

# Unit 3

## 1 Oliver – a famous film!

Tara: I love that film. It's so happy and so sad. I always cry.

Rory: Oh Tara, you cry at sad adverts.

Tara: Rory, you may laugh, but I saw you cry too.

Rory: No, that's not true. Boys don't cry – you know that!

Tara: Ha ha.

Rory: No, but anyway, it's a funny film. I love it when Fagin tries to teach the children to steal ... but it isn't very realistic, is it? I mean children didn't really have to live like that.

Tara: Well, I know there were workhouses, but I can't believe that they were given such little meals when they had worked all day.

Rory: No, and I can't believe that they had to work for ten hours or more and had no time to play.

Rory's mum: Well, you both have a lot to learn. There were workhouses! Children lived there and worked for ten or twelve hours each day. If a child's parents had died – like with Oliver – and they had nobody to look after them, their only chance was to live in a workhouse. Sometimes parents gave their children to workhouses because they didn't have enough money or food. Poor adults lived in workhouses too.

Rory: Or they became criminals and stole money so that they could buy food.

Tara: Yes, I can believe that, but were there men who lead gangs of children and taught them how to steal? I can't believe that. It's such a joke! Why didn't the children run away?

Rory's mum: Well, where would they have gone if they'd run away? And Tara, you know there are gangs like that today too, don't you?

Tara: No!?

Rory: And the end was a bit unrealistic too, wasn't it? I mean, after Oliver had learnt to steal and live as a criminal, his aunt found him and gave him a nice life in a nice house.

Tara: But that was the best part. It was so happy, I cried.

Rory: Girls are so silly! ... Ow! Hey Tara – that hurt!

Rory's mum: Now come on, you two. Or I'll send you both to the workhouse.

Rory: You don't need to send me to a workhouse. It's like a workhouse here. I had to tidy my room and clean the windows.

Tara: You're lucky. I had to cook yesterday. And when I had finished that I had to clean the kitchen.