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## Tekst 10

# Different shine

Boot polish jingle  
blackens Dickens'  
tale of woe

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John Ezard

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Charles Dickens penned a cheerful advertising jingle for the boot-blackening factory which had supposedly been so traumatic to him in childhood, research shows.

The novelist wrote of “the superlative splendour” of the shoe polish he had slaved to make, according to a study in today’s *Guardian Review*.

The author, John Drew, a teacher at the University of Buckingham, found the jingle in the *True Sun*, a newspaper the young Dickens worked on briefly as a parliamentary reporter in the year the verse appeared, 1832, when he was 20. Other scholars have scoured the paper unsuccessfully for Dickens juvenilia. Mr Drew found it by looking among the advertisements.

The author wrote “no words can express the secret agony of my soul” at having to work 10-hour days at Warren’s factory, London, at the age of 12. “My whole nature



was ... penetrated with the grief and humiliation.” Critics have viewed this as a classic creative trauma behind the sombre parts of his novels.

Mr Drew traced the jingle after noticing a brief diary reference by a contact of Dickens, the journalist John Payne Collier.

Part of the first verse reads:

*I mused on my boots in  
their bright beauty dawning,*

*By Warren’s Jet Blacking -  
the pride of mankind*

It ends

*I ne’er shall forget  
the superlative splendour*

*Of Warren’s Jet Blacking -  
the pride of mankind.*

*The Guardian*

*Lees bij de volgende opgave eerst de vraag voordat je de bijbehorende tekst raadpleegt.*

## **Tekst 10 Different shine**

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- 1p **43** “Boot polish jingle blackens Dickens’ tale of woe” (onderkop)  
Waarover ging deze “tale of woe”?