Sara Papotto 5ASA

**Analysis of Mr. Bounderby**

The text is an extract taken from chapter IV of Charles Dickens' novel *Hard Times.*The text focuses on Mr. Bounderbywho is talking with Mrs. Gradgrind in Stone Lodge. He tells about how he grew up: he spent his youth living in a ditch, abandoned by his mother and grown up by his grandmother.
The narrator is a third person and he uses both the techniques of telling and showing, mainly telling. He starts with a rhetorical question "who was Mr. Bounderby?" to introduce the characterization of Mr. Bounderby. In order to introduce the characterization the narrator creates a comparison between him and his best friend, Mrs. Gradgrind: they are both devoid of sentiment.
Using "devoid" that means 'empty' he tells that Mr. Bounderby was a very cold man. He reinforces this idea using "perfectly".
The language the narrator uses is characterized by the use of repetition to create redundancy and the anaphoric construction. In Mr. Bounderby's characterization the narrator uses a lot of irony to create a grotesque and pathetic character. For example he compares Mr. Bounderby to a balloon due to his redness and inflation. Also he ridicules him telling that his one marked physical characteristic is the enlarged vein in his temple.
 Mr. Bounderby's physical description corresponds to his sentiments and emotions: his huge, swollen body is representative of his huge ego. His story of having raised himself from nothing helps to justify both his ego and his economic condition.
Bounderby has a lot of wealth from his profession as a banker, a merchant and a manufacturer.
He has an imposing figure and his entire body is oversized, swelled and overweight. He calls himself a "self-made man". Indeed Bounderby is proud of his self-made status, having risen to the low ranks of the without the advantages of education. However it is unclear how exactly he became a "self-made" man and arrived at his fortunes. Bounderby is a man of social mobility and in expansion.
The narrator uses an hyperbolic language and he creates contrasts to underline the concept he wants to communicate to the reader. For example he creates an exaggeration opposing when Mr. Bounderby was very poor and now that he is very rich.