

CHAPTER 6

THE MORNING WAS COLD AND WET. A MIST LAY ON THE fields, and the rain fell softly. Oliver lay in the ditch half awake, his arm broken. He tried to get up, but he was dizzy and he fell down again. He had a feeling that if he didn't move, he would die.

So he rose, feeling like he was in a dream. He crossed the fields and came to a road. Further down he saw a house. Oliver decided to go there for help. It wasn't until he got close to the house that he realised it was the same house he had broken into! Terrified, Oliver thought of running away. But he had no strength left to run, so he forced himself to go forward and knock on the door. Then he collapsed.

Inside, the people of the house had been awake since the break-in. Two of the servants sat in the kitchen with their guns on the table. There was also the mistress of the house, Mrs Maylie, an elderly widow, and a beautiful young woman called Rose. Rose was an orphan whom Mrs Maylie had adopted. When they heard the knock, they all jumped with fright. Finally, they agreed to all go and see who was at the door so early in the morning. When they opened it, they saw Oliver lying on the step.

"It is a child!" cried Rose. "He is hurt; we must help him!"

"Wait!" cried one of the servants. "That is the boy who was with the burglars!" Mrs Maylie said: "Nevertheless, he is very young, and he is very ill. We must help him first and find out his story later."

Oliver was carried to a warm room and put to bed. He was exhausted and fell into a deep sleep. Rose and Mrs Maylie stayed by his bed.

"What are we going to do?" Rose asked. "The boy can't be a criminal! He is too young!"

Mrs Maylie sighed. "The young as well as the old can die, and the young as well as the old can be criminals."

"Perhaps the robbers forced him to come with them," Rose



said. "Perhaps he never had a mother to love or protect him! Is it right for us to send him to prison, where he will meet worse people? Think of me! I was an orphan, but you took me in and raised me like your own child. But if you hadn't, I might have been in the same position as this boy." As she said this, Rose began to cry.

Mrs Maylie took Rose in her arms and held her. "My dear girl," she said, "I wouldn't harm a hair on his head."

At that moment Oliver woke up. Slowly he told Rose and Mrs Maylie his story about the workhouse, the thieves, Mr Brownlow, and finally about the robbery. When he finished he was so tired that he fell asleep.

"Do you believe his story?" Rose asked Mrs Maylie.

"I do," she replied, "but a policeman might not believe it. So I think we should not tell the police about Oliver. We'll just take care of him till he is better."

Oliver needed a lot of care to get well. In addition to his broken arm, he had caught a fever after lying outside in the rain. But slowly he felt stronger, and the first thing he did was to thank Rose.

"Oh, you will have many chances to thank me," Rose said.

"I will be glad to do something for you," Oliver said.

Oliver liked living with Rose and Mrs Maylie. They liked to read books and play music, or just talk and laugh together. Rose offered to teach Oliver to read, and he agreed. Surrounded by happiness and love, Oliver thought less and less of his old life with Fagin, the Artful Dodger, Nancy and Sikes.



CHAPTER 6

Comprehension

1 Choose a, b, or c to complete the following sentences.

- When Oliver realised that the house he went to for help was the one he had broken into,
 - he collapsed.
 - he ran away.
 - he went forward and knocked on the door.
- The people inside the house
 - were having breakfast in the kitchen.
 - were still awake since the previous night.
 - were still sleeping.
- Rose was
 - an orphan Mrs Maylie had adopted.
 - a servant in Mrs Maylie's house.
 - Mrs Maylie's beautiful daughter.
- The people in the house decided to
 - call the police and tell them about Oliver.
 - take Oliver in and take care of him.
 - take Oliver in and then call a policeman.
- When Oliver told Mrs Maylie his story
 - she believed him.
 - she didn't believe him.
 - she asked Rose what she thought.

2 Match the two halves to make true sentences.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1. When Oliver first tried to get up from the ditch | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. that the boy would be well protected in their house. |
| 2. When Oliver showed up at the Maylie house | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. and had also caught a fever from lying in the rain. |
| 3. Mrs Maylie promised Rose | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. he wasn't feeling well and fell back down. |
| 4. Oliver had a broken arm | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. made him think less and less of his old troubles. |
| 5. The happiness and love Oliver found with the Maylies | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. the people realised he was with the burglars. |

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

adopt collapse harm protect raise force sigh agree

- My aunt and uncle had no kids of their own, so they decided to _____ one.
- When she heard the terrible news, she _____.
- Frank _____ himself not to scream when he saw the snake in his room.
- Car fumes _____ the environment.
- Stacey _____ with relief when she realised that she had passed her test.
- Tina's parents were away on business most of the time, so she was practically _____ by her grandparents.
- It's a fine day today, don't you _____?
- An effort should be made to _____ endangered species.

4 Find the opposites of the following words in Chapter 6.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. asleep | _____ (page 24) |
| 2. young | _____ (page 24) |
| 3. healthy | _____ (page 24) |
| 4. strong | _____ (page 24) |
| 5. inside | _____ (page 26) |
| 6. sad | _____ (page 26) |
| 7. unhappiness | _____ (page 26) |
| 8. hatred | _____ (page 26) |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- How do you feel about adoption? Would you ever consider adopting a child?
- What kind of life do you think children who have no one to love and protect them lead?
- What makes Rose so affectionate towards Oliver?
- Do you think Oliver has finally found peace in his life or will something happen to change all that?

6 Imagine you are Oliver. Briefly tell Rose and Mrs Maylie your story about the workhouse, the thieves, Mr Brownlow and the robbery. (80-100 words)