

# Victorian Soap

1. Quickly read through the text to find out how these numbers relate to Dickens' life:

7 25 1870 21 12 38 1858

2. Now read the text again. There are eighteen lines. Twelve of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

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|----|---|------------|
| 1  | The novelist Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England on February 7, 1812. He                | ✓          |
| 2  | and his family then moved to Chatham, near London, where he <del>had</del> spent the happiest       | <u>had</u> |
| 3  | time of his life. However, when his parents were imprisoned for being in a debt, he                 | _____      |
| 4  | entered a period of intense misery which deeply affected him. He started working, at the            | _____      |
| 5  | age of twelve, in a boot polish factory. Later, he worked out as a solicitor's clerk and then       | _____      |
| 6  | as a court reporter. At the age of twenty-one old, he started sending in contributions to a         | _____      |
| 7  | monthly journal and by 1837, at the age of twenty-five, he had been published an entire             | _____      |
| 8  | volume of work under the title of <i>The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club</i> .               | _____      |
| 9  | Over the next five years, Dickens was established himself as a household name with                  | _____      |
| 10 | novels such like <i>Oliver Twist</i> , <i>Nicholas Nickelby</i> and <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> . | _____      |
| 11 | Throughout the 1840s he and his wife travelled extensively in the Europe and America.               | _____      |
| 12 | At thirty-eight, Dickens started to writing <i>David Copperfield</i> (1849-50), a largely           | _____      |
| 13 | autobiographical work portraying his father as the irresponsible Mr Micawber. In his                | _____      |
| 14 | forties his novels did became progressively pessimistic, possibly following the course of           | _____      |
| 15 | his own marriage, which ended in 1858. He has formed a relationship with Ellen Ternan,              | _____      |
| 16 | a young actress, and put his energy into performing public readings of his own works.               | _____      |
| 17 | The readings were successful but however they were also exhausting, which no doubt                  | _____      |
| 18 | hastened his sudden death in 1870.  | _____      |