



OLIVER TWIST

To get into the story

Oliver Twist is one of Charles Dickens' (1812-1870) most famous novels. Dickens lived in England during the Victorian Age and in his books he often wrote about poverty and the social problems of the time.

Oliver Twist is the touching story of Oliver, a poor orphan who goes through all kinds of difficulties for many years. The story is set in the dark streets of 19th-century London, where there's danger in every corner. Oliver is alone in the world and he meets all kinds of people, good and bad, until he finds happiness, but just at the end of adventures and very difficult situations.

PREDICTION • WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Oliver Twist is a poor orphan because his parents don't want to look after him.
2. Oliver makes friends with other orphans.
3. Some bad people will make trouble for him.
4. Oliver will find a loving family in the end.

<input type="checkbox"/> T	<input type="checkbox"/> F
<input type="checkbox"/> T	<input type="checkbox"/> F
<input type="checkbox"/> T	<input type="checkbox"/> F
<input type="checkbox"/> T	<input type="checkbox"/> F

Mark your answers and when you finish reading the story, check them to see if you predicted correctly.



level
A2/B1

READING ACTIVITY 2/7



READING ACTIVITY

Part 1 – Read the excerpt from *Oliver Twist*, Chapter One, Young Oliver, and then do the activity below.

When Oliver was small his home was an orphanage, where he lived with other young orphans. The children of the orphanage were given very little food and very little love. Many of the orphans died because they were cold and hungry. the orphanage was an unhappy place. Oliver survived, although he was pale, small and thin.

At the age of nine Oliver had to leave the orphanage and the only friends he had. This made him very sad because now he was really alone in the world. He was taken to a workhouse¹, a miserable place where he had to work long hours. He was given only one small bowl of porridge² three times a day and an onion twice a week. Because Sunday was a special day he was given a small piece of bread.

Oliver and the other people at the workhouse were always cold, hungry and unhappy. They never asked for a second bowl of porridge because they were afraid. However, after three months of hunger and unhappiness Oliver and the others decided to o something. They discussed the matter and decided that Oliver had to ask the master for more porridge. So that evening he took his small empty bowl to the master of the workhouse, who was a big man with a white apron.

‘Please, sir,’ said Oliver looking at the master. ‘I want some more.’

The master was very surprised and stared at him. Then he hit Oliver with his big wooden spoon.

1 **workhouse** : a place where very poor people live.

2 **porridge** : warm breakfast food made with cereal and milk or water.



READING ACTIVITY
3/7



1. Match the phrases 1-5 to the phrases a-f to make complete sentences.

- 1. The orphanage was Oliver's home
 - 2. Many orphans died at the orphanage
 - 3. At the workhouse
 - 4. A small piece of bread
 - 5. The people at the workhouse never asked for a second bowl of porridge
 - 6. Oliver asked the master of the workhouse for a second bowl of porridge
-
- a. because they had little food and little love.
 - b. and the master hit him with his big wooden spoon.
 - c. Oliver worked long hours and was given very little food.
 - d. because they were afraid.
 - e. until the age of nine.
 - f. was given to everyone at the workhouse on Sunday.

QUICK QUIZ! (GRAMMAR QUIZ)

2. Complete the table with the correct form of the verb.

VERB	PAST TENSE	PAST PARTICIPLE
1. give
2. leave
3. die
4. take
5. hit



level
A2/B1

READING ACTIVITY

4/7



PART 2- Read the excerpt from *Oliver Twist*, Chapter One, Young Oliver, and do the activity below.

'This young boy asked for *more porridge!*' exclaimed the master, whose face was red.

'What?' asked Mr Bumble. 'Did I hear correctly? *More porridge?*'

'Yes, sir, *more porridge!*' replied the master, holding up the big wooden spoon.

Mr Bumble took Oliver to the office of the directors of the workhouse and said, 'Oliver Twist asked for more porridge!'

'For more porridge?' they cried, looking at each other. 'This boy must leave the workhouse immediately!'

Mr Bumble put Oliver in a cold, dark room for one whole week. Every morning Mr Bumble opened the door of the dark room and hit Oliver with a stick in front of his friends. Poor Oliver did nothing but cry all day long and he couldn't sleep at night because he was terribly cold, hungry and sad.

One day Mr Bumble met his friend Mr Sowerberry, who was a tall, thin man. He made coffins¹ for dead bodies, and many of the dead bodies came from the workhouse.

'Do you need a boy to work in your shop?' asked Mr Bumble. 'We'll give you five pounds if you take him.'

'Hmm,' said Mr Sowerberry, 'yes, I need a boy and I need the five pounds. I'll take him!'

That evening Mr Bumble took Oliver to Mr Sowerberry's shop. When they got near the shop Oliver looked at Mr Bumble and started crying.

'Oh, sir, I want to be a good boy. I am a very little boy, sir. And it is so...lonely. So very lonely!' Oliver couldn't stop crying and his thin, pale face was covered with tears.

1 **coffin** : a picture of a coffin, if possible—otherwise: a wooden box for dead bodies



level
A2/B1

READING ACTIVITY

5/7



1. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. Mr Bumble took Oliver to the *home/office* of the directors of the workhouse.
2. The directors said that Oliver could not *stay/eat* at the workhouse any longer.
3. Mr Bumble put Oliver in a cold room for one whole *day/week*.
4. Mr Bumble hit Oliver with a *big wooden spoon/stick* in front of his friends.
5. Mr Sowerberry needed a boy to work in his *workhouse/shop*.
6. Oliver cried a lot and said that he was *very lonely/very hungry*.

QUICK QUIZ!

Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence.

1. Mr Bumble took him *at/to* the shop.
2. The children at the workhouse did not work *in/on* Sunday.
3. His room was very cold *for/in* winter.
4. They went to sleep *on/at* seven o'clock
5. The bowl of porridge was *by/for* Oliver.



level
A2/B1

READING ACTIVITY 6/7



WATCH THE VIDEO!

click here: <https://youtu.be/mqaywq4TBwM>

Oliver and his friends at the workhouse are very hungry—they're **starving**! And this is a huge problem for millions of children in the world today. What can we all do about this?

Let's support AGENDA 2030 – Goal 2 and end hunger in the world by 2030! Here's what you can do and remember to tell others about it!

1. don't waste food
2. buy food from local sources
3. chose only products that say "from a **sustainable** source" on the package -- **sustainable** : a source that respects and looks after the air, the land, the forests, the rivers and the oceans—because these natural resources must last for future generations.
4. Remember the three "R's" of sustainability:

REDUCE WASTE REUSE THINGS RECYCLE THINGS THAT YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE

