**MR. BOUNDERBY**

EXERCISE 1

1. Mr. Bounderby was as near being Mr. Gradgrind's bosom friend
2. He was as a man perfectly devoid of sentiment.
3. He was a rich man: banker, merchant, manufacturer, and what not.
4. A big, loud man, with a stare, and a metallic laugh.
5. A man made out of a coarse material, which seemed to have been stretched to make so much of him.
6. A man with a great puffed head and forehead, swelled veins in his temples, and such a strained skin to his face that it seemed to hold his eyes open, and lift his eyebrows up.
7. A man with a pervading appearance on him of being inflated like a balloon, and ready to start.
8. A man who could never sufficiently vaunt himself a self-made man.
9. A man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty.
10. A man who was the Bully of humility.
11. A year or two younger than his eminently practical friend, Mr. Bounderby looked older.
12. His seven or eight and forty might have had the seven or eight added to it again, without surprising anybody.
13. He had not much hair. One might have fancied he had talked it off; and that what was left, all standing up in disorder, was in that condition from being constantly blown about by his windy boastfulness.
14. He thus took up a commanding position, from which to subdue Mrs. Gradgrind.
15. In the formal drawing-room of Stone Lodge, standing on the hearthrug, warming himself before the fire, Mr. Bounderby delivered some observations to Mrs. Gradgrind on the circumstance of its being his birthday.

EXERCISE 2

The four phrases are:

1. A man with a pervading appearance on him of being inflated like a balloon, and ready to start. *Adjectives of the same meaning are:* **inflated** (higher than is acceptable or reasonable), **exaggerated** (made to seem larger, better worse or more important that it really is or needs to be) and **pompous** (showing that you think you are more important than another people, especially by using long and formal words).
2. A man who could never sufficiently vaunt himself a self-made man. *Adjectives of the same meaning are:* **self-made** (having become rich and successful through your own hard work rather than having had money given to you) and **conceited** (having too much pride in yourself and what you do).
3. A man who was the Bully of humility. *Adjectives of the same meaning are:* **bully** (a person who uses his strength or power to frighten or hurt weaker people) and **overbearing** (trying to control other people un an unpleasant way).
4. One might have fancied he had talked it off; and that what was left, all standing up in disorder, was in that condition from being constantly blown about by his windy boastfulness. *Adjectives of the same meaning are:* **boastful** (talking about yourself in a very proud way), **haughty** (behaving in an unfriendly way towards other people because you think that you are better than them) and **egoistic** (when you think you are more important than anyone else).

EXERCISE 3

Overall, the characterization of Mr. Bouderby seems to be connected with the writer’s comments. More in detail, the *great puffed head and forehead,* the *swelled veins in his temples, and* the *strained skin to his face that it seemed to hold his eyes open, and lift his eyebrows up* highlighted the pompousness of the character, while the phrase: “*A man who was always proclaiming, through that brassy speaking-trumpet of a voice of his, his old ignorance and his old poverty*” supports the accusation by the writer of vanity. Finally, the writer uses the phrase “*he thus took up a commanding position, from which to subdue Mrs. Gradgrind*” as the most suitable means in order to convey the character’s desire for leadership over the weaker individuals like Mrs. Gradgrind, who is described as surprisingly weak on purpose in order to reinforce the male character’s bullying.

EXERCISE 4

According to the dictionary, a *bounder* is a man who behaves badly and cannot be trusted. The phrase which reinforces the meaning of the character’s surname is “*a man who was the Bully of humility*”, since it conveys the idea of a man who uses his strength or power to frighten or hurt weaker people.

EXERCISE 5

The writer’s comments are meant to unveil the true character of Mr. Bounderby, who often hides behind the pomposity of his story. Doing so, the reader not only doubts the veracity of Mr Bouderby's statements, but also realizes his arrogance and pride, not making his story worthy of admiration. The effect is reinforced by the word bounder contained in the character’s surname, and by the exaggerated description that he makes of himself.

EXERCISE 6

Go on reading the text, the reader cannot but-notice Mr. Bounderby’s boastfulness, haughtiness, exaggeration and pomposity as well as his desire to be the center of attention by telling falsities while he is talking with Mrs. Gradgrind. Consequently, what Mr. Bounderby says is consistent with the description of his character given by the writer.

EXERCISE 7

The aspects of Mr. Bounderby’s character which are emphasized in what he says are: his egocentricity, his boastfulness, his determination, his proud to be a self-made man and his deceitfulness, since he exaggerates on invented aspects of his life in order to arouse admiration in Mrs. Gradgrind, who is talking with him, mocking her.

EXERCISE 9

1. The repetitions of pronouns, words or sentence pattern in the extract are:

* A man perfectly devoid of sentiment
* Near
* Mr. Bounderby
* Man
* A man who
* A man with
* Friend
* Fire
* Birthday
* His
* Him
* Seven or eight
* Partly because
* Always
* I
* Ditch
* Inflammation
* Tongs
* Determined

1. Mr. Bounderby way of talking is grandiose, flamboyant, focus on himself (as the reader can understand from the frequent use of the pronouns “I” and “my”) and self-pitying, since he draws the listener’s attention on an invented life of incredible privations improved through his own determination and hard work. The use of the exaggeration reveals to the reader the falsity of the character’s actions and experiences, showing he is lying.
2. Mr. Bounderby’s grandiose way of talking focused on self-pitying fits in with his character as portrayed by the narrator since it is used to highlight the aspects of his character previously discussed. More in detail, the writer underlines the character’s vanity, falseness, exaggeration and his proud to be a self-made man.