

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

Why does Betsey reduce her hopes for David to three prohibitions instead of a list of achievements?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Betsey's three rules
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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 XV
START	Never,” said my aunt, “be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel.
END	I can always be hopeful of you.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dc-03

THE MOVE

Turn advice into a compact moral framework

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Betsey’s three rules—never be mean, false, or cruel—define success by moral boundaries rather than accomplishments. She tells David what kinds of person not to become, leaving profession and achievement open.

MARK

Circle the three prohibitions. Underline any explanation of why they matter. In the margin, write what positive quality each prohibition implies.

NOTICE

- What kinds of success are absent from Betsey’s advice?
- Why might prohibitions be easier to carry into many different situations than a list of goals?
- What picture of a good life emerges from the three rules?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Betsey reduce her hopes for David to three prohibitions instead of a list of achievements? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Betsey reduce her hopes for David to three prohibitions instead of a list of achievements? 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	Betsey's three prohibitions define a moral floor that can apply across any career: do not be mean, false, or cruel. She values character limits more than a list of achievements David must accomplish.
EVIDENCE	Use the three rules and infer the positive qualities each one protects—generosity, truthfulness, humanity.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Betsey has no ambitions for David. She deliberately defines success morally rather than professionally.
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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START ANCHOR	Never,” said my aunt, “be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel.
END ANCHOR	I can always be hopeful of you.

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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 the three prohibitions. Underline any explanation of why they matter. In the margin, write what positive quality each prohibition implies.
2. NOTICE - What kinds of success are absent from Betsey’s advice? Why might prohibitions be easier to carry into many different situations than a list of goals? What picture of a good life emerges from the three rules?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Betsey reduce her hopes for David to three prohibitions instead of a list of achievements?
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.