses of the first and last sentences.

b) Which tenses are used? Justify the use of these tenses. Look at the time markers.

c) Which time period does each of the following expressions refer to?

* “A child of excellent abilities, and with strong powers of observation, quick, eager, delicate, and soon hurt bodily or mentally”

(l.4-l.5)

* “a little labouring hind in the service of Murdstone and Grinby” (l.9-l.10)

1. Use your answers to questions 1 and 2 to say who is writing about what.
2. a) Pick out the words that are repeated.

b) Say what the following pronouns refer to:

* “it” (l.3):
* “it” (l.7):

1. Pick out the words with a negative connotation and say what these words suggest about the time he is writing about.

**Read the second paragraph**

1. Pick out the words referring to a location/place.
2. Pick out the words related to water.
3. Infer the meaning of the following words. Circle the correct answers.
4. “wharf” (l.14): *quai / toit / grange*
5. “tide” (l.14 & l.15): *bateau / cordage / marée*
6. ‘’mud’’(l.15) : *pâturage / mousse / boue*
7. “warehouse” (l.11): *serre / entrepôt / phare*

Now go back to question 7. Can you add a few words to your list?

1. What impression exudes from the description of the warehouse? How is this impression conveyed?
2. Pick out the elements referring to the moment when the narrator is writing.

**Read the third paragraph**

1. Pick out the words describing one of the activities of Murdstone and Grinby’s.
2. Pick out the verbs used to describe the work that had to be done.

**Now read the whole text again**

1. Explain the connection between the text and the title of the unit: “Child labour in Britain...”
2. Show that a number of devices are used to denounce child labour through:

* the narrative technique
* the choice of words
* the use of symbols and striking images