

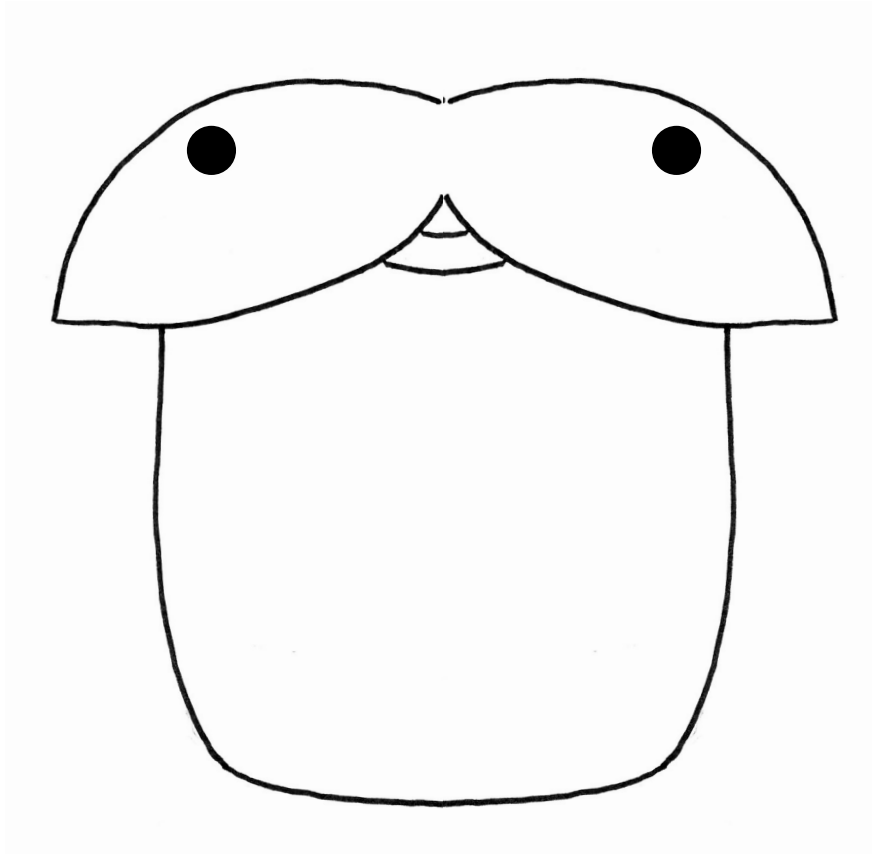
## Take to the stage!

Imagine that you are Charles Dickens getting ready to perform a scene from one of your most popular novels. What will you wear? Charles loved bright colours and fancy patterns and liked to stand out from the crowd. Raid your wardrobes and dress to impress!

Then, for the finishing touch, make your very own Dickensian beard to wear!

- 1 Print and cut out the beard template
- 2 Use a hole punch to remove the white circles at the top
- 3 Tie some string through the holes
- 4 Try it on!

*You look brilliant!*



# Charles Dickens Museum

Get some volunteers from your family and divide up the different bits of text below for your performance.

**Maybe you want to read a sentence each?**

**Maybe one person wants to read the description, one person wants to read Oliver's words and one person wants to read the Master's words?**

**Maybe you would prefer your family to be the audience and you will read everything yourself?**

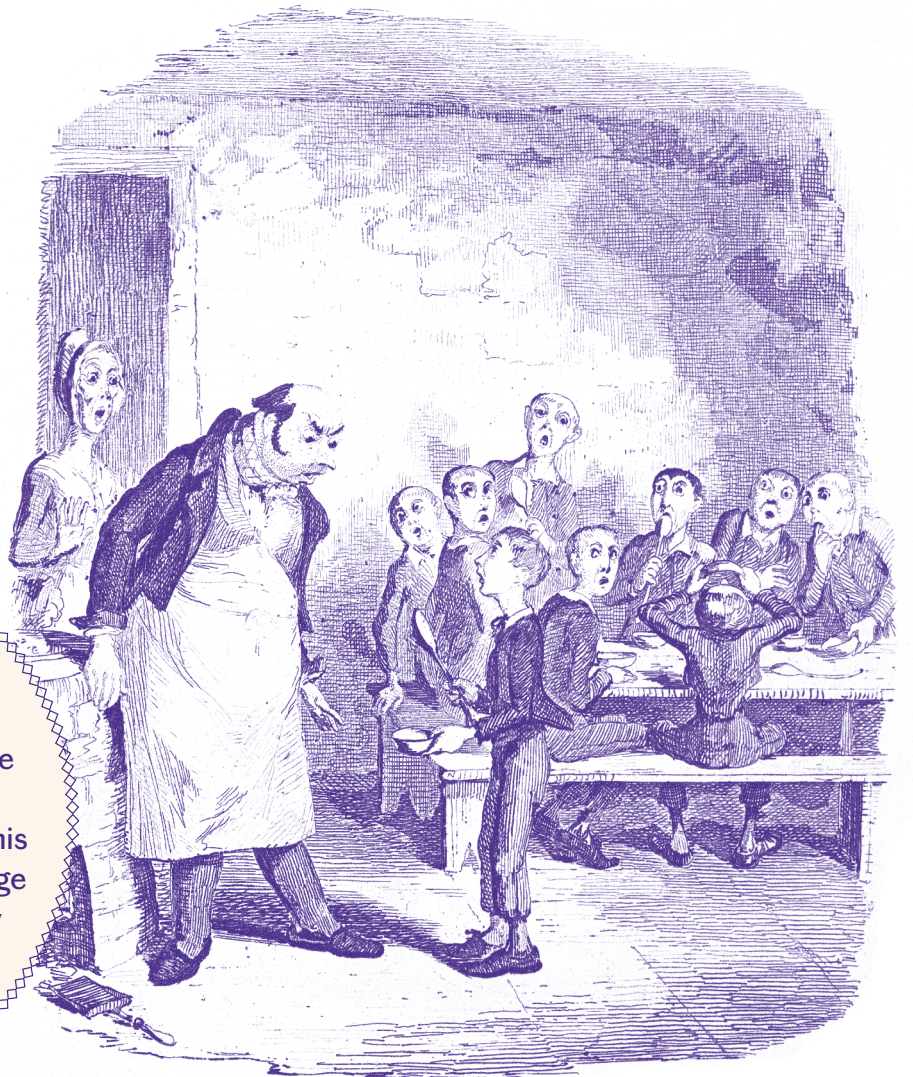
**It's up to you!**

**Remember though, to truly be like Charles Dickens, you will need to use facial expressions, your voice and lots of body language!**

Now you are ready, imagine you are on stage, about to perform a scene from Charles Dickens' novel, *Oliver Twist*, which he wrote right here in this house!

**This part of the novel is set in a workhouse.**

Workhouses were places where very poor people went if they couldn't support themselves. This didn't come for free – in exchange people often had to work very hard and were given less food than people in prison!



# Charles Dickens Museum

In the story of *Oliver Twist*, poor little Oliver is an orphan, all alone and desperately hungry. One day he is so hungry that he decides to ask the man in charge, Mr Bumble, for a second helping of food...

Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger and reckless with misery. He rose from the table, and advancing, basin and spoon in hand, to the master, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity,

“Please, sir, I want some more”

*In this section, Oliver is desperate and terrified! If he makes the men in charge of the workhouse angry, they will shout at him or beat him or maybe even worse...*

*reckless = taking risks*  
*temerity = boldness, bravery*

The master was a fat, healthy man, but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder, and the boys with fear. “What!” said the master at length, in a faint voice.

*In this section, the master of the workhouse has never heard anything so astonishing in his life! In all his years of service, nothing like this has ever happened before! He is a ‘fat, healthy man’ and has no idea what it might feel like to be truly hungry. He thinks that Oliver should be grateful for the tiny portions of horrible food he is given!*

*stupefied = shocked*  
*rebel = someone who breaks the rules*  
*paralysed = can't move*

“Please, sir,” replied Oliver, “I want some more.”

*Oliver knows he has done the wrong thing in asking, he has never been so frightened in his life, but he is so very hungry...*

