

Year 7 Oliver Twist

PLOT	
Opening	Oliver Twist is born in a workhouse. His mother dies shortly after his birth and without giving her name. Oliver “reckless with hunger” asks for more food and is sold to work for an undertaker. During this time Oliver is shown to be a good-natured child, treated very badly by everyone around him.
Oliver’s Journey	Oliver runs away to London. He almost died of starvation on his journey but meets Jack Dawkins AKA The Artful Dodger on his way. Dodger takes Oliver to live and work for boss Fagin. Oliver is taught to steal, but is arrested on his first day out.
Rescue and kidnap	Oliver is taken from court by Mr Brownlow (whom he had been accused of stealing from). Oliver feels love and affection for the first time in his life until he is tricked by Nancy and taken back to Fagin.
More rescue and crime	Oliver is sent to break into a house with Bill Sykes. There he is shot but rescued by Mrs Maylie and her adopted niece Rose. Meanwhile Nancy discovers that an associate of Fagin (a man named Monks who has a red scar across his face) wants to capture Oliver. Nancy meets with Rose Maylie to tell her this. Later she meets with Rose and Mrs Brownlow – who recognises the description of Monks. She is overheard and Bill Sykes murders her.
Resolution – The good and the bad	Monks is revealed to be Oliver's half brother. Oliver's parents were in love but his father was already married to Monks mother. She had moved away to Italy with Monks (real name Edward Leeford). Oliver's Father had travelled to Italy to get a divorce so he could marry Agnes Fleming (Oliver’s mother) but had died on his journey. His will stated that all his money should be split between his 2 sons unless one of them had ever committed a crime, so the fortune is split equally. Rose Maylie is discovered to be Oliver’s aunt. Rose gets married and they all move to live in the countryside near to each other. Sykes is hunted down for murdering Nancy and accidentally hangs himself. Dodger is transported to Australia where he will be given a second chance one he is free. Fagin is arrested, convicted and hung for his crimes.

THEMES	
The poor Laws and the Workhouses	Dickens uses the story to highlight the plight of people starving to death in institutions which were supposed to take care of them.
City Vs Country	The countryside is idealized whereas the city is seen as dirty and corrupt
Class	Defined by both wealth and personal behavior/attitudes. Dickens shows that wealth does not equate to good, moral behaviour

CHARACTERS

Oliver Twist	The novel opens with his birth and follows his life for 9 years
Mr Bumble	The parish Beadle. Cruel and self-serving
Mr Sowerberry	An undertaker who takes Oliver as an apprentice.
Fagin	A criminal who uses young boys to steal for him
Jack Dawkins AKA The Artful Dodger	One of the older boys in Fagins gang
Bill Sykes	Previously a member of Fagins gang. A violent criminal
Nancy	An ex member of Fagin’s gang. Lives with Bill Sykes
Monks AKA Edward Leeford	Oliver’s half brother. An ill man obsessed with wealth
Rose Maylie	An orphan like Oliver and Nancy. Kind
Mr Brownlow	A kind man who takes care of Oliver

Key vocabulary	
Victorian	A period of time 1837-1901 during which time Queen Victoria reigned
Poetic justice	Characters endings are reflected in the life they have led and the good or bad they have done.
Character nym	A characters name reflects their personality, trait or an aspect of their life
Fate	Where something is destined to happen regardless of what we do
Values	The beliefs or right and wrong held at the time of the novels setting
Transportation	A type of punishment where prisoners were sent to other parts of the British Empire to serve prison sentences.
Naïve	Where a person is unaware of any bad in the world. Often, they are too trusting and unaware of the danger around them
TERMINOLOGY	
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ time, place, weather ➤ social & historical setting ➤ helps create mood.
Character	➤ person or creature that interacts with others within a story
Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a literary term for the main events in a story ➤ How the author structures actions in a meaningful way to shape the story
Theme	➤ the underlying message, or 'big idea' of a story