The British novelist Charles Dickens is well known for the colorful and eccentric characters he created in his many novels. But one of his books, *David Copperfield*, seems to have a great deal to do with fact as well as fiction. After attempting to write his autobiography, Dickens abandoned the project and began to work on a novel, the plot of which was loosely based on his own boyhood experiences. Apparently, it was easier for him to weave the events of his own life into the fiction of *David Copperfield* than to write about them in nonfiction.

Some of Dickens’s most troubling memories involved a job he held in 1824 as a 12-year-old child. Because his family was deeply in debt, he was forced to quit school and go to work in a London factory, pasting labels on pots of shoe polish. Dickens lived in a boardinghouse, using his meager wages to support himself and to help pay his family’s debts. He worked in the dreary, run-down factory six days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Such long hours were not unusual at the time, for children or adults, but Dickens was miserable during the entire four months he spent working at the factory.

Even when the family finances improved, Dickens continued to work at the factory until his father quarreled with Dickens’s boss, who promptly dismissed the son. Dickens was upset at being fired but relieved to be out of the factory. Thus he felt betrayed when his mother, anxious for the boy’s weekly wage, succeeded in making peace and getting Dickens’s job back for him. The father, however, now sided with his son, and the boy was sent back to school. “I know how these things have worked together to make me what I am,” Dickens later wrote, but he never forgot that his mother was eager for him to return to work.

As an adult, Dickens always remembered the shame and humiliation he felt during those months at the factory. For years afterward, whenever in London, he could not go near the sites of the factory and boardinghouse, going out of his way to avoid those painful reminders of his past. In fact, Dickens never told his wife and children about his childhood work experience. It was only after his death that they heard of it from a family friend whom Dickens had confided in.

Instead, Dickens expressed his feelings by giving his fictional “other self,” David Copperfield, a job similar to the one he had so hated. In the novel, ten-year-old David is forced by his harsh stepfather to work as a bottle washer in a factory. Young David, who “suffered exquisitely” as a child manual laborer, was apparently Dickens’s way of dealing with his own past. *David Copperfield* was to become Dickens’s most popular novel, and Dickens himself called it his “favorite child.”
28. Which of the following best tells what this passage is about?
   E. Dickens’s motivations for becoming a writer
   F. Dickens’s childhood relationship with his parents
   G. the autobiographical basis for Dickens’s *David Copperfield*
   H. the characters created by Dickens for *David Copperfield*

29. In the fourth paragraph, the author includes details about Dickens’s experiences as an adult in order to
   A. highlight that the time Dickens spent working in the factory affected him throughout his life.
   B. emphasize that Dickens made sure he would never have to work in a factory again.
   C. highlight that Dickens did not readily share details about his childhood with others.
   D. emphasize that Dickens did not want his own children to experience hardships.

30. The details in the second and third paragraphs suggest that young Dickens
   E. struggled to perform his job in the factory.
   F. worried about the financial situation of his family.
   G. wished he had a better relationship with his parents.
   H. preferred attending school to working in a factory.

31. Which of the following is the most likely reason that Dickens wrote *David Copperfield*?
   A. He needed money from the novel to help pay his family’s debts.
   B. He needed a way to cope with the difficulties of his childhood.
   C. He wanted to avoid telling his children about his experiences in the factory.
   D. He wanted to explain how his childhood had influenced his adult life.

32. Based on the details in the third paragraph, what can be concluded about the relationship between Dickens and his mother?
   E. He avoided her after he was allowed to return to school.
   F. He resented her for putting the need for his wages above his happiness.
   G. He hoped she would understand why attending school was important to him.
   H. He recognized that she had the authority to negotiate on his behalf.

33. What most directly enabled Charles Dickens to return to school?
   A. the discussion between his mother and his boss
   B. the argument between his father and his boss
   C. getting fired from the factory
   D. getting support from his father