

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read the extract from 'Oliver Twist' then think about these questions...

Why do you think Oliver, the Dodger and Charley Bates were watching the old gentleman?

Do you believe that Oliver really had no idea what his friends were doing? Why?

What aspects of older crime and punishment traditions are there in this extract?

What aspects of new crime prevention measures are there in this extract?

What do you think would happen to Oliver Twist once he was brought before the judge?

How do you think this scene would be different if this happened today?

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read the extract from 'Oliver Twist'. Use what you find out to write a diary entry for a child criminal in Victorian Britain. Think about what crime you will commit and why, as well as what happens afterwards.

Lined writing area for a diary entry.

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Read the stories about convicts who were transported to Australia and attempted escape. Use what you find out to plan and then write your own story about a criminal escaping from an Australian penal colony. Make sure you include details of what crime and punishment was like in Victorian times.

Main character:

What crime did they commit and why?

How were they caught?

What was the journey to Australia like? What happened?

Why do they decide to escape?

What is their plan for escaping?

What problems do they come across while they are escaping?

How does the story end?

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

How many of the questions on the Question Cards can you find and answer? Write the answers for each question in the correct box.



Question 1:	Question 2:
Question 3:	Question 4:
Question 5:	Question 6:
Question 7:	Question 8:
Question 9:	Question 10:
Question 11:	Question 12:
Question 13:	Question 14:
Question 15:	Question 16:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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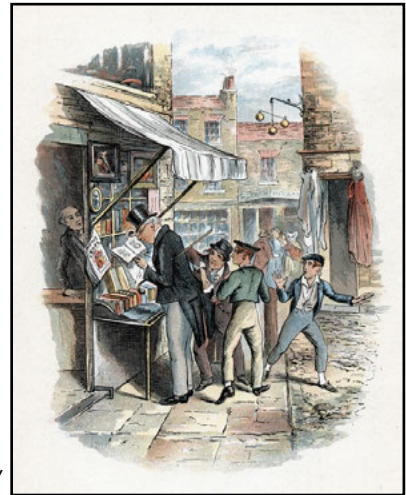


<p>Question 1:</p> <p>The 19th century</p>	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Theft was the most common crime</p>
<p>Question 3:</p> <p>Smuggling died out because the government reduced import taxes</p>	<p>Question 4:</p> <p>Highway robbery was less common because roads were better cared for and more people travelled by train</p>
<p>Question 5:</p> <p>There were fewer religious crimes because there was less religious tension between Catholics and Protestants</p>	<p>Question 6:</p> <p>The new railways created crimes such as not having a ticket or damaging railway property</p>
<p>Question 7:</p> <p>Workers would often strike over issues with pay or unskilled workers taking their jobs</p>	<p>Question 8:</p> <p>It became illegal not to send your children to school in 1870.</p>
<p>Question 9:</p> <p>Sir Robert Peel started the police force</p>	<p>Question 10:</p> <p>Policemen were called Bobbies or Peelers after Robert Peel</p>
<p>Question 11:</p> <p>The first police force was set up in 1829</p>	<p>Question 12:</p> <p>Hangings started taking place in prisons because public hangings were too raucous</p>
<p>Question 13:</p> <p>Convicts began to be transported to Australia</p>	<p>Question 14:</p> <p>Victorian prisons were used as punishment instead of simply as a place for holding prisoners awaiting trial</p>
<p>Question 15:</p> <p>They knew sending children to adult prisons was more likely to turn young offenders into hardened criminals</p>	<p>Question 16:</p> <p>A workhouse was a poorhouse that provided food and shelter in exchange for labour.</p>

The extract below takes place after the orphan Oliver Twist had escaped from the workhouse in the country and walked seven days to get to London. He is about nine or ten years old. When he gets to London he gets taken in by an old Jewish man called Fagin, who seems to look after lots of children and has loads of handkerchiefs and jewels around the place.

The Chase (from Chapter 10)

The old gentleman was a very respectable looking personage, with a powdered head and gold spectacles. He was dressed in a bottle green coat with a black velvet collar; wore white trousers; and carried a smart bamboo cane under his arm. He had taken up a book from the stall, and there he stood, reading away, as if he were in his elbow-chair, in his own study. It is very possible that he fancied himself there, indeed; for it was plain, from his abstraction, that he saw not the book-stall, nor the street, nor the boys, nor, in short, anything but the book itself: which he was reading straight through: turning over the leaf when he got to the bottom of a page, beginning at the top line of the next one, and regularly on, with the greatest interest and eagerness.



What was Oliver's horror and alarm as he stood a few paces off, looking on with his eyelids as wide open as they would possibly go, to see the Dodger plunge his hand into the old gentleman's pocket, and draw from thence a handkerchief! To see him hand the same to Charley Bates; and finally to behold them, both, running away round the corner at full speed.

In an instant the whole mystery of the handkerchiefs, and the watches, and the jewels, and the Jew, rushed upon the boy's mind. He stood, for a moment, with the blood so tingling through all his veins from terror, that he felt as if he were in a burning fire; then, confused and frightened, he took to his heels; and, not knowing what he did, made off as fast as he could lay his feet to the ground.



This was all done in a minute's space. In the very instant when Oliver began to run, the old gentleman, putting his hand to his pocket, and missing his handkerchief, turned sharp round. Seeing the boy scudding away at such a rapid pace, he very naturally concluded him to be responsible and, shouting "Stop thief!" with all his might, made off after him, book in hand.

But the old gentleman was not the only person who raised the hue and cry. The Dodger and Master Bates, unwilling to attract public attention by running down the open street, had merely retired in the very first doorway round the corner. They no sooner heard the cry, and saw Oliver running, than, guessing exactly how the matter stood, they issued forth with great promptitude; and, shouting "Stop thief!" too, joined in the pursuit like good citizens. Oliver was prepared for none of this and it alarmed him; so away he went like the wind with the old gentleman and the two boys roaring and shouting behind him.

"Stop thief! Stop thief!" There is a magic in the sound. The tradesman leaves his counter, and the carman his wagon; the butcher throws down his tray; the baker his basket; the milkman his pail; the errand boy his parcels; the school boy his marbles; the paviour his pick-axe; the child his battledore. Away they run pell-mell, helter-skelter, slap-dash: tearing, yelling, screaming, knocking down the passengers as they turn the corners, rousing up the dogs, and astonishing the fowls: and streets, squares, and courts, re-echo with the sound.

"Stop thief! Stop thief!" The cry is taken up by a hundred voices, and the crowd accumulate at every turning. Away they fly, splashing through the mud, and rattling along the pavements: up go the windows, out run the people, onward bear the mob, a whole audience desert Punch in the very thickest of the plot, and, joining the rushing throng, swell the shout, and lend fresh vigour to the cry, "Stop thief! Stop thief!"

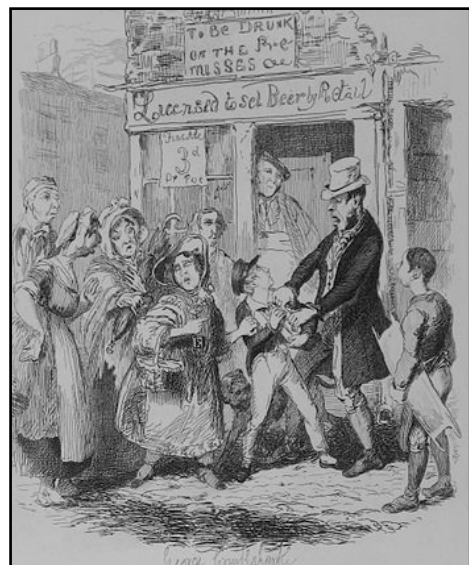
"Stop thief! Stop thief!" There is a passion for hunting something deeply implanted in the human breast. One wretched breathless child, panting with exhaustion; terror in his looks; agony in his eyes; large drops of perspiration streaming down his face; strains every nerve to make head upon his pursuers; and as they follow on his track, and gain upon him every instant, they hail his decreasing strength with still louder shouts, and whoop and scream with joy. "Stop thief!" Ay, stop him for God's sake, were it only in mercy!

Stopped at last! A clever blow. He is down upon the pavement; and the crowd eagerly gather round him: each newcomer, jostling and struggling with the others to catch a glimpse. "Stand aside!" "Give him a little air!" "Nonsense, he don't deserve it." "Where's the gentleman?" "Here he is, coming down the street." "Make room for the gentleman!" "Is this the boy sir?" "Yes."

Oliver lay, covered with mud and dust, and bleeding from the mouth, looking wildly around upon the heap of faces that surrounded him, when the old gentleman was officiously dragged and pushed into the circle by the foremost of his pursuers.

"Yes," said the gentleman, "I'm afraid it is the boy."
 "Afraid!" murmured the crowd. "That's a good un!"
 "Poor fellow!" said the gentleman, "he has hurt himself."
 "I did that, sir," said a great lubberly fellow, stepping forward; "and precious I cut my knuckle against his mouth. I stopped him sir."

The fellow touched his hat with a grin, expecting something for his pains; but, the old gentleman, eyeing him with an expression of dislike, looked anxiously round, as if he contemplated running away himself: which it is very possible he might have attempted to do, and thus have afforded another chase, had not a police officer at that moment made his way through the crowd, and seized Oliver by the collar.



"Come, get up," said the man, roughly.
 "It wasn't me indeed, sir. Indeed, indeed, it was two other boys," said Oliver clasping his hands passionately, and looking round. "They are here somewhere."
 "Oh no they ain't," said the officer. He meant this to be ironical, but it was true besides; for the Dodger and Charley Bates had filed off down the first convenient court they came to. "Come, get up!"
 "Don't hurt him," said the old gentleman compassionately.
 "Oh no, I won't hurt him," replied the officer, tearing his jacket half off his back, in proof thereof.
 "Come I know you; it won't do. Will you stand upon your legs, you young devil?"

Oliver, who could hardly stand, made a shift to raise himself on his feet, and was at once lugged along the streets by the jacket collar, at a rapid pace. The gentleman walked on with them by the officer's side; and as many of the crowd as could achieve the feat, got a little ahead, and stared back at Oliver from time to time. The boys shouted in triumph and on they went.

William Buckley

The man known as the 'Wild White Man' was born William Buckley, in Macclesfield, England, in 1780. As a young man he worked briefly as an apprentice bricklayer, but soon joined the army and became a respected soldier.

However, his military career came to an abrupt end in 1802, when he was accused of theft and sentenced to 14 years in the convict colony of Australia. In George Langhorne's account of his life, Buckley describes the event:

One day, crossing the Barrack Yard where our regiment was quartered, a woman whom I did not know requested me to carry a piece of cloth to a woman of the Garrison to be made up [into clothing]. I was stopped with it in my possession, the property had been stolen. I was considered a thief and though innocent sentenced to transportation. – William Buckley

In October 1803, Buckley arrived at the convict settlement at Sullivan Bay, on the *Calcutta*. However, a lack of fresh water and difficult conditions made the settlement less than satisfactory, and many convicts attempted escape. Buckley was one of the few that succeeded.



On Christmas Eve 1803 – knowing that the officers had been drinking and would be less alert than usual – some of the convicts stole a kettle, a gun, boots and medical supplies. At 9pm on 30 December, the group made its escape. One convict, Charles Shaw, was shot and severely injured, but the others escaped into the bush.

Buckley and his companions made slow progress on foot but managed to walk around most of Port Phillip Bay. They survived on shellfish, succulent plants when they could find them. But hunger and fear of the Aborigines wore down Buckley's companions, who soon decided to return to Sullivan Bay. Buckley stayed behind:

...to all their [...] entreaties to accompany them I turned a deaf ear, being determined to endure every kind of suffering rather than again surrender my liberty. – William Buckley

Buckley continued his journey alone until he reached the area near Barwon Heads, where he lived with the Wathaurung indigenous people for the next 32 years. Over this time he was accepted into the Aboriginal community and culture, and made a crucial first step towards understanding between white settlers and the indigenous people.

Mary Bryant

Bryant was born Mary Broad (referred to as Mary Braund at the Exeter Assizes) in Fowey, Cornwall, to William Broad and Grace Symons Broad, a fishing family. She left home to seek work in Plymouth where she became involved in petty thievery. After being arrested for highway robbery of a silk bonnet, jewellery, and a few coins, she was committed to gaol by the Mayor of Plymouth. She was later sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia.

In May 1787, Bryant was sent as a prisoner with the First Fleet aboard the ship *Charlotte*. Bryant gave birth on the journey to a baby, whom she called Charlotte after the ship, and gave the surname Spence, after one of the other convicts, David Spencer, who was possibly the father. When she arrived in Australia, she married William Bryant on 10 February 1788. Bryant, a convicted smuggler, was also on the *Charlotte* with Mary and they later had a son together called Emanuel, born on 6 May 1790.

William Bryant was also from Cornwall, where he had worked as a fisherman. In Sydney Cove, a colony just starting off, William was considered useful and was put in charge of looking after the fishing ships. When he was caught selling fish to convicts on the side, he was given 100 lashes. He made a plan to escape with Mary, persuading a Dutch captain to give him some sailing equipment, and waited until all boats that could chase after them had left.

On 28 March 1791, William, Mary, her children, and a seven-man crew stole Governor Phillip's six-oared cutter and many supplies. After a voyage of sixty-six days, Mary, her children and the eight men reached Kupang, in West Timor on the island of Timor, a journey of 5,000km. This extraordinary voyage became part of seafaring history.

Timor was then under the control of the Dutch. The Bryants and their crew claimed to be shipwreck survivors. They were later discovered to be British convicts, apparently after William became drunk and confessed in the process of bragging. To avoid an international incident they were sent back to Britain to stand trial. During the voyage back, William and both of Mary's children perished of fever; Emanuel and William dying at Batavia in late 1791, whilst Charlotte died on the last leg of the voyage in May 1792.



She expected to be hanged or returned to Australia. However, Mary Bryant was instead imprisoned for an additional year in Newgate Prison, during which time a public outcry ensued, coupled with an onslaught of publicity by the famous writer and lawyer James Boswell. As a result, she was pardoned in May 1793, and the four surviving men of her crew were later pardoned as well. Boswell gave her an annual pension of 10 pounds. Bryant returned to her family in Cornwall and nothing more is known of her.

The Frederick Escape

Perhaps the most remarkable escape attempt occurred after the official closure of the penal settlement. Twelve convicts, under the supervision of several soldiers and Master Shipwright David Hoy, remained behind to complete the fitting out of the brig, *Frederick*. Despite the fact that specific orders concerning the completion of vessels in the yards had mysteriously been mislaid, the men dutifully carried out their tasks with 'great propriety, executing Mr. Hoy's orders with promptitude and alacrity'.

After the launch of the *Frederick* in January 1834, ten of the convicts seized the ship. They landed their overseers on the beach, leaving with them half of their supplies. The convicts then sailed the *Frederick* south of New Zealand and on to the distant coast of South America. Six weeks later they abandoned the *Frederick* off the coast of Chile and rowed the ship's whaleboat the remaining 80km to shore.

Passing themselves off as wrecked sailors, the men were welcomed into the community and several soon assumed positions as shipwrights and respected members of the community. Several married local women, while six of the men made a further escape to America and Jamaica. Ultimately, the long arm of British law caught up with the four remaining men, bringing them back to face the Hobart gallows in 1837.

At their trial, two of the escapees, William Shires and James Porter, argued that they were guilty only of stealing a 'floating bundle of wood and other materials'. As the *Frederick* had never been registered, there was some doubt in the Chief Justice's mind as to what legally constituted a ship. Further, the ship had been seized in enclosed waters and not on the high sea — a requisite for charges of piracy. It was these legal technicalities which saved the men from the gallows. Nonetheless, the men were transported to Norfolk Island for life.



Question 1

Which century was the Victorian period in?

Question 2

Which crime was most common in the Victorian era?

Question 3

Why did smuggling die out during the Victorian era?

Question 4

Why did highway robbery become less common in the Victorian period?

Question 5

Why were fewer traitors charged in Victorian times than in the early modern period?

Question 6

Which new crimes occurred due to the new railways?

Question 7

Why did lots of workers strike or destroy factory equipment in Victorian times?

Question 8

In which year did it become illegal not to send your children to school?

Question 9

Who is credited with starting the first British police force?

Question 10

Why were the first policemen known as Bobbies or Peelers?

Question 11

In what year was the first police force set up?

Question 12

Why did hangings start being carried out in prisons instead of in public?

Question 13

After American independence, which country did convicts start being transported to?

Question 14

How were Victorian prisons different to medieval prisons?

Question 15

Why did the Victorians not want children going to adult prisons?

Question 16

What was a workhouse?