

CHAPTER 2

ONE COLD MORNING OLIVER GOT UP VERY EARLY AND LEFT the workhouse. Looking back from time to time, he walked quickly and did not stop for five miles. He had only a penny and a piece of bread, but he didn't care. In London a boy could earn his own living. London was seventy miles away, but Oliver kept walking. When night came, he went into a meadow and slept under a hay-stack.

The next few days were the same. Oliver's penny bought him one small loaf, but soon he was hungry again. The only food he had eaten in days was some bread and cheese a kind old woman had given him. On the seventh day, Oliver came to a little town. His feet were bleeding and they were covered in dust. Exhausted, he sat down on a step. Hours later, when he looked up, he saw a rather strange boy standing in front of him. He was about thirteen, short for his age, and very dirty. He wore a man's hat and coat, and although he was young, he looked like he knew how to take care of himself.

He spoke to Oliver. "Hello my covey! What's the row?" Oliver didn't understand, but he guessed the boy was asking how he was.

"I am very hungry and tired," said Oliver. "I have been walking for seven days." Tears came into his eyes as he spoke.

"Walking for seven days!" exclaimed the boy. "Well, you need to eat. I haven't got much money, but it's enough for some food, my friend. As for my name, they call me the Artful Dodger."

After the Artful Dodger had bought some ham and bread, he asked Oliver where he was going. When he said he was going to London, he asked if he had anywhere to stay there. Oliver said no.

"I know a respectable old gentleman there who will give you a place to live, and food to eat, and not ask for any money at all," the Dodger said.

Oliver had not slept under a roof for a week, so this offer sounded good to him. When they got to London, the Dodger led Oliver along a narrow, muddy street with old and dirty houses.



Oliver didn't like that place at all, but then his companion pushed open the door of one of the houses, pulled Oliver in, and called out: "Plummy and slam!"

This seemed to be a secret code, because an unseen voice told them to enter. The room was black with age and dirt and an old man was cooking sausages in a corner. He had unwashed red hair and was wearing a dirty old shirt. The table was set for dinner, and there was also a large pile of purses on it.

"Fagin," said the Dodger to the old man, "This is my new friend, Oliver Twist."

"We are very glad to see you, Oliver, very," said Fagin, and smiled. They had dinner together. Fagin seemed to like the Artful Dodger very much, and praised him for being a hard worker. Oliver realised this was because the Dodger had brought home the pile of purses on the table. The Dodger must make purses, he thought. Oliver asked if he could learn how to make purses, too. For some reason, Fagin and the Dodger laughed very hard.

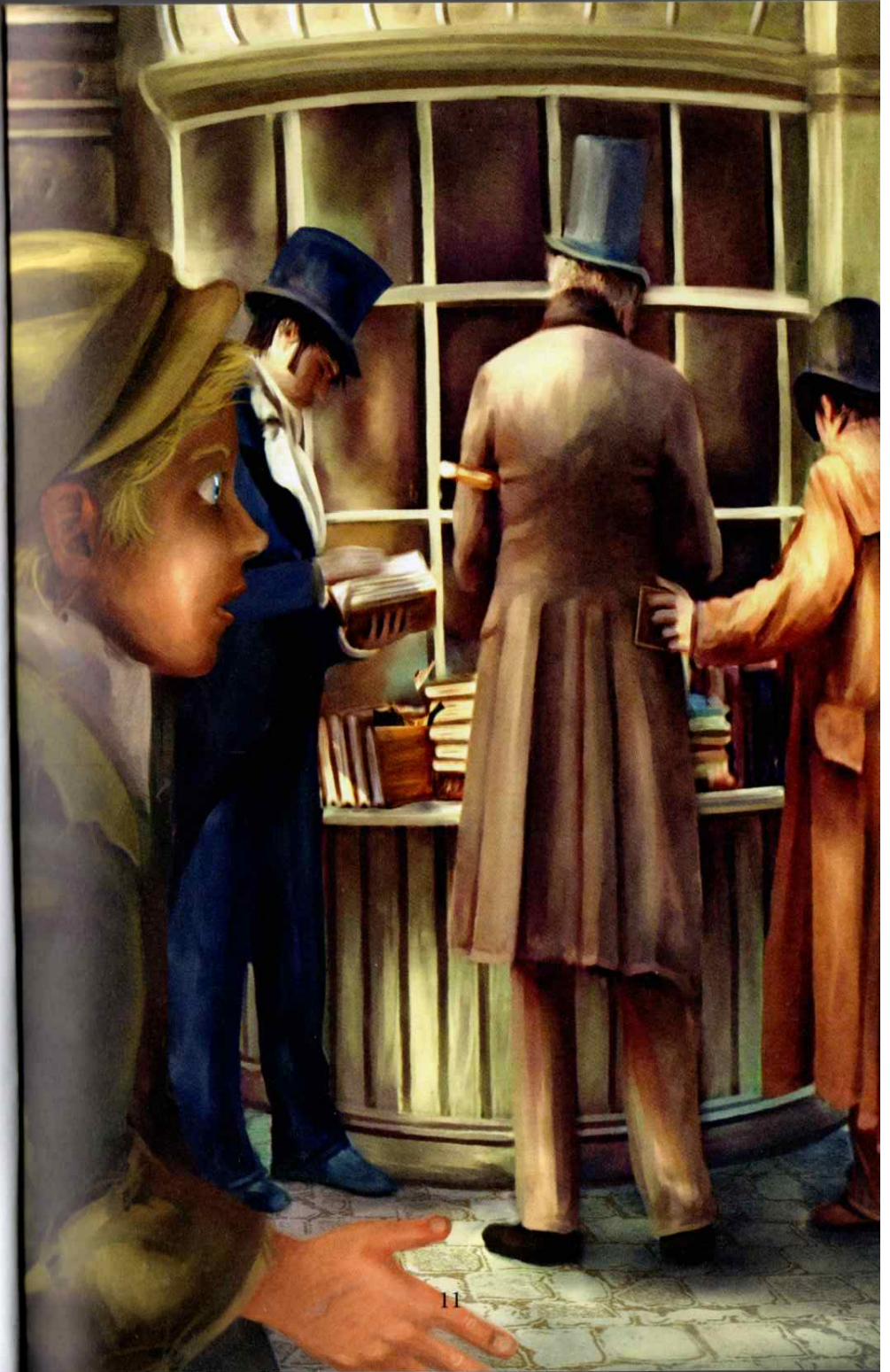
"Certainly, my dear Oliver. In a few days, the Dodger will show you how."

Some days later, the Dodger and Oliver set off for a rich part of London. The Dodger walked very slowly, looking around. He didn't seem very keen to get to work. Then, as they entered a square, he suddenly grabbed Oliver's arm and pointed.

"Do you see that old man by the bookstall?" Oliver looked and saw an old gentleman reading a book. "He'll do," said the Dodger.

Oliver had no idea what he was talking about. The Dodger slowly walked towards the old gentleman. Watching in amazement, Oliver saw the Dodger put his hand into the gentleman's pocket, and pull out a purse, which he then put into his own pocket! Busy reading his book, the man took no notice of what had happened.

Suddenly Oliver understood everything. His new friends, Fagin and the Dodger, were thieves and pickpockets! Shocked, Oliver turned and ran. At the same instant, the old man by the bookstall put his hand in his pocket and realised that his purse was missing. When he saw Oliver running, he cried out "Stop thief!"



CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

- How did Oliver spend his first night away from the workhouse?

- How did Oliver feel after seven days of walking?

- What did Fagin look like?

- What did Oliver think when he saw the pile of purses on the table in Fagin's place?

- What did the old man at the bookstall do when he realised that his purse was missing?

2 Match 1-5 with a-e to make sentences. Write a-e in the boxes.

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|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1. With his penny, Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. steal from people in the street. |
| 2. Fagin had trained the Dodger how to | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. stole the old gentleman's purse. |
| 3. At the bookstall, the Dodger | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. found a place to stay, but also got into a lot of trouble. |
| 4. The words 'Plummy and slam' | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. bought some bread. |
| 5. With Fagin and the Dodger, Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. were some kind of secret code for Fagin and his friends. |

Vocabulary

3 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. earn | a. to time |
| 2. take | b. under a roof |
| 3. look | c. one's own living |
| 4. have | d. no notice |
| 5. sleep | e. no idea |
| 6. from time | f. like |

4 Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- Mr Jones is one of the most _____ men in our neighbourhood. RESPECT
- Mario got bored listening to his travelling _____ talking throughout the journey. COMPANY
- The students watched in _____ their two classmates beating each other. AMAZE
- He was watching TV when he _____ heard a strange noise in the garden. SUDDEN
- Janet was _____ when she heard the bad news. SHOCK
- The burglar managed to get out of the house _____ SEE
- Stewart is a very hard _____ so his boss gave him a raise this year. WORK
- It rained all night and all the streets are _____ MUD

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Judging from what has happened so far, do you think that Oliver's decision to leave the workhouse was right? Why / Why not?
- What do you think Fagin and the Dodger want Oliver for?
- How do you feel about thieves and pickpockets?
- What do you think will happen to Oliver?

6 Imagine you are the old gentleman whose purse got stolen. Make a report to the police giving a detailed description of the boy who you think stole the purse and explaining what exactly happened. (60-80 words)