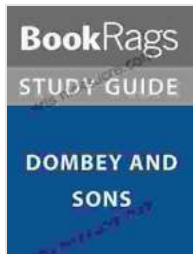


# Summary Study Guide for Charles Dickens' Dombey and Son



## Summary & Study Guide: Dombey and Sons by Paul Parker

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 278 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 123 pages



## Summary

Dombey and Son is a novel by Charles Dickens, first published in 1848. The story follows the life of Paul Dombey, the only son of a wealthy and arrogant merchant. Paul is a sickly and neglected child, who is raised by a governess, Miss Tox. As Paul grows older, he becomes increasingly aware of his father's coldness and indifference. He also falls in love with Florence, the daughter of a bankrupt clerk. However, Paul's father forbids their relationship, and he sends Paul away to a boarding school. Paul dies at the school, and his father is left to mourn the loss of his only son.

## Characters

### Paul Dombey

Paul Dombey is the only son of Mr. Dombey, a wealthy and arrogant merchant. Paul is a sickly and neglected child, who is raised by a

governess, Miss Tox. As Paul grows older, he becomes increasingly aware of his father's coldness and indifference. He also falls in love with Florence, the daughter of a bankrupt clerk. However, Paul's father forbids their relationship, and he sends Paul away to a boarding school. Paul dies at the school, and his father is left to mourn the loss of his only son.

### **Mr. Dombey**

Mr. Dombey is a wealthy and arrogant merchant. He is a cold and indifferent father, who neglects his son, Paul. Mr. Dombey is also a ruthless businessman, who is determined to make his fortune. He is obsessed with his business, and he has no time for anything else. After Paul's death, Mr. Dombey is left to mourn the loss of his only son. He eventually realizes the error of his ways, and he becomes a more compassionate and loving man.

### **Florence Dombey**

Florence Dombey is the daughter of Mr. Dombey and his second wife. Florence is a kind and compassionate young woman. She is neglected by her father, but she is loved by her governess, Miss Tox. Florence falls in love with Paul Dombey, but their relationship is forbidden by her father. After Paul's death, Florence marries Walter Gay, a young man who is kind and loving. Florence and Walter have a happy and fulfilling life together.

### **Miss Tox**

Miss Tox is the governess of Paul and Florence Dombey. Miss Tox is a kind and caring woman, who loves the children as if they were her own. She is also a loyal friend to Mr. Dombey, even though he often treats her with disdain. After Paul's death, Miss Tox continues to care for Florence, and she eventually becomes a member of the Gay family.

## **Themes**

### **The Importance of Family**

*Dombey and Son* is a novel about the importance of family. Mr. Dombey is a cold and indifferent father, who neglects his son, Paul. As a result, Paul grows up to be a sickly and neglected child. Florence Dombey, on the other hand, is a kind and compassionate young woman, who is loved by her governess, Miss Tox. Florence falls in love with Paul Dombey, but their relationship is forbidden by her father. After Paul's death, Florence marries Walter Gay, a young man who is kind and loving. Florence and Walter have a happy and fulfilling life together. The novel shows that family is important, and that it can provide love, support, and happiness.

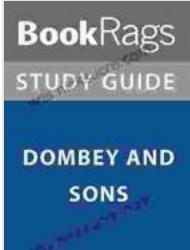
### **The Dangers of Pride**

Mr. Dombey is a proud man. He is obsessed with his business, and he believes that he is better than everyone else. As a result, he neglects his family and his friends. The novel shows that pride can be a dangerous thing. It can lead to arrogance, isolation, and even death. Mr. Dombey eventually realizes the error of his ways, but it is too late. He has lost his son, and he has alienated his family and friends. The novel shows that it is important to be humble, and to treat others with respect.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are the main themes of *Dombey and Son*?
2. How does the novel explore the importance of family?
3. What are the dangers of pride?
4. How do the characters in *Dombey and Son* change and develop over the course of the novel?

5. What is the significance of the ending of the novel?



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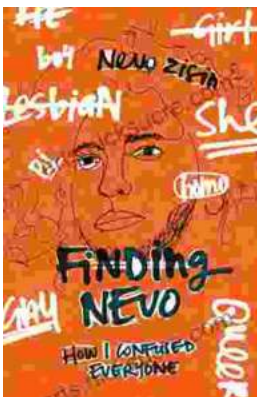
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