

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

Why does David begin by asking whether he will be the hero of his own life?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Hero of my own life
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter I
START	Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life
END	Not to meander myself, at present, I will go back to my birth.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dc-01

THE MOVE

Use a narrator's opening question to frame authorship and agency

WHY THIS PASSAGE

David's opening question makes his life story partly about authorship: will events define him, or will he become the person who can shape and understand the story? The phrase 'hero of my own life' frames agency as something the narrative must test.

MARK

Underline the opening question about being the hero. Circle any words that place responsibility on future events or on David himself. Star the phrase that turns autobiography into a question about agency.

NOTICE

- What would it mean for David not to be the hero of his own life?
- How does the question make the narrator both subject and judge of the story?
- Why is 'these pages must show' a useful promise for an autobiography?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does David begin by asking whether he will be the hero of his own life? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does David begin by asking whether he will be the hero of his own life? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The opening question frames David's life as a test of agency and authorship: will he direct his story, or will other people and circumstances make him a secondary figure in it? The autobiography promises to investigate that question.
EVIDENCE	Use 'hero of my own life,' the appeal to what the pages will show, and the narrator's control over how the story begins.
WATCH FOR	Do not define 'hero' only as brave or admirable. Here it also means central agent and author of one's life.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why does David begin by asking whether he will be the hero of his own life?

START ANCHOR	Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life
END ANCHOR	Not to meander myself, at present, I will go back to my birth.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the opening question about being the hero. Circle any words that place responsibility on future events or on David himself. Star the phrase that turns autobiography into a question about agency.
2. NOTICE - What would it mean for David not to be the hero of his own life? How does the question make the narrator both subject and judge of the story? Why is 'these pages must show' a useful promise for an autobiography?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does David begin by asking whether he will be the hero of his own life?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.