

SYNOPSIS

In a parish workhouse Oliver Twist's unmarried mother dies shortly after his birth. After nine years of privation and abuse in a church sponsored private orphanage, Oliver is taken back to the workhouse by Bumble so he can earn his keep. He is chosen by the others to beg for more food, and, as a result, is labelled ungrateful. Auctioned as an apprentice to Sowerberry, an undertaker, he is forced to eat the dog's rejects and sleep in a coffin. Noah Claypole, an older charity boy, torments Oliver who beats on Noah and is in turn beaten unmercifully by Sowerberry. Alone that night he gathers his meager belongings and runs away to London.

Fleeing without food or money in winter, Oliver continues for a week. Not far from London, he meets Jack Dawkins (the Artful Dodger) who guides him into London and into Fagin's gang of thieves. Oliver innocently accompanies the Dodger and Charley Bates into the streets on one occasion and is accused of stealing a gentleman's handkerchief as the two culprits run away—leaving their companion to take the blame. In an unsympathetic court Oliver is cleared only after the book seller testifies to his innocence. Already ill, Oliver faints and the kindgentleman-victim, Mr. Brownlow, carries him home.

Oliver recovers through the loving care of Mrs. Bedwin, the housekeeper, and Mr. Brownlow. All three are mystified by Oliver's uncanny resemblance to the portrait of a young woman which hangs on a wall at Brownlow's. A friend, Mr. Grimwig, distrusts Oliver, and when occasion arises, the boy is sent on an errand (with money) to test his trustworthiness. Oliver does not return because he is kidnapped by Nancy, a member of Fagin's gang. Fagin, fearful of Oliver's revelations, has hunted him down, waited for an opportunity for recapture, and now locks him up to insure no escaping.

Brownlow dispatches flyers offering a reward for information about Oliver. Happening to see the flyer, Bumble distorts the truth about the young orphan's character and Brownlow sadly accepts this "truth."

Meanwhile, Fagin insists that Oliver be used in a burglary to be committed by the vicious criminal Bill Sikes, also Nancy's lover. Bill drags the boy through the city to the suburban area of Chertsey. There, Bill and Oliver join with Toby Crackit. In the burglary Oliver is lifted through a tiny unbarred window, but before he can unlatch the door for the others, the household is awakened and Oliver is shot. Bill pulls Oliver back through the window; they run, but eventually have to abandon Oliver in a ditch.

Only Crackit returns to Fagin. Despite Fagin's anxieties about Bill's and Oliver's whereabouts, he secretly meets

with Monks, who had offered Fagin much money to secure Oliver into a life of crime. That Oliver is not yet a criminal angers Monks.

Parish beadle Bumble has married the workhouse matron, Mrs. Corney, whom he believes can offer him a comfortable life. Mrs. (Corney) Bumble had earlier been called to the bedside of a dying woman, old Sally, who ministered to Oliver's mother the night she gave birth and died. Sally is bothered by something.

Once again, Oliver recovers in a loving house. After being dumped in the ditch, he stumbled to Mrs. Maylie's home, the house marked for the burglary. Mrs. Maylie, her adopted niece Rose, and the doctor Losberne protect Oliver from possible prosecution. Oliver accompanies the family to a country cottage where Rose becomes deathly ill. Mrs. Maylie's son Harry rushes to her side, proposes, but she rejects him because he is intended for a great life. Harry refuses to accept her answer as final. And, while Rose is recovering, Oliver bumps into a frightening man (Monks) who, along with Fagin, later stares at him through the cottage window.

This same man Monks meets with the Bumbles and purchases from Mrs. Bumble a locket which old Sally had taken from Oliver's mother and pawned. Inside are two locks of hair and a ring with the inscription "Agnes." Monks drops it into the dark river.

Nancy had overheard Fagin and Monks plotting against Oliver; not wanting the boy retaken again, she drugs Sikes and meets with Rose at the hotel. She reveals that Monks hates and intends to destroy his brother—Oliver. Nancy agrees to walk London Bridge at midnight on several Sundays to further meet with Rose.

Finally locating Mr. Brownlow, who had gone abroad after Oliver's disappearance, Rose accompanies him to the bridge meeting with Nancy. Nancy reveals Monk's hang-out. After the meeting, Brownlow confers with Harry, Grimwig, and Losberne.

The "secret" meeting was spied upon by Noah Claypole who, along with Charlotte, had stolen from Mr. Sowerberry and fled to the London streets. They fall into Fagin's path, and Noah is employed to spy on Nancy, whose nervousness had aroused Fagin's suspicions. Noah reports his finds to Fagin who discloses Nancy's double-dealing to Sikes.

Sikes beats her to death, attempts to hide from his own conscience in the country, but returns the next day to London.

Mr. Brownlow apprehends Monks and confronts him with the truth: Monks is actually Edward Leeford, the son of Brownlow's good friend who was forced into an unhappy

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marriage. The father Leeford fell in love with Agnes Fleming, a retired naval officer's daughter. He died unexpectedly in Rome where he had gone to clear up an inheritance matter; intending to return Leeford left Agnes's portrait to Brownlow's care. The young girl was pregnant with Oliver when he left. His wife and young son knew of Agnes. When Brownlow left London, he went to the West Indies looking for Monks because he was haunted by the similarity between the girl's portrait and Oliver's features. Now Brownlow learns from Monks that his father's will (with Oliver as beneficiary) has been destroyed, the identifying locket is gone, and the reason for trying to engage Oliver in criminal behavior. He forces Monks to return Oliver's inheritance or face justice as an accomplice of Fagin's gang—particularly unhealthy after Nancy's murder.

Fagin's gang has scattered: Fagin is in jail; Dodger was earlier arrested and transported from England; Bill Sikes intrudes upon the boys hiding in an abandoned warehouse on Jacob's Island. Pursued by an angry mob, Bill is given up by Charley Bates. Attempting escape, Bill slips on the roof and hangs himself. Claypole testifies against Fagin for immunity. He and Charlotte live as con artists. Many of Fagin's boys are transported. Charley Bates, reformed by Bill's heinous murder of Nancy, becomes a "merry herdsman." Monks continues his dissolute life abroad and eventually dies in prison—penniless. The night before Fagin is hanged, Oliver and Brownlow visit him, and he reveals the whereabouts of important papers, helpful to Oliver.

The Bumbles admit their guilt in destroying Agnes Fleming's locket. They are stripped of their positions and become inhabitants of the poor house they once oversaw.

Monks reveals that Rose, who has been adopted by Mrs. Maylie, is actually Agnes's younger sister, orphaned as a child. She is Oliver's aunt. Harry Maylie becomes a country parson and soon the young couple marries. Mrs. Maylie lives with them; Brownlow (Oliver's adopted father), Grimwig, and Losberne also settle near the parsonage.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in Portsea on the southern coast of England, Charles Dickens grew up as one of eight children in an improvident family. To alleviate the family's dire straits (which resulted in debtor's prison), Mrs. Dickens tried conducting a school, and Charles worked in a blackening factory for several months. After receiving a small legacy which paid his many debts, John Dickens was able to remove Charles from the misery of factory work and place him in an academy.

Dickens had early shown signs of literary genius. The future novelist's first step toward a writing career began as a reporter. Soon he was publishing feature articles, using the pseudonym Boz. In 1836 his first book *Sketches by Boz*, a compilation of his articles, was published.

Shortly thereafter the monthly installments of *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* were published, and their success was followed by the serialization in periodicals of many novels: *Oliver Twist* (1838), *The Old*

Curiosity Shop (1841), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *David Copperfield* (1850), *Bleak House*, (1853), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectations* (1861) are among his best loved.

In 1836 he married Catherine Hogarth, the eldest daughter of his editor. They had ten children, but the marriage ended in 1858.

His success is not limited to novels; he edited the periodical *All the Year Round* and presented oral interpretations of his novels. An energetic man who loved life, Dickens was universally lionized at the time of his death (from a stroke) on June 9, 1870.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Charles Dickens, in his 1867 Preface to *Oliver Twist*, defended his artistic portrayal of London's criminal world. His critics charged that he had done violence to reality while he maintained that his portrait "of the squalid misery of their lives . . . with the great black gallows closing up their prospect" mirrored their reality. He further condemned the practice of clothing thieves, rogues and such elements in coats of merriment to make them more appealing. His goal was "to attempt a something which was needed and which would be a service to society."

Oliver Twist, then, is a didactic novel which exposes the sordidness of impoverished people, attacks the institutions which neglect rather than care for these poor, and demonstrates the power of human love.

Dickens' style—sometimes criticized as loosely constructed—mixes melodrama with humor and satire as he plots the twists of fate and coincidence in *Oliver Twist*'s tale.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize Charles Dickens' concern with effects of social, legal, and religious institutional neglect of the poor and helpless.
2. To trace the twists in fortune of Oliver's life.
3. To analyze the plot's major conflicts and resolutions.
4. To distinguish between Dickens' caricatures and his characterizations.
5. To examine Dickens' criminal world as a realistic portrayal of human depravity and misery.
6. To recognize the novel's melodramatic elements.
7. To analyze Dickens' style—particularly his dramatic presentation and his irony intertwined with humor.
8. To discuss the author's use of coincidence in plot and character revelations.
9. To explain how the author symbolically uses setting to differentiate malevolence and benevolence among men.
10. To understand Dickens' theme.

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MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. parochial beadle (p. 28)

(Mr. Bumble is a parish (parochial) beadle, a minor official of a parish in the Church of England. His specific job is to oversee the care of orphans and paupers, which meant to reduce their numbers (by starvation, says Dickens). His Christian attitude toward the poor is best described by his own statement: "What have paupers to do with soul or spirit? It's quite enough that we let 'em have live bodies." [p. 76])

2. tender laws of England (p. 34)

(This bitterly ironic term refers to the Poor Law of 1834 which forced all "healthy," able-bodied paupers into a workhouse. Their existences were harsh and filled with privations. The object was to reduce the number of "loafing" indigents; Dickens denounces the law throughout the novel and even insists that its "success" was due largely to large numbers of death by starvation.)

3. "Please sir, I want some more." (p. 36)

(Popularized in the musical Oliver!, this request is made after Oliver "won" the draw to beg more gruel for all the boys who were being starved with small portions. This twist of fate shoves Oliver in the direction of Sowerberry since the incident provokes the parochial board to offer "a reward of five pounds to anybody who would take Oliver Twist off the hands of the parish." [p. 37] Many of the occurrences in Oliver's story are not those of heroic action but rather of chance and coincidence.)

4. "What a fine thing capital punishment is! Dead men never repent." (p. 90)

(Fagin, luxuriating in his stashed hoard, shows his true concern for the boys in his gang. Several caught boys, who could have been a threat to Fagin's safety and operation, are hanged, and he rejoices that the danger has been removed. Fagin, "the merry old gentleman" who "saves" poor boys, exemplifies a Dickens' theme that no code of honor exists among thieves. In another example, this is the same "savior" who beats and starves Dodger and Charley when they return empty handed. Again, Dickens illustrates the sordid ramifications of poverty. Crime is not an appropriate response; none of these criminals can ever escape the shadow of the hangman's noose.)

5. "Where have I seen something like that look before?" (p. 103)

(As he spoke, he pointed hastily to the picture above Oliver's head, and then to the boy's face. There was its living copy. [p. 116])

Major ingredients in this plot are mystery and suspense. When Mr. Brownlow studies Oliver's features, trying to make an association between the boy and another from his memory, the foreshadowing is unmistakable. Later, at the Brownlow residence, suspense mounts as the young girl's portrait resembles Oliver too closely for Brownlow not to understand that a strong connection exists. Coincidence has brought Oliver into the vicinity of his identity.)

6. "... I have not made a coffin of my heart, and seal it up, for ever, on my best affections. Deep affliction has but strengthened and refined them." (p. 133)

(Brownlow is reassuring Oliver that, if the boy remains trustworthy, he will not be deserted. This statement expresses Dickens' theme that social improvements cannot be dependent upon institutions (social, legal, or religious) but upon individual's love and concern of one human being for another. Although the novel explicitly describes human depravity, through characters like those in the Maylie and Brownlow households, Dickens illustrates the natural goodness of people.)

7. It is the custom on the stage, in all good murderous melodramas, to present the tragic and comic scenes in as regular alternation . . . Such changes appear absurd; but they are not so unnatural as they would seem at first sight. (p. 157)

(The plot seems to twist abruptly both setting (time and place) and in Oliver's fortunes. But, Dickens expositively defends these shifts as realistic when compared to fortune changes in life.

Specifically, this defense prepares for a shift back to Oliver's birthplace and to the fortunes of Mr. Bumble which will be later tied to Oliver's discovery about his parentage.

Stylistically the novel, written serially, develops mystery and suspense. The fluctuations between grotesque and sentimental human behavior not only contrasts Oliver's two environments; it also creates a framework in which Dicken's theme will be clarified.)

8. "Some conjurers say that number three is the magic number, and some say number seven. It's neither, my friend, neither. It's number one." (p. 385)

(Fagin is convincing Noah Claypole on the efficacy of the "general number one"—the gang. He says their interests are "so mixed up together" that they are each identified with the interests of the other. Fagin's concern for his business partners, however, centers upon himself (the real number one) because he is acutely aware of their common end—hanging. This becomes clear when Bill Sikes is missing, when Oliver is taken, and when Nancy "gives up" Monks to Brownlow. The supposed close relationship that binds members of the criminal community together is actually fear—self preservation above all.)

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9. "... he was not like other boys in the same circumstances." (p. 239)

(Fagin explains to Monks, after the failed burglary, why Oliver is still not an active participant in the criminal world. Despite the twists in Oliver's fortune, which are beyond his control, there is something special about his character. He is protected by Dickens! Not heroic, Oliver is simply one of Dickens' "good" characters. This novel is peopled with either good or bad — not necessarily fully-realized — characters.)

Dickens believed that a foul environment rotted the benevolence of human nature; Oliver's ability to withstand the forces of evil is the result of inherent goodness [like that of the heroine of a melodrama] which is protected by forces [the author] beyond his own control.)

10. "I am chained to my old life. I loathe and hate it now, but I cannot leave it. I must have gone too far to turn back . . ." (p. 414)

(Nancy says she cannot accept Rose Maylie and Mr. Brownlow's offer to remove her from her criminal society and leaves the bridge rendezvous to return to life with Bill Sikes.)

Nancy, says Dickens, had squandered her life in the streets, "but there was something of the woman's original nature left in her still." [p. 357] Her environment had not totally destroyed her goodness, but she is so mired in evil that she knows she cannot be saved. The demonstration of her power for good is in her efforts to save Oliver even though no hope exists for her. Her life has been wasted, but through her hideous death, the pervasive evil of Fagin is destroyed.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-4 Literal Level

1. What are the two major conflicts in the novel's plot?

(Although the novel is about the twisting fortunes of Oliver Twist, he is thrown into the midst of hates. The animosity of Fagin and Sikes is one such conflict. Fagin fears and hates the man with whom his fortunes are intertwined. He needs Sikes' brutality to keep the boys in line but resents the force Sikes uses against him and is repulsed by his behavior to Nancy. Ultimately Fagin destroys (and is himself destroyed) Sikes by using Nancy's "duplicity" to arouse the man's animalistic brutality.)

The second conflict involves Monk's hatred and plan to destroy his half-brother Oliver. Monks is the secretive figure whose meetings with Fagin arouse Nancy's suspicion. It is through Fagin that Monks attempts to carry out his vindictive plot. While Oliver does not destroy Monks, the forces representing good who befriend the boy do thwart Monks' nefarious plans.)

2. How does Agnes' locket come to be in Monk's possession?

(The locket, we learn from Mrs. Bumble's interview with dying old Sally, was stolen from Oliver's mother. Sally pawned it, and Mrs. Bumble redeems the pledge. Monks plans to meet with the Bumbles one dark, stormy night to buy the locket because he must destroy all record of Oliver's parentage as one way to remain the heir of his late father's will. Once in his possession, the locket is tossed into the river's dark waters.)

3. What happens to Monks? Why?

(Monks was a "fierce ungovernable boy" whose mother knew the truth about Agnes Fleming's pregnancy and plotted to keep her son as his father's sole heir. According to the conditions of the will, Oliver should have inherited all that remained, but Brownlow encouraged (and Oliver agreed) that Monks—Edward Leeford—would receive half as a way of beginning a new life. But, Monks moved to "a distant part of the New World" and continued to lead a dissolute life. The money squandered, he took up his old "habits" and died in prison—penniless.)

4. How was Mr. Brownlow connected to the Leeford family?

(Mr. Brownlow had been engaged to Edwin Leeford's sister who died prior to their impending wedding. Edwin Leeford was Brownlow's best friend, and it was to him that Leeford confided his intentions about Agnes Fleming. He also left the portrait of Agnes, which he had painted, with Brownlow for safe-keeping. It is this picture which initiates the search into the past—leading to the discovery of Oliver's true identity.)

Questions 5-7 Interpretative Level

5. How does Dickens' use of setting reveal the theme?

(Dickens views environment as a vital force in either encouraging or devastating the natural benevolence of human nature. Since the story of Oliver's existence dwells upon the evil pervasive in an avaricious society, the predominant setting is darkness and dinginess.)

The church and social institutions are run by the greedy so Oliver is thrown in a black cellar, made to sleep among the dark, narrow coffins, and is almost sold to a chimney sweep who would have forced Oliver into the soot-clogged passages. But the effects of poverty are most heinously seen in the filthy blackness of London streets: "The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours." (p. 86) The dirty streets, smelly river banks, decaying buildings, and the weather (rainy, foggy, cold) contribute to the dismal lives of wretched people.

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Conversely, the sun's brightness, clear skies, and a pastoral setting with flower gardens become a part of Oliver's life only when he is with loving individuals who care for him.)

6. Contrast Nancy with Rose.

(Rose Maylie is a caricature of perfect womanhood. She is Dickens' ideal but much too perfect to be real. From the first time we see her, she is a compassionate nurse to Oliver, selfless human being whose first thoughts always are of others. It is Rose's compassion and humility which eases the way for Nancy's approach to her at the hotel. In melodramas she is the pure maiden.

Nancy, in contrast, is the characterization of a woman in conflict. Drawn into the life of crime as a child, she nevertheless retains urges toward good; her struggle is to reconcile those conflicting demands of being in Fagin's gang and Bill's only friend and of caring about what happens to Oliver. Reconciliation is impossible, and Nancy herself recognizes that she is so entangled in the web of street life that she can never leave it, even as she unselfishly saves Oliver from her fate.)

7. Discuss the irony in the fates of each of the following: (Oliver, a friendless orphan, whose name was selected for him by alphabetical chance, finds an aunt (Rose Maylie), and adopted father (Mr. Brownlow), and many protective friends.

Hiding in the dilapidated warehouse on Jacob's Island, Sikes shouts to the vigilante mob, "Do your worst! I'll cheat you yet!" [p. 451] But, he is haunted again by Nancy's eyes and slips on the roof, the noose around his neck. [He had intended to lower himself to the opposite side of Folly Ditch.] He fell and hanged himself.

Nancy is murdered by Sikes, the man she intended to protect despite "giving up Monks." Just before he clubs her to death, she pleads with him to repent and run away with her to a new life. She repeats Rose's words, "It is never too late to repent" [p. 423] just as he clubs her.

Bumble, whose cruelty to the paupers was perpetrated under the auspicious symbols of his beadle's hat and cane, loses his position and ultimately becomes an inmate of the workhouse which he once ruled.

Questions 8-9 Critical Level

8. How do the deaths of Nancy and Sikes differ artistically from that of Fagin? Why does Dickens present them differently?

(Nancy's and Sike's deaths are dramatically presented. We hear her plead with Sikes for a new beginning for both of them, and we see her upturned, bloody face struck again by the violent man. Her murder climaxes the tense scene between Fagin and Sikes in which Fagin fiendishly cautions, "not too

violent for safety." [p. 422] Similarly, Sikes' animal brutality is graphically brought to an ironic conclusion; after terrorizing the hiding boys on Jacob's Island and defiantly taunting the chasing mob, he is hanged by his own rope: "He fell for five-and-thirty feet. There was a sudden jerk, a terrific convulsion of the limbs; and there he hung, with the open knife clenched in his stiffening hand." [p. 454]

In contrast, Fagin's hanging is authorially mentioned. As Brownlow and Oliver leave Fagin's cell, Dickens says, "Everything told of life and animation but one dark cluster of objects in the centre of all—the black stage, the cross-beam, the rope, and all the hideous apparatus of death." [p. 476]

The deaths of all three represent the final end of villainy without gallantry, humor, or camaraderie. The gallows' shadow had followed all three. The difference in their deaths is presentation only. After witnessing Nancy's and Sike's deaths, Dickens has made his point by the life of crime. Another gruesome death would be extraneous.)

9. What is melodramatic in the novel?

(The elements of melodrama are those which add sensationalism and sentimentality to the story. The fight for control of Oliver by the forces of good and evil employ those elements: the machinations of an evil brother, his scar which Brownlow recognizes, the portrait which resembles "too closely" the orphan, and the pure maid [Oliver's aunt] and her gallant suitor. Although the romance between Rose and Harry seems extraneous, it adds a dimension to the Nancy-Sikes relationship which further presses Dickens' theme. The novel's pathos and sentimentality complement the stark realism of the criminal world and appeal to a wider audience range.)

Question 10 Creative Level

10. Rewrite dramatically any scene from the novel which Dickens has only authorially presented. Imitate Dicken's style with irony or pathos or humor.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. View the musical *Oliver!* and write a paper contrasting the two presentations (characterizations) of Fagin.
2. Dramatize one sentimental and one dramatic scene to present before the class.
3. Research the Poor Law of 1834 which so outraged Dickens and prepare a class presentation.
4. Read *David Copperfield*, research Dickens' life and prepare a paper discussing the biographic elements.
5. Imagine the time and place as America today and discuss the differences in *Oliver Twist's* treatment in the orphanage and on the streets.

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6. Contrast the relationship of Nancy-Bill, Rose-Harry, and Mr.-Mrs. Bumble. Orally present or write a paper.
7. In groups of 3-4 students each, analyze Dickens' style; each group takes a different characteristic—irony, symbolism, humor, coincidences, caricatures, and melodrama.
8. Select any Dickens' novel to read and prepare an oral report.
9. Begin with Oliver's birth and chronologically list the major events in the story.
10. Research the criminal-justice system of England during Dickens' time. Prepare a report.

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TEACHING NOTES

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VOCABULARY TEST

Match the underlined word in each sentence with its synonym. The vocabulary choices are listed below.

- ___ 1. Nancy stubbornly refused to leave Bill even though she feared his violence.
- ___ 2. When Charley came "home" empty-handed after a day on the streets, Fagin heaped curses upon him.
- ___ 3. The shrewish old woman Sally yielded a clue to Oliver's identity just before she died.
- ___ 4. Mr. and Mrs. Bumble were greedy, selfish human beings.
- ___ 5. In the story Rose and Harry are an example of a sentimental, romantic couple.
- ___ 6. To finally achieve the truth about Oliver's parentage, his benefactors acted with care—not rashness.
- ___ 7. No one wanted to believe that Oliver had fled with Mr. Brownlow's money and books.
- ___ 8. On the surface Fagin appears to be a very cheerful fellow.
- ___ 9. Fagin's boys are industrious in their street work.
- ___ 10. Monks' eagerness for evil news of Oliver marks his villainy.
- ___ 11. Oliver's behavior at Mr. Brownlow's and at Mrs. Maylie's was always respectful.
- ___ 12. Nancy and Bill lived in filthy surroundings in London.
- ___ 13. Little Dick's serene acceptance of his plight makes him seem angelic.
- ___ 14. Mr. Bumble could offer no praise to the stranger asking about Oliver's character.
- ___ 15. Mr. Grimwig's irritable behavior covered a loving heart.
- ___ 16. Fagin's violent outburst at losing Oliver after the burglary attempt is an ugly display of emotion.
- ___ 17. Mr. Brownlow closely examined the similarities between the girl's picture and Oliver's face.
- ___ 18. Thinking it an advantageous match for her, Mrs. Corney willingly agreed to marry Mr. Bumble.
- ___ 19. The calmness of Mr. Bumble's life departed when he married Mrs. Corney.
- ___ 20. Monk's disgraceful life serves as a contrast to Oliver's sweetness.
- ___ 21. Fagin's respectfulness to Bill's wishes is a deception since the Old Jew really hates and fears him.
- ___ 22. When on the subject of his own needs, Fagin is positively talkative.
- ___ 23. Once Nancy allowed Fagin to become her teacher, she was caught in a trap of criminality.
- ___ 24. Monks' death in a prison was a result of his recklessly wasteful life.
- ___ 25. Noah Claypole's cleverness extended only to stealing from small children.

A. choleric
B. doggedly
C. assiduous
D. preceptor
E. demeanor
F. imprecation
G. maudlin
H. avaricious
I. sanguine

J. absconded
K. harridan
L. paroxysm
M. impetuosity
N. squalid
O. loquacious
P. profligacy
Q. placid

R. peruse
S. ingenuity
T. encomiums
U. obeisance
V. acquiesced
W. equanimity
X. avidity
Y. ignominious

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OBJECTIVE TEST A

Part I: Matching (10 points)

In the space provided write the letter of the character matching the given description.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| _____ 1. master criminal | A. Rose Maylie |
| _____ 2. murderer | B. Charley Bates |
| _____ 3. cocked hat and cane | C. Jack Dawkins |
| _____ 4. snub nosed, flat-browed, common-faced boy | D. Fagin |
| _____ 5. a scar down his cheek | E. Oliver Twist |
| _____ 6. loves Bill Sikes | F. Mr. Bumble |
| _____ 7. a merry herdsman | G. Mr. Brownlow |
| _____ 8. shot as intruder | H. Bill Sikes |
| _____ 9. Oliver's aunt | I. Edward Leeford |
| _____ 10. Edwin Leeford's friend | J. Nancy |

Part II: True or False (30 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true. Write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- _____ 1. When Oliver is born, he is a very healthy child who receives fond care from the workhouse matrons.
- _____ 2. Oliver becomes apprenticed to an undertaker.
- _____ 3. Fagin introduces Oliver into the pickpocketing techniques as if it were a game.
- _____ 4. Nancy "steals" Oliver back to Fagin's by calling him her run-away son.
- _____ 5. The portrait in Mr. Brownlow's house resembles Oliver.
- _____ 6. Mr. Grimwig is absolutely delighted when Oliver fails to return to Brownlow from the errand.
- _____ 7. Monks hires Fagin to kill Oliver.
- _____ 8. Oliver is found wounded in the ditch and carried to the Maylie house.
- _____ 9. Nancy meets with Brownlow and Rose on the London Bridge.
- _____ 10. Noah Claypole joins Fagin's gang.
- _____ 11. Oliver's father never knew that Agnes Fleming was expecting a child.
- _____ 12. Bill Sikes beats, then shoots, Nancy to death.
- _____ 13. Rose is Mrs. Maylie's adopted niece.
- _____ 14. When Oliver visits Fagin in jail, the prisoner doesn't even recognize the boy.
- _____ 15. Rose and Harry marry in the church where he is the new parson.

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OBJECTIVE TEST B

Part I: Matching (10 points)

In the space provided write the letter of the character matching the given description.

- _____ 1. retired lawyer, old friend of Brownlow
- _____ 2. locket with a gold ring
- _____ 3. coffin maker
- _____ 4. Jack Dawkins
- _____ 5. adopts Oliver
- _____ 6. hanged as accessory to murder
- _____ 7. Fagin's spy
- _____ 8. "an expression of melancholy in his face"
- _____ 9. Oliver's half brother
- _____ 10. vicious murderer

A. Noah Claypole
B. Oliver
C. Mr. Brownlow
D. Monks
E. Agnes Fleming

F. Mr. Sowerberry
G. Bill Sikes
H. Artful Dodger
I. Mr. Grimwig
J. Fagin

Part II: True or False (30 points)

In the space provided write **T** if the statement is completely true. Write **F** if any part of the statement is false.

- _____ 1. At his birth Oliver's mother is wearing a gold wedding ring.
- _____ 2. Oliver fights Noah Claypole only after Noah insults Oliver's mother's character.
- _____ 3. Oliver is arrested for picking Mr. Brownlow's pocket.
- _____ 4. The Three Cripples is a gathering place for Fagin's gang.
- _____ 5. Bill Sikes is afraid of Fagin's temper.
- _____ 6. Sikes chooses Oliver from the gang to go on the burglary because of his size.
- _____ 7. Old Sally stole Oliver's mother's locket.
- _____ 8. Monks hires Fagin to involve Oliver in a criminal life.
- _____ 9. Fagin is relieved when Sikes does not return from the burglary.
- _____ 10. The country doctor, Mr. Losberne, is responsible for keeping Oliver out of jail after the burglary attempt.
- _____ 11. Nancy tells Rose that Oliver has a half-brother.
- _____ 12. Bill Sikes is haunted by Nancy's eyes.
- _____ 13. Oliver's father's will was turned over to Mr. Brownlow before Leeford left for Rome.
- _____ 14. Noah Claypole testifies against Fagin and receives a court job.
- _____ 15. Artful Dodger is transported for life.

OLIVER TWIST

VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 10. X | 18. V |
| 2. F | 11. E | 19. W |
| 3. K | 12. N | 20. Y |
| 4. H | 13. Q | 21. U |
| 5. G | 14. T | 22. O |
| 6. M | 15. A | 23. D |
| 7. J | 16. L | 24. P |
| 8. I | 17. R | 25. S |
| 9. C | | |

OBJECTIVE TEST A ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (10 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. J |
| 2. H | 7. B |
| 3. F | 8. E |
| 4. C | 9. A |
| 5. I | 10. G |

Part II: True or False (30 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 9. T |
| 2. T | 10. T |
| 3. T | 11. F |
| 4. F | 12. F |
| 5. T | 13. T |
| 6. F | 14. F |
| 7. F | 15. T |
| 8. F | |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. D |
| 2. C | 7. B |
| 3. A | 8. C |
| 4. B | 9. A |
| 5. A | 10. C |

Part IV: Essay Questions (20 points)

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.

OBJECTIVE TEST B ANSWER KEY

Part I: Matching (10 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. I | 6. J |
| 2. E | 7. A |
| 3. F | 8. B |
| 4. H | 9. D |
| 5. C | 10. G |

Part II: True or False (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F | 11. T |
| 2. T | 7. T | 12. T |
| 3. T | 8. T | 13. F |
| 4. T | 9. F | 14. F |
| 5. F | 10. T | 15. T |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. C |
| 2. C | 7. B |
| 3. D | 8. B |
| 4. C | 9. A |
| 5. A | 10. B |

Part IV: Essay Questions (20 points)

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.



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