Mr. Bounderby's Analysis

Mr. Bounderby is an extract from chapter four, Hard Times by Charles Dickens. Its background is Coketown, an imaginative place and his protagonists are Thomas Gradgrind and Josiah Bounderby, the object of Dickens’ denunciation. Thomas Gradgrind is a founder of the school's system and Josiah Bounderby is a banker and trader. This extract is a characters’ description in spite of their different role in their society. They are characterized in two different ways.

The first sequence is a description of the differences between the two characters.

The second sequence is a Mr. Bounderby's physical description and his role in society is explained. Dickens shows Mr. Bounderby as a great person, but he is also an inflated balloon. Dickens uses exaggeration and grotesque physical descriptions to make the reader reflect and also amuse him. His ironic appearance is related to his behaviour.

The third sequence is seen from the point of view of Mr. Bounderby. He narrates about his conditions during his youth. They're opposite to the actual conditions. Dickens conveys the idea of a self-made man.

The fourth sequence is the characterization of Mr. Gradgrind’s wife, Mrs. Gradgrind. There is a short description of the woman and a part of showing. It consists of a dialogue about the ditch where Mr. Bounderby has been forced to live in for one day. Dickens' purpose is to touch the reader's feelings and to convey Mr. Bounderby’s sense of superiority towards the woman.

The extract ends with the imagine of Mr. Bounderby's strength used to exit from a negative situation. Dikens also denounces the richness of the bourgeoisie in the Victorian age and he raises those who have experienced difficult situations.