

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910809309303321
Autore	Winter Sarah
Titolo	The pleasures of memory : learning to read with Charles Dickens // Sarah Winter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Fordham University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-8232-6618-4 0-8232-6619-2 0-8232-4113-0 0-8232-4885-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (471 p.)
Disciplina	823/.8 823.8
Soggetti	Collective memory and literature Books and reading - Psychological aspects Books and reading - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Dickens and the pleasures of memory -- Memory's bonds: associationism and the freedom of thought -- Dickens's originality: serial fiction, celebrity, and The Pickwick Papers -- The pleasures of memory, part I: curiosity as didacticism in The Old Curiosity Shop -- The pleasures of memory, part II: epitaphic reading and cultural memory -- Learning by heart in Our Mutual Friend -- Dickens's laughter: school reading and democratic literature, 1870-1940.
Sommario/riassunto	What are the sources of the commonly held presumption that reading literature should make people more just, humane, and sophisticated? Rendering literary history responsive to the cultural histories of reading, publishing, and education, The Pleasures of Memory illuminates the ways in which Dickens's serial fiction shaped not only the popular practice of reading for pleasure and instruction but also the school subject we now know as "English." Winter shows how Dickens's serial fiction instigated specific reading practices by reworking the conventions of religious didactic tracts from which most Victorians learned to read. Incorporating an influential associationist psychology

of learning founded on the cumulative functioning of memory, Dickens's serial novels consistently led readers to reflect on their reading as a form of shared experience. Dickens's celebrity authorship, Winter argues, represented both a successful marketing program for popular fiction and a cultural politics addressed to a politically unaffiliated, social-activist Victorian readership. As late-nineteenth century educational reforms consolidated British and American readers into "mass" populations served by state school systems, Dickens's beloved novels came to embody the socially inclusive and humanizing goals of democratic education.
