

QUICK CARD: *LITTLE DORRIT*



Reference	<i>Little Dorrit</i> , by Charles Dickens. ISBN: 9780141439969
Plot	Arthur Clennam returns home to England to investigate the meaning of his recently deceased father's last words: "Do not forget!" His inquiries lead him to Little Amy Dorrit, a seamstress and companion to his harsh, religious mother. Certain that his family's secrets are in some way connected with Amy, Arthur works to better her family's straightened circumstances and to make remuneration for whatever damage his family might have caused her. He means to live a blameless life.
Setting	<p>London, England Venice, Italy The Marshalsea Debtors' Prison Bleeding Heart Alley The Clennam House</p> <p>Book One of the novel transpires in Amy's poverty; Book Two follows her into wealth and society. The story takes place in Arthur's middle age, but chronicles his coming of age on the heels of his father's death.</p>
Characters	<p>Arthur Clennam, protagonist of the story</p> <p>Amy Dorrit, the story's Christ figure/heroine and the youngest born daughter of Father Dorrit, she was born in the Marshalsea Prison and has spent her entire life there.</p> <p>William Dorrit, Amy's father, called the Father of the Marshalsea for his long time residence there</p> <p>Mrs. Clennam, Arthur's harsh and bitter, yet religious mother, a shut in who hides the family secrets from Arthur</p> <p>Fanny Dorrit, Amy's cynical and base older sister, who works as a dance hall girl</p> <p>Tip Dorrit, Amy's irresponsible elder brother</p> <p>Frederick Dorrit, Amy's impoverished uncle, one time dance master and clarinet teacher</p> <p>Flintwinch, houseman and business partner to Mrs. Clennam and abusive husband to Affrey</p>

	<p>Mrs. Affrey, long time housekeeper at the House of Clennam</p> <p>Mr. Pancks, Christopher Casby's rent collector and part-time detective</p> <p>Maggy, feeble minded and poor, Amy takes care of her</p> <p>The Meagles, friends Arthur meets on his journey to England</p> <p>Pet, the Meagles' petted daughter and Arthur's love interest for much of the story</p> <p>Tattycoram, adopted sister and companion to Pet who struggles with envy and anger</p> <p>The Merdles, high society financier and his wife, who is mother to Sparkler and often referred to as "the Bosom"</p> <p>Sparkler, daft but loveable suitor of Fanny Dorrit and only son of Mrs. Merdle from a previous marriage</p> <p>Miss Wade, bitter and corrupt woman who was also on the boat to England with the Meagles and Arthur. She desires to destroy Henry Gowan.</p> <p>Rigaud, aka Blandois, aka Lagnier, the story's sinister villain, a murderer and blackmailer who functions as a sort of deus ex machina in the story. He is in possession of the Clennam family secret.</p> <p>Mrs. General, pretentious, middle-aged traveling companion and tutor Father Dorrit hires to improve his daughters' education in the social graces</p> <p>The Chiverys, the turnkey and his son, John, who loves Amy with fierce, though unrequited love</p> <p>Mr. Gowan and his mother, pretentious and lazy social climbers fallen on hard times. The son courts and marries Pet.</p> <p>Flora Finching and Mrs. F's Aunt, Arthur's childhood sweetheart, now middle-aged, yet flirtatious widow, Flora cares for her deceased husband's senile aunt</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Conflict</p>	<p>Man vs. Man/Man vs. Self – Arthur wants to discover the family secret and make his family blameless (ie to discharge his duty), but is thwarted by his secretive mother, the blackmailing Blandois, and even his own foolishness</p> <p>Man vs. Self – Arthur wants to find love and happiness, but his self-concept and legalism blind him to opportunities</p> <p>Man vs. Society – Amy longs to improve her family's circumstances and restore her father's happiness, but the debtor's laws of England, the machinations of men, and her father's perverse pride prevent this.</p> <p>Man vs. Man – Amy longs to be loved by Arthur, but he is blind to her</p>

	devotion
Theme	Mercy, Forgiveness, Self-Sacrificial Love, Duty, Industry, Faithfulness, Law vs. Grace
Literary Devices	Understatement Verbal Puns Satire – the Barnacles and the Circumlocution Office Imagery – the House of Clennam, the Marshalsea prison, and all of Dickens' finely drawn characters Hyperbole Allusions Symbolism – the Marshalsea, the pocket watch, the rose