

CHAPTER 3

AS SOON AS THE PEOPLE NEARBY HEARD THE CRY "STOP thief!" they started chasing poor Oliver. Oliver ran as fast as he could and the people ran after him. Finally, someone knocked him down, and he fell to the ground bleeding.

"The boy is hurt!" said the old gentleman, bending over Oliver.

"Hurt or not, I will take him to the police magistrate," said a policeman who had just arrived at the scene. "You must come with us, sir," he told the old gentleman. The Artful Dodger was nowhere to be seen.

"So this is the young thief," the police magistrate said.

"It was not me, sir," Oliver said desperately, "It was someone else."

But the magistrate ignored him. "Are you the person who was robbed?" he asked the old gentleman.

The old gentleman looked at Oliver. The boy was pale and scared, but he did not look guilty. "Yes, I am," he said, "but I am not sure that this is the boy who took the purse." He kept wondering, "Where have I seen this face before? There is something very familiar about it!"

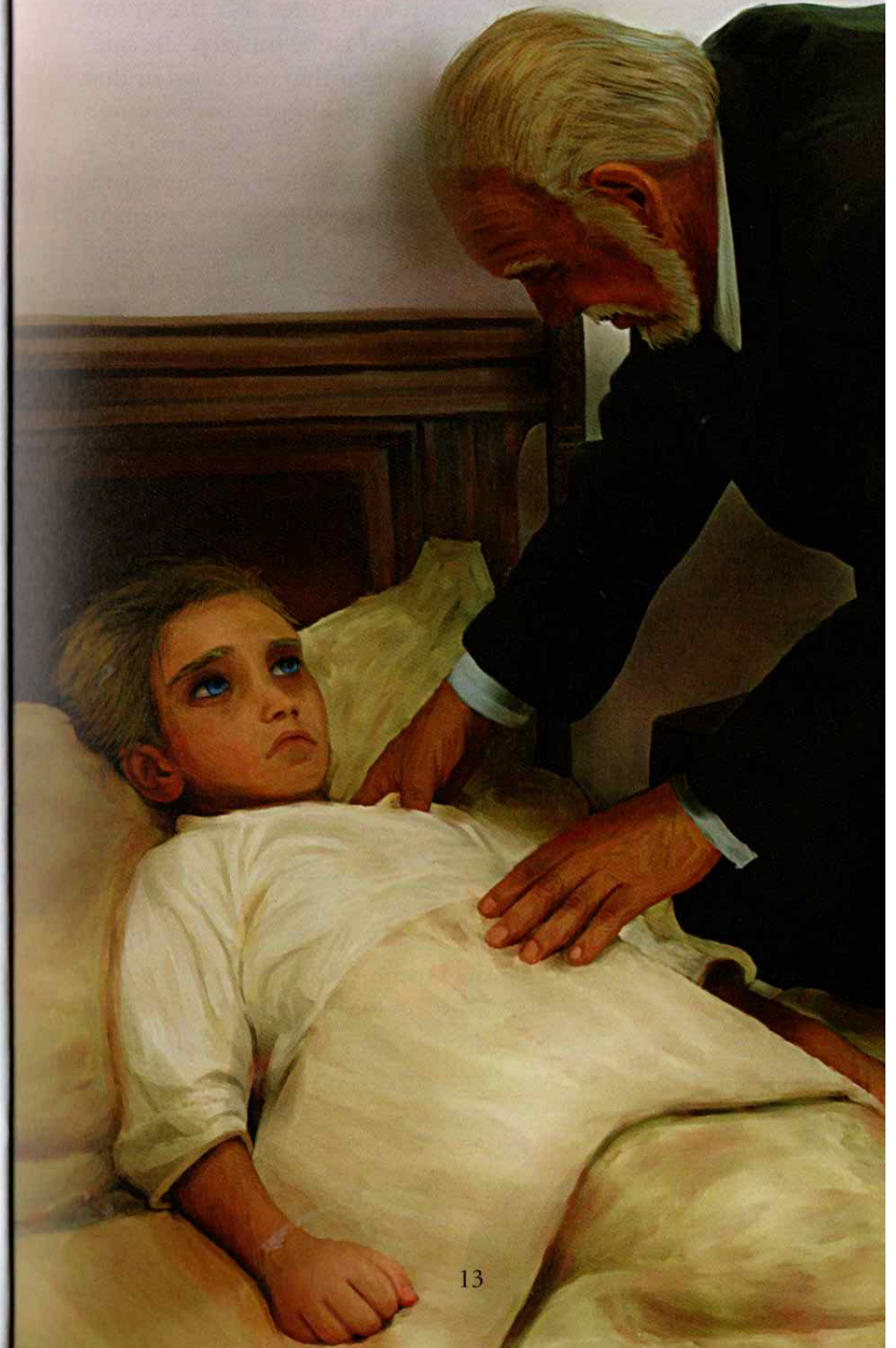
Then suddenly, the owner of the bookstall rushed in. "You have the wrong boy!" he shouted, out of breath from running. "I saw the thief!"

"Then this child did not commit the crime!" the old gentleman said, relieved. But at that moment Oliver fainted. "He is ill!" the old gentleman cried. "He needs a doctor!" The police magistrate allowed the old gentleman, whose name was Mr Brownlow, to take Oliver to his house to take care of him.

Mr Brownlow was a retired lawyer. He had never married and he lived alone, enjoying the company of books and old friends. Every room in his house contained paintings and other things that he had collected through a long and interesting life.

Oliver was carried into one of these rooms, and a doctor came to examine him.

"You are safe now," said Mr Brownlow. "Rest until you feel



better." Oliver was surprised to hear a kind voice. Mr Brownlow ordered some hot soup for Oliver. "You must be hungry," he said. The soup was thick and rich. Oliver thought that one bowl of that soup could feed a dozen orphans in the workhouse, with enough water added to it.

After Oliver had rested, he began to notice the room he was in. It was a comfortable room, full of paintings. One was the portrait of a young woman. She was very pretty, and she looked kind and loving. "But her eyes are so sad," thought Oliver, "they make me sad too." Just then, Mr Brownlow entered, and saw Oliver's face beside the face in the portrait. Oliver's eyes, head, mouth, and in fact his whole face, and even his expression, was an exact copy of the woman's face in the painting!

"Good heavens!" cried out Mr Brownlow. "What's this!"

Oliver, at these words, collapsed again. Mr Brownlow quickly went over to him.

"The boy is still very weak, and I must not worry him by asking too many questions. But I wonder what his story is," Mr Brownlow thought, as he tried to bring Oliver round. He also decided to take the painting down so as not to upset Oliver again.

As the days went by, Oliver became healthier than he had ever been. He appreciated Mr Brownlow's help and he wanted to be useful to the kind old man in any way he could. One day Mr Brownlow needed to return some books to the bookseller, and Oliver asked to be allowed to take them back, since he knew the place. Mr Brownlow didn't want to let him out of the house on his own, but he finally agreed.

Oliver happily set out with the books. As he approached the square, however, he saw a young woman walking towards him. Suddenly she cried out: "My brother! My poor, dear darling brother!" She threw her arms around him tightly and she cried, "You naughty boy! How could you run away?"

"I am not your brother!" Oliver tried to say, but he could not get out of the woman's arms. She dragged him down another street, and then into a house. In the dark, he saw his old friends waiting for him, Fagin and the Artful Dodger!



CHAPTER 3

Comprehension

1 Read Chapter 3 and match the two halves of the sentences.

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The people in the street | a. took Oliver to the police |
| 2. The policeman | magistrate. |
| 3. Mr Brownlow | b. knew who the thief was. |
| 4. The woman in the portrait | c. chased Oliver. |
| 5. The owner of the bookstall | d. wanted to take care of Oliver. |
| | e. looked a lot like Oliver. |

2 Put the following events in the order which they happened. Write 1-5 in the boxes.

- ☐ Oliver was arrested and taken to the police station.
- ☐ A woman kidnapped Oliver and took him back to Fagin's house.
- ☐ The police magistrate set Oliver free and Mr Brownlow took him into his home.
- ☐ The people in the street thought Oliver had stolen Mr Brownlow's purse.
- ☐ Oliver recovered from his illness and went out one day.

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b, or c to complete the sentences below.

- John had never met Diana before, but she looked very _____.
a. comfortable b. familiar c. guilty
- When he heard the bad news, Barry _____.
a. entered b. wondered c. fainted
- "Did you _____ the crime, sir?" asked the judge.
a. do b. commit c. ignore
- The doctor _____ the sick boy's bed to examine him.
a. rushed in b. knocked down c. bent over

- In the past twenty years, Mr Davis has _____ more than 50 paintings.

a. collected b. contained c. added

- The girl looked at me with a sad _____ on her face.

a. portrait b. expression c. voice

- My little brother is very _____ and is always getting into trouble.

a. useful b. naughty c. loving

4 Find words in Chapter 3 which mean the same as:

- running after _____ (page 12)
- lost consciousness _____ (page 12)
- not working any more because of age _____ (page 12)
- a group of twelve people or things _____ (page 14)
- said yes _____ (page 14)
- came nearer _____ (page 14)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Who was to blame for Oliver's arrest?
- What do you think of Mr Brownlow's attitude towards Oliver? Did he do the right thing?
- By the end of the chapter, Oliver is back with Fagin and the Dodger. Why did they want him back?
- What will Oliver do now?

6 Imagine that you are Mr Brownlow. A whole day has passed since Oliver left your house. Make a "Missing Person" poster asking for information about the boy. (60-80 words)