

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

Why does David refuse to treat natural ability as enough?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes

Earnest work

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 XLII
START	whatever I have tried to do in life, I have tried with all my heart to do well
END	There is no such thing as such fulfilment on this earth.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dc-04

THE MOVE

Distinguish talent from the habits that make talent useful

WHY THIS PASSAGE

David refuses the comforting idea that talent guarantees achievement. His emphasis on wholehearted effort, discipline, and persistence turns ability into raw material that only habits can make useful.

MARK

Underline references to natural ability or talent. Circle the language about work, effort, or persistence. Star the sentence that most directly refuses the idea that ability alone is enough.

NOTICE

- What can talent provide without effort?

- What does sustained work add that talent cannot supply by itself?
- How does David's principle reinterpret his own achievements?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does David refuse to treat natural ability as enough? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does David refuse to treat natural ability as enough? 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	David refuses to treat talent as enough because ability without disciplined, wholehearted work can be wasted. Habits convert potential into achievement.
EVIDENCE	Use references to natural ability or opportunity and the contrasting emphasis on earnest work, perseverance, or devotion.
WATCH FOR	Do not imply talent is irrelevant. The passage distinguishes raw capacity from the habits that make it useful.
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.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why does David refuse to treat natural ability as enough?

START ANCHOR	whatever I have tried to do in life, I have tried with all my heart to do well
END ANCHOR	There is no such thing as such fulfilment on this earth.

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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 - Underline references to natural ability or talent. Circle the language about work, effort, or persistence. Star the sentence that most directly refuses the idea that ability alone is enough.
2. NOTICE - What can talent provide without effort? What does sustained work add that talent cannot supply by itself? How does David's principle reinterpret his own achievements?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does David refuse to treat natural ability as enough?
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.