List five facts about Charles Dickens - use books/the internet to help you:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Name five of Charles Dickens' books:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Inference and deduction

The following extract is taken from ‘Oliver Twist’, and describes a house that Oliver goes to in a very old part of London.

The walls and ceiling of the room were perfectly black with age and dirt. There was a deal table before the fire; upon which were a candle, stuck in a ginger-beer bottle, two or three pewter pots, a loaf and butter, and a plate. In a frying-pan, which was on the fire, and which secured to the mantelshelf by a string some sausages were cooking; and standing over them with a toasting-fork in his hand, was a very old shrivelled Jew, whose villainous-looking and repulsive face was obscured by a quantity of matted red hair. He was dressed in a greasy flannel gown, with his throat bare; and seemed to be dividing his attention between the frying-pan and a clothes-horse, over which a great number of silk handkerchiefs were hanging. Several rough beds, made of old sacks, were huddled side by side on the floor; and seated round the table were four or five boys, none older than the Dodger, smoking long clay pipes, and drinking spirits with the air of middle-aged men.

Find five quotations which tell you what life was like for those living in this part of London, and explain what they show you.

Example: “Perfectly black with age and dirt” suggests that life was horrible because they don’t have money for new things, and the things they do have aren’t looked after very well.

1:

2:

3:

4:

5:
The following extract is taken from much later on in the story. It’s important that you can figure out extracts for yourself – what they tell you is happening.

Poor Nancy, whose love for Oliver made her take such great risks on his behalf, would have been very happy to know of the boy’s good fortune. But sadly, Nancy had paid a high price for her actions.

“Get up!” said the man.

“It is you, Bill!” said the girl, with an expression of pleasure at his return.

“It is,” was the reply. “Get up.”

There was a candle burning, but the man hastily drew it from the candlestick, and hurled it under the grate. Seeing the faint light of early day without, the girl rose to undraw the curtain.

“Let it be,” said Sikes, thrusting his hand before her. “There’s light enough for wot I’ve got to do.”

“Bill,” said the girl, in a low voice of alarm, “Why do you look like that at me?”

The robber sat regarding her, for a few seconds with dilated nostrils and heaving breast; and then, grasping her by the head and throat, dragged her into the middle of the room, and looking once towards the door, placed his heavy hand upon her mouth.

“Bill, Bill!” gasped the girl, wrestling with the strength of mortal fear - “I-I won't scream or cry - not once - hear me - speak to me - tell me what I have done!”

“You know, you she-devil!” returned the robber, suppressing his breath. “You were watched to-night; every word you said was heard.”

Try to write a short summary of the extract. Use quotations to prove your points. Don’t retell the whole scene – just select the key/important events.
Creative Writing – write a description of a Victorian Christmas, suggested by this image
The following illustration is from the book you’ll be reading this term, ‘A Christmas Carol’. Could you try to write a description of this character, as you think Charles Dickens would write it?
You need to learn the meaning and spelling of the following ten words.

1) Charles Dickens
2) Ebenezer Scrooge
3) Ghost
4) Poverty
5) Victorian
6) Transformation
7) Symbol
8) Workhouse
9) Redemption
10) Message

Use each word in a sentence in the space below, proving you know what it means.

1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5) 
6) 
7) 
8) 
9) 
10)
Extra reading: your homework expectation is to read for twenty minutes a night, every night. Why not try some of the following?
Whether you read your AR book from the school library, or a book from home, you could try to complete some of the following activities.

The idea is that they are a little more creative, and allow you to respond to what you’ve read without having to write an essay or an analysis.

Design a costume for one of the characters. Annotate it, explaining your choices.

Design a cover for the book you’ve just read. You could write a blurb for the back.

Books in a hurry: sum your book up in as few words as possible! Feel free to illustrate your key chosen points.

Imagine you are one of the main characters. Create your social media profile.

Lonely hearts ad: imagine one of the characters in your book is looking for love. Write an advert they place in a newspaper, promoting themselves and explaining what they want from a partner.
A note to parents and carers,

The most important reason to read is because it’s enjoyable – we would like your child to view reading as a luxury and not a chore. Children who read for pleasure in their spare time perform significantly better at school than other pupils. The most important thing you can do for your child is to read with them, or at least to insist that they read themselves.

Ideally, they should read every single day – little and often is the way forward!

Your child’s homework for English is to complete this booklet, to the best of their ability, and to read as much as they can and as often as they can. They should always have a book from the school library, but obviously they can read their own books from home should they wish to do so. They can quiz on the books they read once they return to school.

To support us in helping your child, we ask that you complete the following log at the end of every week so that their English teacher can monitor how often they’re reading at home.

Thank you,

Mr Wootton
Head of English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What has your child been reading this week?</th>
<th>Parent/carer signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>