

OLIVER TWIST

Vocabulary List

Below is a list of more complex words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

beadle	an officer of a church
loot	stolen goods
orphan	a child whose parents are both dead
pickpockets	people who steal things from people's pockets
ramshackle	in really poor condition and not looked after
workhouse	a place to work in exchange for shelter and food

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Plot Sequencing Answer Sheet

1. Oliver Twist is forced out of the workhouse for asking for more food. The Sowerberrys take him in but treat him horribly.
2. Oliver runs away from the Sowerberrys and spends a week walking to London.
3. Oliver meets the Artful Dodger who introduces him to Fagin's gang.
4. Oliver is accused of stealing with the gang and the police arrest him.
5. The Brownlows take Oliver in while he recovers from a fever.
6. Bill Sikes finds Oliver and brings him back to the gang.
7. The police come to arrest Fagin. Everyone splits up and runs away.
8. Oliver returns to the Brownlows and learns more about his real family.

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Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

Q1: What was Oliver's job at the workhouse?	
Answer:	To unpick old tar-covered strands of ship's rope so the fibre could be used again.
Q2: Why was Oliver forced to leave the workhouse?	
Answer:	The workhouse boys were still starving after their rations and so Oliver asked for more food.
Q3: How long was Oliver walking before he arrives in the town of Barnet?	
Answer:	Seven/7 days
Q4: What was Fagin doing when the Artful Dodger first introduced him to Oliver?	
Answer:	Cooking sausages
Q5: What did Oliver realise the Artful Dodger and the boys did all day?	
Answer:	Pickpocket and steal
Q6: Why did Oliver offer to go and pay the bookseller on behalf of Mr Brownlow?	
Answer:	He was desperate to do something nice for the man who had been so kind to him.
Q7: Why were Fagin and Bill worried that Oliver was arrested and staying with the Brownlows?	
Answer:	They were worried Oliver would tell the police or the Brownlows about Fagin's gang and they'd be arrested.
Q8: Who are the 'traps'?	
Answer:	The police
Q9: How did Nancy help rescue Oliver and what happened to her as a result?	
Answer:	While Bill was keeping Oliver at their new hideout in Jacob's Island, Nancy went to Mr Brownlow and told him about the gang and where they were. When Bill found out what Nancy did, he killed her.
Q10: What is eventually revealed about the portrait of a lady in Mr Brownlow's study?	
Answer:	The lady in the portrait is Oliver's aunt - Mr Brownlow was supposed to marry her but she died before they could wed. It is revealed that her sister, Agnes, is Oliver's birth mother.

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Diary Entry Activity

The story is told by a third person narrator. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Oliver's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in *Oliver Twist* from the list below and ask your class to write it from Oliver's point of view.

- Oliver asking for more food at the workhouse
- Oliver leaving the Sowerberrys and walking to London
- Oliver realising Fagin's gang are pickpockets and thieves
- Oliver living happily ever after with the Brownlows

The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character