

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

Why is Barkis's repeated message funnier and more revealing than a direct proposal?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Barkis is willin'
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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 V
START	That Barkis is willing
END	Barkis is willin'. That's the message.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dc-02

THE MOVE

Read repetition as characterization and indirect courtship

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Barkis's courtship is compressed into the repeated message 'Barkis is willin'.' The repetition is funny because it is both indirect and unmistakable: a man who cannot make an elegant proposal reveals himself through stubborn simplicity.

MARK

Circle every repetition of Barkis's message. Underline the reactions or misunderstandings it produces. Star the point where the repetition communicates more about Barkis's character than a formal proposal would.

NOTICE

- What information is missing from the message that a conventional proposal would include?
- Why does repetition make the meaning clearer even though the wording stays minimal?
- What does the awkward message reveal about Barkis's personality?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is Barkis's repeated message funnier and more revealing than a direct proposal? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is Barkis's repeated message funnier and more revealing than a direct proposal? 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 repeated "Barkis is willin'" is funny because it is indirect, minimal, and stubbornly practical, yet repetition makes the courtship unmistakable. The awkward message reveals Barkis's character better than polished romance would.
EVIDENCE	Use the repeated wording, David's confusion, and the way Barkis relies on the same formula instead of elaborating.
WATCH FOR	Do not say repetition is funny only because it sounds odd. Explain what it reveals about Barkis's personality and method of courtship.
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 is Barkis's repeated message funnier and more revealing than a direct proposal?

START ANCHOR

That Barkis is willing

END ANCHOR	Barkis is willin'. That's the message.
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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 - Circle every repetition of Barkis's message. Underline the reactions or misunderstandings it produces. Star the point where the repetition communicates more about Barkis's character than a formal proposal would.
2. NOTICE - What information is missing from the message that a conventional proposal would include? Why does repetition make the meaning clearer even though the wording stays minimal? What does the awkward message reveal about Barkis's personality?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is Barkis's repeated message funnier and more revealing than a direct proposal?
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.