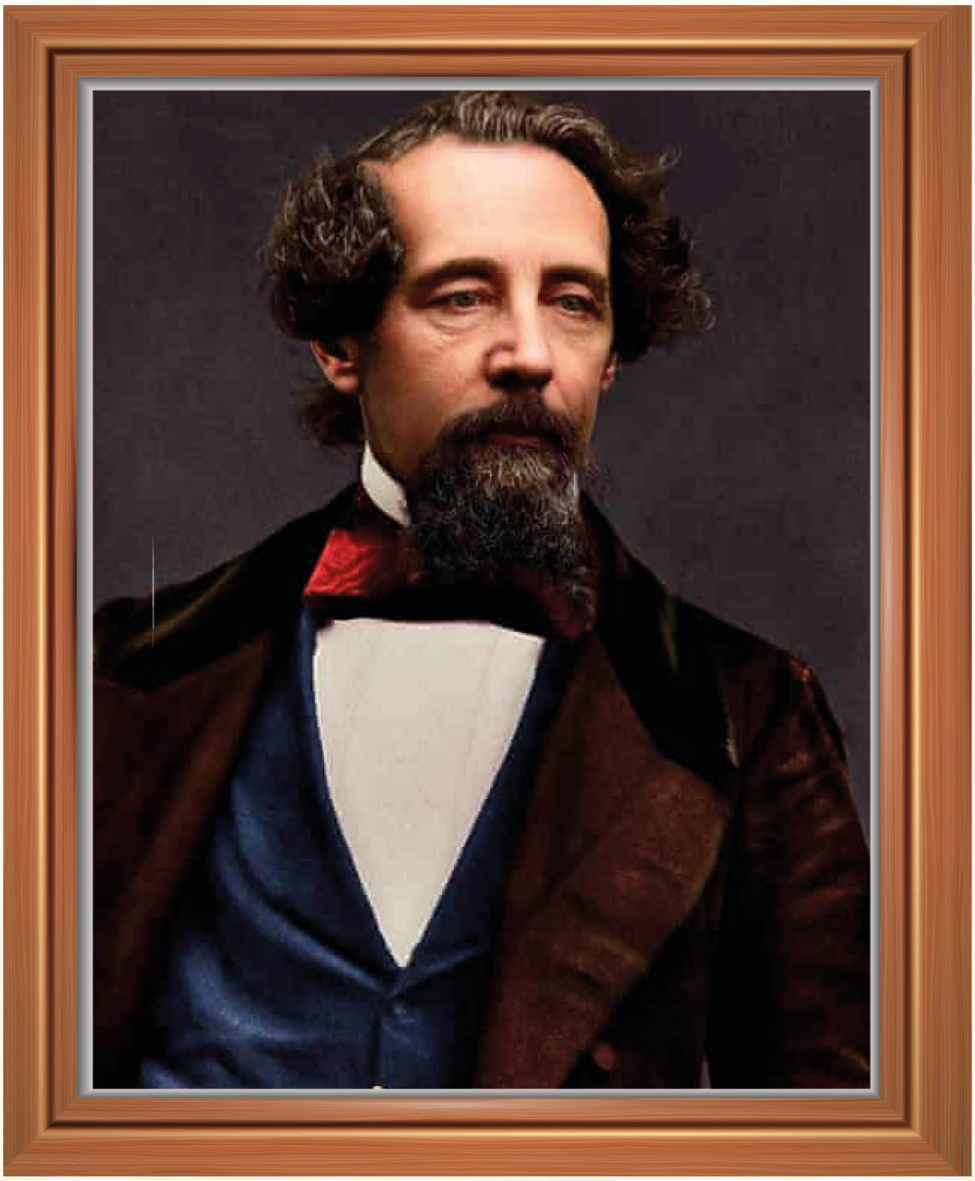

OLIVER
TWIST



About The Author

Charles Dickens (7 February 1812 – 9 June 1870)

Charles Dickens, one of the greatest writers of 19th-century English literature, illuminated the literary world with his realistic depictions and vibrant characters that continue to be celebrated today. Dickens began his literary career at a young age and quickly gained fame for novels that highlighted social injustice, such as Great Expectations and Oliver Twist. His works were deeply influenced by his own early life experiences, where he faced poverty and hardships among the lower social classes.

Despite facing growing health problems at different stages of his life, Dickens never stopped writing. In the middle of his career, he started experiencing increasing health issues, but he continued to produce major literary works, including his later novels like The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

Dickens passed away in 1870, having created a legacy of works that left a profound impact on English literature. Despite the physical challenges he endured, his dedication to writing and his determination to succeed made him immortal in literary history.

Characters

Oliver

Oliver is the symbol of innocence and resilience, a young boy born into poverty and hardship. His journey through a cruel world reveals his goodness and desire for a better life. Despite the brutal forces around him, Oliver remains pure-hearted, seeking love and belonging.





Sikes

A violent criminal, Sikes is driven by fear and cruelty. His brutal nature is shown when he murders Nancy in a fit of rage. He lacks any moral compass, becoming a symbol of terror in the story. His eventual downfall is a reflection of his violent and selfish life.

Mr. Brownlow

Mr. Brownlow is a kind, wise man who becomes Oliver's protector and father figure. He offers the boy a safe, loving home and seeks justice for his past. Mr. Brownlow is a beacon of kindness and morality in a world filled with cruelty. His quiet strength contrasts sharply with the harshness around him.



Chapter 1
Oliver Needs Some More

"I think he will not live," said the old woman, helping a doctor bring another poor, hungry, **miserable** mouth to life.

The call of life was stronger, and in a few seconds, the baby gasped and started to cry, but it didn't bring happiness to the woman, the doctor or any other person in the workhouse, where everyone knew that a new baby meant less food and fewer resources for them. The workhouse, where the baby was born, was a dull, grey building that stood in the middle of one of the busiest towns in England. It housed the poorest homeless people, who had to work hard from the crack of dawn until the evening to have the very least food that could keep them alive, and the **ragged** clothes that could barely keep their bodies warm.

When the baby's first cry broke the silence of the place, his weak mother lifted her head and begged the doctor to see the baby. As soon as she pressed her cold lips on his forehead to kiss him, she died.

"She doesn't have a wedding ring; she is not married," said the doctor as he lifted the young woman's left hand to examine her pulse.

"The usual story," said the woman. "She was brought here after she was found lying **unconscious** in the middle of the street. It seems that she had been walking for a long distance because her shoes were **worn out**. I know nothing about her, not even her name."

"Poor baby!" said the doctor. "He is an orphan born in a world that has no love or pity. What will you call him?"

"We name the new babies here in order from A to Z. I named the last one Swabble, so this one is Twist, Oliver Twist!" answered the woman whose name was Mrs. Mann.

Oliver lived with the other poor babies who were raised up in a small building attached to the workhouse. Although this **orphanage** attached to the workhouse received many **funds** and **charities**, the children were leading a miserable life. Mrs. Mann barely gave the children enough food or warm clothes, because she kept the money for herself and the supervisor

of the workhouse, Mr. Bumble, who took the lion's share of this money.

"He is old enough to work and earn his keep," said Mr. Bumble in one of his weekly visits to the building where the young children were kept. Mrs. Mann washed Oliver and he was ready to leave. Although his life in this place was miserable, he was sad to leave the only place his eyes had seen and the only few people he knew.



In the workhouse, life was more miserable. Oliver and other boys of his age and older were made to work all day and fed only twice a day. They were always very hungry because the only food that was offered to them was a bowl of thin soup at every meal and a piece of hard, dark bread on Sundays. There was no need to wash the bowls because the hungry children used to lick them clean after every meal. The boys in the workhouse ate their meals in a big hall made of stone, and food was served to them by a stout, rigid-faced man who they called the master.

One night, after a day of hard work and despite licking their thin soup bowls clean, the boys were still **starving**. One of them suggested that they could ask the master for some more soup and Oliver was chosen to carry out this mission the next day.

As the children were eating supper, Oliver left his chair with his bowl in his hand and walked towards the master.

"Please, sir," he said. "I need some more."

"What?!" replied the master and his face went red. The hall became as silent as a grave and all the boys held their breath and watched in fear.

"Please, sir," repeated Oliver. "I need some more."





The master hit Oliver with his big spoon, then **seized** him and cried for help. Mr. Bumble hurried to the room and hit the boy even before knowing what he did. After the master told him that the boy asked for more food, Mr. Bumble dragged Oliver along to the dark room and locked him in there. Every day, he took him out to beat him with a thick stick in front of all the boys, then he was locked again in the dark room.

Mr. Bumble thought that it was better to get rid of this boy, so he put a notice at the workhouse gate that said, "A boy for three pounds."

Oliver was kept in the room for about a week. He passed his day crying, and at night he couldn't sleep because he was cold, hungry, and frightened. At last, he was taken out of the dark room and the workhouse, because a man called Mr. Sowerberry had seen the notice and wanted to take the boy. Oliver was ordered to get washed and for the first time in his life he was allowed to step outside the workhouse, to a new, big world that he hoped would show him more pity.



Song

In a cold workhouse I was born,
Lived my days with hearts of stone.
No food, no one to give love and care,
To beg more food, how do you dare?
A very good boy, brave and true,
Through the darkness, you pushed through!
Fate was tough, but love was too,
A new home was waiting for you!
In a den of thieves fate placed you,
You proved to be sincere and true.
Through every challenge, you stood tall,
Never giving up, despite it all.
A very good boy, brave and true,
Through the darkness, you pushed through!
Fate was tough, but love was too,
A new home was waiting for you!
The twist of fate, the tale unfolds,
A heart of gold, so brave, so bold.
Through trials faced and lessons learned,
A boy's true worth was finally earned.
A very good boy, brave and true,
Through the darkness, you pushed through!
Fate was tough, but love was too,
A new home was waiting for you!





Glossary

Chapter 1

miserable (n.) very unhappy.

ragged (adj.) old and torn.

unconscious (adj.) in a state of not being awake because of an injury or illness, and not able to use your senses.

worn-out (adj.) can no longer be used because it is so old and damaged.

orphanage (n.) a home for children whose parents are dead.

funds (n.) money needed or available to spend on something.

charities (n.) help, especially in the form of money, given to people who are in need.

starving (adj.) suffering or dying from hunger.

seize (v.) to take something quickly and keep or hold it.

pity (n.) a feeling of sadness or sympathy for someone else's unhappiness.

Chapter 2

apprentice (n.) someone who works for a skilled person and often for low payment, in order to learn that person's skills.

obedient (adj.) doing, or willing to do, what you have been told to do.

unkempt (adj.) untidy; not cared for.

scornfully (adv.) in a way that shows you have no respect for someone or something.

basement (n.) a part of a building that is below the level of the ground.

blacksmith (n.) a person who makes and repairs iron objects.

undertaker (n.) a person whose job is to prepare and bury dead bodies and organize funerals.

funeral (n.) a ceremony for burying the body of a dead person.

gloomy (adj.) unhappy and without hope.



Before you read,

Look at the pictures and skim through the book, then answer the following questions.

A) Who are the main characters of the story and what do you know about them?

He is ..... .

He asked ..... .



Finally, he ..... .

He met ..... .

He is ..... .

He met ..... .



He cared ..... .

He decided ..... .

He is ..... .

He took Oliver to ..... .



He ended up ..... .

He killed ..... .

B) Skim the chapters and note down the chapter number in which the following events take place.

1. Sikes forces Oliver to take part in a house robbery, but the attempt fails, and Oliver is wounded. ( )
2. Monks, with the help of Mr. Bumble, destroys the locket and the lock of hair left by Oliver's mother. ( )
3. Oliver asks for more food at the workhouse and is then sold by Mr. Bumble to Mr. Sowerberry. ( )
4. Sikes murders Nancy. ( )
5. Oliver's true identity is revealed, and he finds a home with Mr. Brownlow. ( )

C) Elaborate and share your personal experience.

1. Do you believe people are naturally good or bad, or do their experiences shape them into who they become?

..... .

2. What challenges do you think orphaned or homeless children face in society?

..... .

Chapter 1

Vocabulary practice

1) Scan through the chapter, and then match the word with the meaning you have guessed from the context. Use the glossary to check your answers.

1. ragged	a. in a state of not being awake because of an injury or illness, and not able to use your senses.
2. funds	b. a home for children whose parents are dead.
3. unconscious	c. money needed or available to spend on something.
4. worn-out	d. very unhappy.
5. orphanage	e. a feeling of sadness or sympathy for someone else's unhappiness.
6. charities	f. help, especially in the form of money, given to people who are in need.
7. seize	g. suffering or dying from hunger.
8. pity	h. to take something quickly and keep or hold it.
9. starving	i. can no longer be used because it is so old and damaged.
10. miserable	j. old and torn.

2) Fill in the blanks with the suitable words from exercise 1.

1. The children in the workhouse wore ..... clothes and led ..... lives.
2. Oliver's mother was found ..... in the street with ..... shoes.
3. Although the ..... received many ..... and ....., the children still lived in poor conditions.
4. The boys were so ..... that they would lick their bowls clean after every meal.
5. The master would ..... Oliver and beat him, showing no ..... for his suffering.

Comprehension

1) Before you read, put the events in order. Then, check your answers after reading the chapter.

( ) 1. Oliver grew up in a miserable orphanage, where the children were miserable, despite funds and charities meant to help them.

( ) 2. Oliver was born in a workhouse to a poor, unmarried mother who died just after he was born.

( ) 3. Mr. Bumble decided to sell Oliver to a man named Mr. Sowerberry, marking the start of a new chapter in his life.

( ) 4. When Oliver asked for more food, he was beaten, locked in a dark room, and publicly punished by Mr. Bumble.

2) Tick (✓) or (✗) and correct the mistakes.

1. Mrs. Mann treated the children in the orphanage with kindness and care. ( )

.....

2. Oliver was punished for asking the master for more food. ( )

.....

3. Oliver's surname was given to him after his mother's surname. ( )

.....

4. The master beat Oliver with a spoon before locking him in a dark room. ( )

.....

5. Mr. Bumble placed a notice to sell Oliver for five pounds. ( )

.....

3) Answer the following questions.

1. How was life in the workhouse and the orphanage? And how did Mrs. Mann and Mr. Bumble treat the children in their care?

.....

2. How was the baby brought to the workhouse and why was Oliver given the name "Twist"? Does choosing the children's names give any indication?

.....

3. "I need some more." Comment.

.....

4. How did the master and Mr. Bumble react to Oliver's request?

.....

Wrap up questions

1) Answer the following questions.

1. How does Oliver's journey show the difference between kindness and cruelty? Can you think of a time when kindness changed someone's life?

.....

2. Do you think Fagin and Bill Sikes are entirely evil, or do their circumstances shape them?

.....

3. Oliver faces many struggles because of his social class. Do you think people today still face unfair treatment because of their background? Why or why not?

.....

4. Nancy makes a difficult choice to protect Oliver, even though it costs her life. What does this say about loyalty and bravery, and how do you define true courage?

.....

2) Characters

Use one adjective to describe each character explain why this adjective describe him.


Oliver is ..... because ..... .


Monks is ..... because ..... .


Nancy is ..... because ..... .


Mr. Brownlow is ..... because ..... .


Sikes is ..... because ..... .

3) Plot

Use the following plot diagram and write the chapters and the main events that indicate each step of the story's plot.

