

## Plot Summary



# Term 5 Year 7 Oliver Twist

Discourse markers  
although  
however  
despite this  
conversely  
meanwhile  
thus  
consequently  
also  
additionally

Adverbials  
suddenly  
firstly / secondly...  
finally  
next  
then  
the next day  
after  
afterwards  
immediately  
eventually

Oliver, an orphan since birth, spends much of his childhood at an orphanage with too little food. One night, after being served his portion of gruel, Oliver asks for a second helping. This is unacceptable, and Oliver is sent to work as an apprentice to an undertaker. Eventually, after suffering repeated mistreatment, Oliver runs away and heads for London.

He meets the Artful Dodger, who tells him to stay at the house of an "old gentleman" (named Fagin) with a number of other boys. Oliver learns that these boys are trained pickpockets. On an outing, Oliver witnesses the boys take a handkerchief from Mr. Brownlow, an elderly man, which makes Oliver run away in fear and confusion. The elderly man mistakes Oliver's behaviour for guilt and has him arrested. However, after learning more about Oliver, Mr. Brownlow realises his mistake and offers to take care of him at his home.

Oliver assumes that he is now rid of Fagin and the pickpockets, but his knowledge of their crimes causes them to find Oliver. Nancy, a prostitute and mistress of one of Fagin's men, Bill Sikes, is sent to take Oliver from Mr. Brownlow back to Fagin. She does so, and Oliver is sent on a burglary with another member of the group to the countryside around London. On this errand, Oliver is shot in the arm and then is taken in by the family (the Maylies) that he attempted to rob.

While he is there, Fagin and a man named Monks plot to get him back. Rose Maylie, while on a trip to London with her family, meets with Mr. Brownlow to talk with Nancy, who has slipped away from Sikes to explain the plans made by Monks and Fagin to get Oliver back. She describes Monks and tells them when he might most easily be found.

Unfortunately for Nancy, news of her betrayal reaches Sikes, and he beats her to death. Sikes accidentally hangs himself soon after. The Maylies reunite Oliver with Mr. Brownlow, who forces Monks to explain himself. The reader and Oliver are then informed that Monks is Oliver's half-brother and that Oliver is entitled to a large fortune. He receives his share of the money, Fagin is hung, and the Maylies, Oliver, and Mr. Brownlow move to the countryside where they spend the rest of their days together.

Background information  
'Oliver Twist' was written in 1837- 39.  
It was written by Charles Dickens.  
It was published chapter by chapter in a periodical (magazine).  
Charles Dickens had to work in harsh conditions as a child when his father was sent to prison.  
Dickens wanted to criticise a new change to The Poor Law which happened in 1834 and created more workhouses and show how hard life was for poor people.

Word	Definition
villains	A villain is a bad person in a story, who harms other people or breaks the law to get what they want
victims	A person who has come to feel helpless and passive in the face of misfortune or ill-treatment.
vulnerable	If someone is vulnerable they are in a situation where they could be easily harmed.
corrupt	Someone is 'corrupt' if they use their power in a dishonest or illegal way in order to make life better for themselves
naïve	Someone is naïve if they don't have experience of how complicated life can be and therefore trust people too much.
orphan	An orphan is a child whose parents are dead.
moral	A moral is a message that is conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event.
workhouse	A place where people who couldn't support themselves were sent to live and work.
society	The people who live in a certain area. This could be a country, town or small group.
brutal	Very violent or cruel.