

Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens

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Chapter 1

An Innocent Orphan in a Workhouse

Being born in a workhouse is surely not the best thing in the world but coming into the world was something for Oliver Twist. An old nurse and a parish surgeon were there to witness the birth of the child. After a few struggle Oliver breathed and sneezed, giving the first proof of the free action of his lungs. The young woman's face was extremely pale who could barely raise her head from the pillow.

'Let me see the child and die.'

The surgeon was sitting near her with his face turned towards the fire.

'Oh, you must not talk about dying yet.'

'My Lord bless her dear heart,' said the nurse hastily.

The patient stretched her hand and tried to reach her child. The surgeon placed the baby into the mother's arms. She touched the baby's forehead with her cold lips. In seconds she fell back and died.



Chapter 2

A New Life among the Coffins

Oliver was a prisoner in a dark and solitary room. His childhood and youth meant nothing without his freedom. He was all alone there waiting for his fate. When the night fell, he tried to sleep in the corner but the fear he had did not let him fall asleep. He cried bitterly all night but nobody came for help. The board members made the next decision for Oliver. They ordered Mr Bumble to take him away. Mr Bumble handed him over to an undertaker called Mr Sowerberry.

‘Here! I have brought the boy,’ Mr Bumble said to the undertaker.

‘Oh, that’s the boy, is it?’ he said calmly, holding a candle above his head to get a better view of Oliver.

The undertaker called his wife. Mrs Sowerberry emerged from a small room behind the shop.

‘My dear, this is the boy from the workhouse,’ he said to his wife.

‘Dear me! He’s very small,’ she replied.

‘He’ll grow, Mr Sowerberry,’ said Mr Bumble in a calm manner.



Chapter 14

The Murder

Rose was in London with Oliver and Mr Losberne. They planned to stay there for three days but Rose needed more time to help Nancy.

Rose was sitting in the corner of the hotel room quietly. After a short while, Oliver appeared with a strange expression on his face.

‘You look very flurried,’ said Rose to Oliver.

‘I have just seen the gentleman who was so good to me. I mean Mr Brownlow,’ said Oliver.

‘Where?’

‘He was getting out of a coach and going into a house. I could not speak to him.’

‘Come on; tell the men to fetch a hackney coach. We are going there,’ said Rose.

When they arrived there, Rose left Oliver in the coach. She sent a card with the servant, requesting to see Mr Brownlow. She met Mr Brownlow and Mrs Bedwin and told them that Oliver was waiting in the coach. The old

Chapter 16

The End

After three months, Rose Fleming and Harry Maylie got married in the village church and they moved into their new and happy home. Mrs Maylie lived with her son and daughter-in-law to enjoy the rest of her life.

Mr Brownlow adopted Oliver as his son. He filled the mind of his adopted child with stores of knowledge and skills. He became attached to him more and more.

Soon after the marriage of the young couple, the good doctor returned to Chertsey. He bought a cottage outside the village and had a tranquil life there by engaging in gardening, planting, and fishing and in various other similar pursuits with his cordial friend Mr Grimwig.

Mr Noah Claypole received a free pardon from the Crown. He continued his life working in the shop with Charlotte. Mr Bumble and Mrs Bumble became poorer and miserable in the same workhouse. Mr Giles and Brittles remained in their old posts but divided their attentions among Oliver, Mr Brownlow and Mr Losberne.

Sikes wanted to disappear after murdering Nancy but

OLIVER TWIST

Activities

Chapters 1 - 2

Read chapters 1 and 2. Then circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1. Where did Oliver live in his early childhood?**
 - a) in a mansion
 - b) in a workhouse

- 2. Who was an orphan?**
 - a) Oliver
 - b) Mr Bumble

- 3. Why did Oliver cry when Mr Bumble wanted to take him away?**
 - a) Because he thought Mr Bumble was a good person.
 - b) Because he was hungry and treated badly in the workhouse.

- 4. How was Oliver's new place?**
 - a) It was an extraordinary place for rich people.
 - b) It was an ordinary place for poor people.

- 5. Why did Oliver get punished?**
 - a) Because he asked for more food.
 - b) Because he was a naughty boy.

Characters

A. What do you know about these people? Fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

Oliver	niece	Fagin
half-brother	family	London
marries	orphan	Rose
work		

1. _____ is called the Jew.
2. Noah Claypole treats _____ badly.
3. Oliver is a(n) _____.
4. Mr Bumble _____ Mrs Corney.
5. Artful Dodger takes Oliver with him to _____.
6. Mr Brownlow makes Oliver a part of his _____.
7. Harry Maylie is in love with _____.
8. Rose is Mrs Maylie's _____.
9. Mrs Bedwin _____ for Mr Brownlow.
10. Monks is Oliver's _____.

B. Are these sentences True or False?

- ☐ 1. Oliver is a mischievous child.
- ☐ 2. Mr Mumble and Mrs Corney help Oliver all the way through.
- ☐ 3. Mr Brownlow adopts Oliver.
- ☐ 4. Rose dies of a disease.
- ☐ 5. Fagin and Artful Dodger are innocent.
- ☐ 6. Oliver has a step-brother.
- ☐ 7. Mrs Bedwin takes care of Oliver.
- ☐ 8. Rose is a good-hearted lady.
- ☐ 9. Sikes kills Nancy.
- ☐ 10. Mrs Maylie is an evil-minded woman.

Puzzle

Find 10 words in the word square. Then write the words.

A	C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N
O	H	J	V	I	O	L	E	N	T
R	O	B	B	E	R	Y	O	M	C
P	K	O	H	H	V	B	X	A	O
H	W	M	A	N	S	I	O	N	T
A	F	U	R	I	O	U	S	R	T
N	Q	E	M	B	R	A	C	E	A
A	Z	X	C	V	U	I	R	E	G
S	E	R	V	A	N	T	E	V	E
W	O	R	K	H	O	U	S	E	Q

1. Companion

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Glossary

absence	a time when someone is not in a particular place * My father's <i>absence</i> makes me miserable.
adopt	recognise someone else's child as one's own child * The famous couple <i>adopted</i> an African girl.
accompany	go somewhere with someone * Two teachers have <i>accompanied</i> the students.
agitate	make someone nervous * Smoking people <i>agitate</i> me.
agony	pain * It's a great <i>agony</i> to see children unhappy.
anxious	extremely nervous and worried * Why are you so <i>anxious</i> ?
apprentice	a person who is learning a job from a skilled employer * He worked as an <i>apprentice</i> electrician.
approach	come closer * The train is <i>approaching</i> .
attention	interest * You need to give more <i>attention</i> to your kids.
beadle	an officer of a church * My grandpa was a <i>beadle</i> .