














## Year 8 Knowledge Organiser: Oliver Twist

*'Please Sir, I want some more'*



Characters			Plot
	<b>Oliver</b>	He is a 'pale, thin' orphan who is 'the victim of poverty'. He is treated badly by almost everyone he meets. He tries his best to be a good person and experiences 'horror and alarm' whenever he sees crimes being committed.	1. Oliver is born in the workhouse. Nominated to ask for more food and is punished.
	<b>Mr. Bumble</b>	The head of the workhouse and gives Oliver his name. He is 'a fat and angry man' who enjoys power and doesn't care about the people beneath him.	2. Oliver is kicked out of the workhouse and sold to the Sowerberry family to be an undertaker's apprentice. He's bullied by Noah, they fight and he is locked up.
	<b>Mr Sowerberry</b>	An undertaker and coffin maker who purchases Oliver from the workhouse. He has a lack of sympathy for orphans, 'I see no saving in orphans; they cost more to keep than they're worth'.	3. Oliver runs away to London, meets Dodger and is introduced to Fagin's gang.
	<b>Noah Claypole</b>	A 'malicious and ill-conditioned' boy who bullies Oliver at the undertakers. He eventually runs away to London and joins the same gang as Oliver. He is the outcome of a life of cruelty.	4. Oliver is taken out with the gang and is horrified to see Dodger steal a gentleman's handkerchief. Oliver is wrongly arrested for the theft.
	<b>Fagin</b>	An old man who runs the gang of child pickpockets. He seems kind but his 'villainous-looking and repulsive face' reflects his selfish nature as he gets young boys to do his dirty work for him.	5. The gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, takes pity on Oliver and takes him in. The gang plot to get him back in case he reveals information about them.
	<b>Jack Dawkins (The Artful Dodger)</b>	A young boy who introduces Oliver to Fagin's gang who has 'all the airs and manners of a man'. He's confident and cunning and a pick pocket in Fagin's gang.	6. Oliver is abducted by the gang whilst running an errand for Mr. Brownlow.
	<b>Bill Sikes</b>	A 'rough man' who is a violent and brutish criminal. He beats his dog viciously and brutally kills his girlfriend, Nancy.	7. Oliver is used by Sikes in a burglary. They fail and Sikes runs away. Oliver is left behind, wounded, but meets Fred and Rose Maylie who care for him.
	<b>Nancy</b>	Bill's girlfriend who risks her life to help Oliver escape from the gang she entered as a child. She is 'burdened with a sense of her own deep shame' about the life of crime she has led.	8. When Bill and Fagin realise what has happened, they plot to catch Oliver again. Nancy overhears and visits Mr. Brownlow to warn him.
	<b>Mr Brownlow</b>	A wealthy older gentleman who takes Oliver in and looks after him. He tends to Oliver with 'a kindness and solicitude that knew no bounds'. He believes in Oliver's goodness and eventually finds out the truth about Oliver's parents.	9. Fagin tells Bill about Nancy's betrayal and Bill murders her. Fagin is discovered and sent to prison and Bill dies trying to run away.
	<b>Rose Fleming Maylie</b>	A sweet and virtuous young lady who is later revealed to be Oliver's maternal aunt. Rose learns about Oliver's plight from Nancy and teams up with Mr Brownlow to rescue Oliver.	10. Oliver discovers who his parents were and joins Mr. Brownlow and the Maylies to live happily ever after.
Context			
	<b>1824</b>	Dickens was sent to work at a blacking factory sticking labels on bottles of boot polish.	
	<b>1825</b>	Dickens' father was imprisoned in Marshalsea Debtor's prison.	
	<b>1834</b>	The New Poor Law, establishing the workhouse system.	
	<b>1812-1870</b> <b>1837</b>	Dickens wrote Oliver Twist to highlight the problem of poverty in 19th Century London.	
<b>Social hierarchy</b>		Strict Victorian class system. People were divided into upper, middle, lower class.	
<b>Population</b>		Increased to 6.7 million people in London, resulting in overcrowding and slums.	

Key vocabulary					
<b>Beak</b>	Slang term for a judge or magistrate in England.	<b>Manipulate</b>	Control or influence someone to gain an advantage in an unfair or dishonest way.	<b>Stigma</b>	A mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality or person.
<b>Brutal</b>	Savagely violent or cruel.	<b>Mephistophelian</b>	Wicked, fiendish.	<b>Unsanitary</b>	Unhygienic, filthy.
<b>Corrupt</b>	Having or showing willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain.	<b>Morality</b>	Values relating to what is right/ good (moral) and wrong/ bad (immoral).	<b>Victim</b>	A person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other event or action.
<b>Destitute</b>	Extremely poor and lacking the means to provide for oneself.	<b>Orphan</b>	A child whose parents are dead.	<b>Victorian</b>	Relating to the reign of Queen Victoria.
<b>Disease</b>	A change in a living body that prevents it from functioning normally.	<b>Poverty</b>	A state of being extremely poor.	<b>Villainy</b>	Wicked or criminal behaviour.
<b>Foreshadow</b>	A warning or indication of a future event.	<b>Retribution</b>	Punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act.	<b>Vulnerable</b>	In need of special care, support or protection because of age, disability or risk of exploitation.
<b>Gruel</b>	A thin liquid food or oatmeal boiled in milk or water.	<b>Segregation</b>	The action of separating someone or something apart from others.	<b>Workhouse</b>	An institution that was intended to provide work and shelter for the most destitute.