Charles Dickens Greatest Villains

* Bill Sikes (Oliver Twist)
* Daniel Quilp (The Old Curiosity Shop)
* Fagin (Oliver Twist)
* Uriah Heep (David Copperfield)
* Miss Havisham (Great Expectations)

Occupations

Bill Sikes/Sykes = Thief

Fagin = Thief

Daniel Quilp = Moneylender

Miss Havisham = Unemployed

Uriah Heep = Clerk

Character Description & Definition

**Bill Sykes/Sikes**

Sikes as he is most commonly known is one of Dickens’ most vicious and aggressive characters. He is depicted as a rough and barbaric man who becomes a murderer. He owns a terrier named Bulls Eye who he constantly beats.

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| **“** | The man who growled out these words, was a stoutly-built fellow of about five-and-thirty, in a black velveteen coat, very soiled drab breeches, lace-up half boots, and grey cotton stockings which enclosed a bulky pair of legs, with large swelling calves,—the kind of legs, which in such costume, always look in an unfinished and incomplete state without a set of fetters to garnish them. He had a brown hat on his head, and a dirty belcher handkerchief round his neck: with the long frayed ends of which he smeared the beer from his face as he spoke. He disclosed, when he had done so, a broad heavy countenance with a beard of three weeks' growth, and two scowling eyes; one of which displayed various parti-coloured symptoms of having been recently damaged by a blow. | ” |
| —Pages 198–199 of the second edition[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Sikes#cite_note-0) | | |

**Fagin**

Fagin is a crafty old Jew who is the leader of a group of children which includes The Artful Dodger and Charley Bates who he teaches to thieve and pickpocket off the wealthy to survive. Fagin is born in London and is described as ‘ugly’ to look at. He is labelled as a self-confessed miser who on occasion beats the children he cares for. Some say he is indirectly responsible for Nancy’s death after purposefully telling Sikes that she had betrayed him knowing that the worst would happen. he is hung after capture at the end of the book.

**Daniel Quilp**

Daniel Quilp is the main antagonist in the novel *The Old Curiosity Shop*. He is described as a bent over, hook-nosed dwarf with a ghastly smile which gave him the disposition of a panting dog. He uses these factors to terrify his wife (Mrs Quilp) who is unable to defend herself against his abuse. He never physically hurts his wife, only mentally damages her due to his horrific bullying nature. He gets chased by the police and ends up drowned in the Thames.

**Uriah Heep**

Uriah Heep is a villain from the novel *David Copperfield*. He is the central antagonist of the latter part of the novel and blackmails his employer. He is described as ugly and repulsive even in his youth. he is eventually sentenced to life transportation.

*[Uriah's face] was quite as cadaverous as it had looked in the window, though in the grain of it there was that tinge of red which is sometimes to be observed in the skins of red-haired people. It belonged to a red-haired person—a youth of fifteen, as I take it now, but looking much older—whose hair was cropped as close as the closest stubble; who had hardly any eyebrows, and no eyelashes, and eyes of a red-brown, so unsheltered and unshaded, that I remember wondering how he went to sleep. He was high-shouldered and bony; dressed in decent black, with a white wisp of a neckcloth; buttoned up to the throat; and had a long, lank, skeleton hand, which particularly attracted my attention, as he stood at the pony's head, rubbing his chin with it, and looking up at us in the chaise.*

**Miss Havisham**

Miss Havisham is the antagonist from *Great Expectations.* She is a wealthy spinster who lives in her ruined mansion only allowing a certain few people to see her. She lives in her wedding dress and one wedding shoe as that is how she was (partway dressing) when her fiancée left her at the altar. She ruins her adopted daughter’s life by teaching and forcing her to break men’s hearts in revenge for hers. She is very ugly as living in the dark all these years has been said to have aged her. She is described as a cross between a waxwork and a skeleton.

She is very rich as her mother died when she was an infant so her father spoiled her and left all his money to her in his will. She fell in love with a greedy man named Compeyson who only married her to acquire her riches. At twenty minutes to nine, he left her at the alter and she was heartbroken. Her lawyer adopted a daughter for her, hoping to mend her broken heart but all Miss Havisham wanted was revenge and trained Estella to be cruel and horrid. When Estella was small, she began looking for boys who she could use to train Estella. The eventual victim is a poor boy called Pip, who is also the narrator, and the social distance between the two children makes Pip agree to be a gentleman.

Miss Havisham eventually repents at the end of the book, when Estella leaves to marry Pip’s rival, Bentley Drummle. She realises that she caused Pip’s broken heart as she did her own and feels sorry for his pain, grief, misery and woe. Rather than committing revenge, she has heart another being. She begs Pip for forgiveness. When Pip leaves the house, Miss Havisham’s dress catches fire. Pip rushes in to save her although she has suffered severe burns on her front torso up to her throat. Her dying words are spoken in a delirium trance to Pip, “Take this pencil and write beneath my name ‘I forgive her!’” A surgeon attends to her wounds but after struggling for a number of weeks, she dies a tragic death.

**Pictures**

  

Fagin Bill Sikes Daniel Quilp

 

Miss Havisham Uriah Heep