

CHAPTER 5

MEANWHILE, MR BROWNLOW WAITED FOR OLIVER TO return. As the time passed however, he realised that Oliver was not coming home. He finally got up, and went to look at the painting that he had put away after Oliver had fainted. Lost in thought, he looked into the woman's eyes. Long ago in his youth he had a close friend, Edwin Leeford. Edwin had fallen in love with a young woman, and the couple planned to marry. Then one of Edwin's relatives in Italy had died suddenly, leaving him a lot of money and he had to go there for his inheritance. Before he left, he brought the painting of his fiancée to Mr Brownlow, asking him to take good care of it while he was away. Sadly, however, Edwin never returned. He caught a fever in Italy and died. What happened to his young fiancée was a mystery. Mr Brownlow had tried to find her, but she had disappeared.

It was this woman who looked so much like Oliver. Was Oliver the key to the mystery? Mr Brownlow decided to do his best to find out. So he made a poster, offering a reward to anyone who could tell him anything about Oliver Twist. He put this poster up around London and in nearby towns, too. Then one day, a woman came to the door, saying she had information about Oliver.

Unfortunately, the woman was Mrs Corney from the workhouse, who disliked Oliver so much that she made him sound very bad. She ended by saying how rude and ungrateful he had been to her by running away.

Mr Brownlow was disappointed. He put five pounds on the table. "Thank you for your information," he said, "but I would have given twice as much to hear something good about the boy!" If Mrs Corney had known this before, she might have told a different story. But it was too late for that now. Mr Brownlow was very upset, and he wondered if Oliver was a bad person after all, and not worth his attention.

Oliver, meanwhile, was taking a journey with Bill Sikes. Sikes had taken the boy along to help with the burglary he had planned.



After travelling all day, they came to a small village outside London. Sikes wrapped a dark shawl round his neck and put on a black cloak. He took a heavy bag with tools and at about one-thirty in the morning, they set out in the darkness.

Oliver was terrified when he saw the house that was their target. He started walking more slowly. Sikes realised that he was hesitating, and he pulled out his pistol and pointed it at him: "Go on, or I'll shoot you." Trembling, Oliver crossed the lawn with Sikes.

Sikes took an iron bar and quietly forced open a small window. The opening was too small for a man, but Oliver could fit through it easily. "Now listen," whispered Sikes. "Take this lantern, go up the stairs in front of you, along the hall, and then unlock the front door and let me in. And keep quiet!" he added with a threatening look. "Do you understand?"

"Yes," Oliver said, as Sikes lifted him through the window.



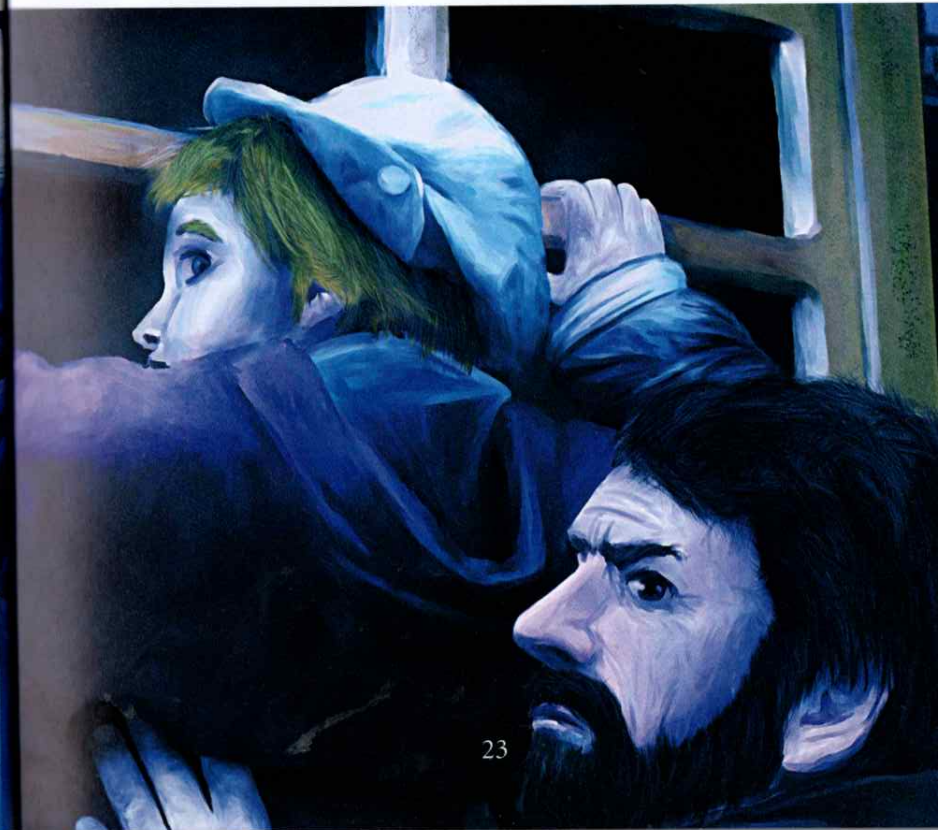
"Sssh! I heard something!" Sikes suddenly said. "No, it's nothing," he said a while later. "Let's get to work!"

Oliver was now in the house, trying to get used to the darkness around him.

Suddenly Sikes cried aloud: "Back! Back!" Startled, Oliver saw a light at the top of the stairs, and two men. There was a flash – a loud noise – smoke – a crash somewhere, and he went back to the window. Sikes pulled him out.

"Blood! They shot you!" He said. "We've got to get out of here!" As they fled from the house, Oliver heard shouts and shots from guns, and he realised that he was being carried away. Then a cold deadly feeling crept over him, and he lost consciousness.

Sikes ran as fast as he could, but carrying Oliver slowed him down. Behind him, he saw the men chasing him. They seemed to be coming closer. He dropped Oliver in a ditch and covered him with his cloak. Then he ran as fast as he could.



CHAPTER 5

Comprehension

1 Complete the summary of Chapter 5 with the sentences a - e.

- a. She was Mrs Corney who had only bad things to say about the boy.
- b. Oliver had been shot.
- c. She was the fiancée of an old friend who had died in Italy.
- d. Along with Oliver, they arrived at the house that was their target.
- e. Mr Brownlow believed that Oliver was the solution to this mystery, so he decided to put up a poster asking for information about the missing boy.

Back home, Mr Brownlow kept wondering about Oliver. He had noticed that Oliver looked a lot like the woman in the painting.

(1) _____. After his death she disappeared and what had happened to her was a mystery. (2) _____. One day a woman showed up with information about Oliver. (3) _____. Mr Brownlow was upset because he expected to hear a different story.

Meanwhile, Sikes had put his plan for the burglary in action.

(4) _____. Oliver hesitated, but he did as he was told. When he was in the house, there was a sudden flash and a crash. (5) _____. Sikes tried to carry him away but dropped him in a ditch when he saw two men chasing him.

2 Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Edwin Leeford go to Italy?

2. How did Leeford die?

3. How much money did Mr Brownlow give Mrs Corney for the information she gave him?

4. How did Oliver feel when they arrived at the house that was their target?

5. How did Sikes persuade Oliver to go on with the burglary?

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word to complete the following sentences.

1. Katherine **whispered** / **trembled** as she spoke because the baby was asleep.
2. John **wrapped** / **hesitated** at the door of the plane before jumping out.
3. John is very **rude** / **disappointed**, that's why nobody likes him.
4. Mr Brown always keeps his gardening **lantern** / **tools** in a wooden box.
5. I had a strange **feeling** / **shot** that something bad was going to happen on that day.
6. The missing boy's parents decided to give a(n) **inheritance** / **reward** to anyone who might have useful information.

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

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|----------|------------------|
| 1. lost | a. good care |
| 2. take | b. in thought |
| 3. lose | c. a fever |
| 4. get | d. consciousness |
| 5. do | e. in love |
| 6. long | f. ago |
| 7. catch | g. to work |
| 8. fall | h. one's best |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. What do you think happened to Leeford's fiancée? Do you think she is connected to Oliver somehow?
2. Why did Mrs Corney give information about Oliver?
3. Why do you think the burglary didn't go as planned?
4. What do you think will happen to Oliver? Will he escape danger/get well again?

6 Imagine that Mrs Corney is giving Mr Brownlow information about Oliver. Write an imaginary dialogue between the two of them. Discuss Oliver's behaviour while he was at the workhouse and the people's feelings towards him. (80-100 words)