

CHAPTER 1

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND THERE WAS A SMALL TOWN, WHICH was much like all the other small towns around the year 1830. In the middle of this town was a building called the workhouse. It was a plain brick building for very poor people. Here they could find shelter or food if they were starving, but only the hungriest and most desperate went there. In the workhouse, a baby boy had just been born. It wasn't clear if the baby would live, because he was having trouble breathing. But after a struggle, the baby breathed, sneezed, and then started to cry as loud as he could.

A young woman raised her pale face from the pillow. In a low voice she said: "Let me see the child, and then die."

"Oh, you must not talk of dying yet!" said the doctor kindly, as he took the baby and gave him to his mother. She kissed her son's forehead with her cold lips. The doctor saw that she was very weak, and left the room to get some more medicine. Meanwhile, the young woman took a gold locket from around her neck, and gave it to the nurse.

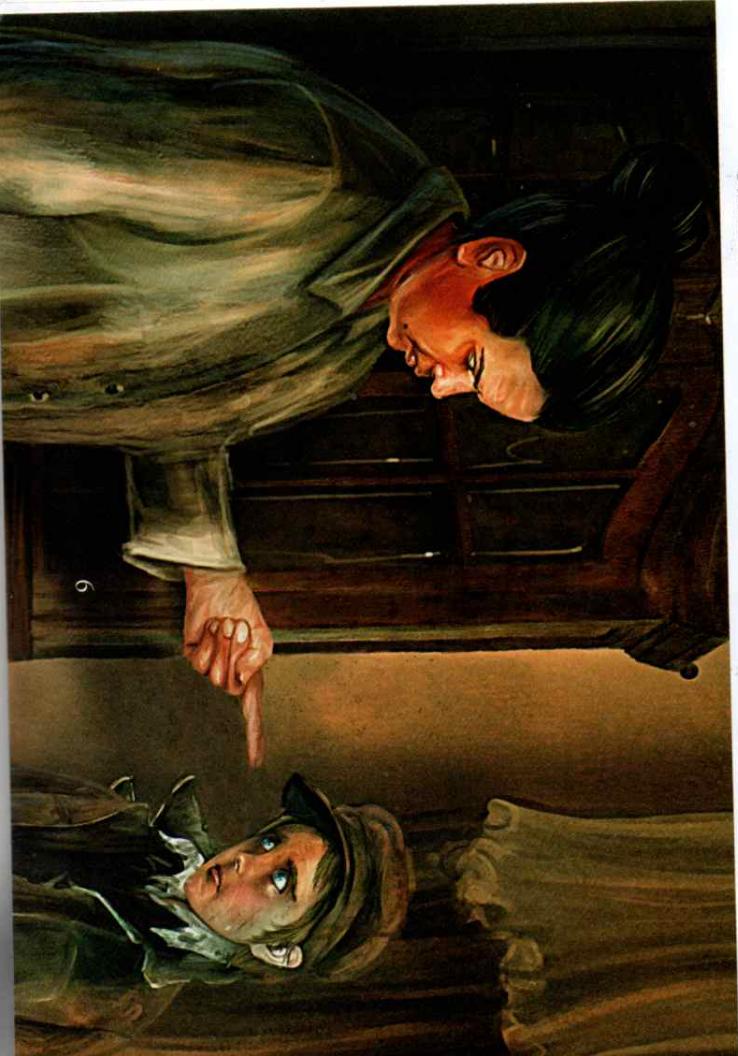
"This is the only thing I own," she said. "You must give it to my son when he is older." Then she took one last look at her baby, shivered, and fell back — dead!

Curious, the nurse looked at the locket. She opened it, and saw two locks of hair, and a gold wedding ring. The name "Agnes" was written inside the ring, but there was no last name. When she heard the doctor returning, she quickly dropped the gold locket into her pocket.

"It is all over," the doctor said, after a glance at the young mother. "She was a good-looking woman. Who was she? Where did she come from?"

"She was found lying in the street last night," replied the nurse. "Her shoes were worn out from walking. But we don't know her name, or where she came from, or where she was going." The nurse didn't say anything about the gold locket in her pocket.





The matron of the workhouse picked two letters from the alphabet, O and T, and named the boy Oliver Twist. If the baby had known what his life would be like at the workhouse, he would probably have cried even louder. He was just one of many babies born there, often without names. The government gave the matron, Mrs Corney, a little money to feed each child. But Mrs Corney liked money much more than she liked the miserable children and she kept most of the money for herself.

By the time Oliver was ten years old, he was very thin and short, with a pale but sweet face. One day Mrs Corney called him to speak to him.

"You know you're an orphan – that you have no father or mother, and that you have been brought up by us here?"

"Yes ma'am," said Oliver, shaking with fear.

"You must be taught a useful trade," said the matron.

"Tomorrow morning, you will begin picking oakum."

Picking oakum was taking apart old ropes from ships, so that the fibres could be reused. It was very hard work and Oliver's back hurt and his hands were covered in blisters all the time.



Working all day meant that Oliver was even hungrier by dinner time. However, Mrs Corney had found another way to save money. This was to add a lot of water to the soup. Every day each boy in the orphanage was only allowed one bowl of that watery soup. Oliver was starving. He picked up his empty bowl and went to the cook.

"Please sir, I want some more," he said.
The whole room fell silent. "What!" the cook finally said, angrily. Nobody had ever dared ask for more.

"Please sir," replied Oliver, "I want some more."

The man couldn't say a word. He hit Oliver on the head with the ladle and rushed out to Mrs Corney's office.

"Ungrateful child!" shouted the matron when she was informed about the incident. "That boy will be hanged one day. Lock him up in the basement!"

It was also decided that Oliver would be sent to work as an apprentice. Mrs Corney wanted him away from the workhouse as soon as possible.

The boy, however, had other plans – he was going to run away to London.

CHAPTER 1

Comprehension

1 Decide if the following statements are True or False.

1. Only the very poor chose to stay in the workhouse.
2. The nurse put the locket around the baby's neck.
3. The nurse didn't know where the young woman came from.
4. Mrs Corney kept most of the money given by the government for herself.
5. Each boy at the orphanage had two bowls of soup every day.

2 Choose the correct answer.

1. When the baby was born
 - a. he wasn't breathing at all.
 - b. he started crying.
 - c. he was having trouble breathing.
2. Inside the ring there was
 - a. a first name but no last name written.
 - b. a last name but no first name written.
 - c. neither a first name nor a last name written.
3. Oliver found out that picking oakum
 - a. was an easy job.
 - b. was a very hard job.
 - c. was a useful trade.
4. The cook hit Oliver because
 - a. he said he didn't like the food.
 - b. he asked for another bowl of soup.
 - c. he didn't eat his soup.

2. My brother felt _____ when we moved to a new city, because he missed his friends. _____
3. Barbara hadn't eaten anything all day and she was _____ by lunchtime. _____
4. She is so _____! She is always asking questions about everything. _____
5. I don't like _____ people who do not appreciate what others have done for them. _____
6. Lauren is still very _____ after her illness. _____
7. The _____ should give some money to the poor to help them. _____

4 Find words in Chapter 1 to match the definitions below. The first letter has been given for you.

1. not bright in colour, almost white p _____ (page 4)
2. something you take to cure an illness m _____ (page 4)
3. a large deep spoon for serving soup l _____ (page 7)
4. a minor event, a happening i _____ (page 7)
5. the part of a building which is under the ground b _____ (page 7)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. What do you think of Mrs Corney's attitude towards Oliver?
2. What do you think about life in a workhouse back in 1830? Is there anything like that today?
3. Oliver had to work hard picking oakum in the workhouse. Do children have to work nowadays? If yes, on what occasions?
4. Do you think Oliver will be able to carry out his plan? Why? / Why not?

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

weak starving useful government miserable ungrateful curious

1. The Internet can be very _____ if you're looking for information.

6 Imagine you are Oliver keeping a diary. Make a diary with all the notes you have made concerning the last few days of your life in the workhouse. (60-80 words)

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.

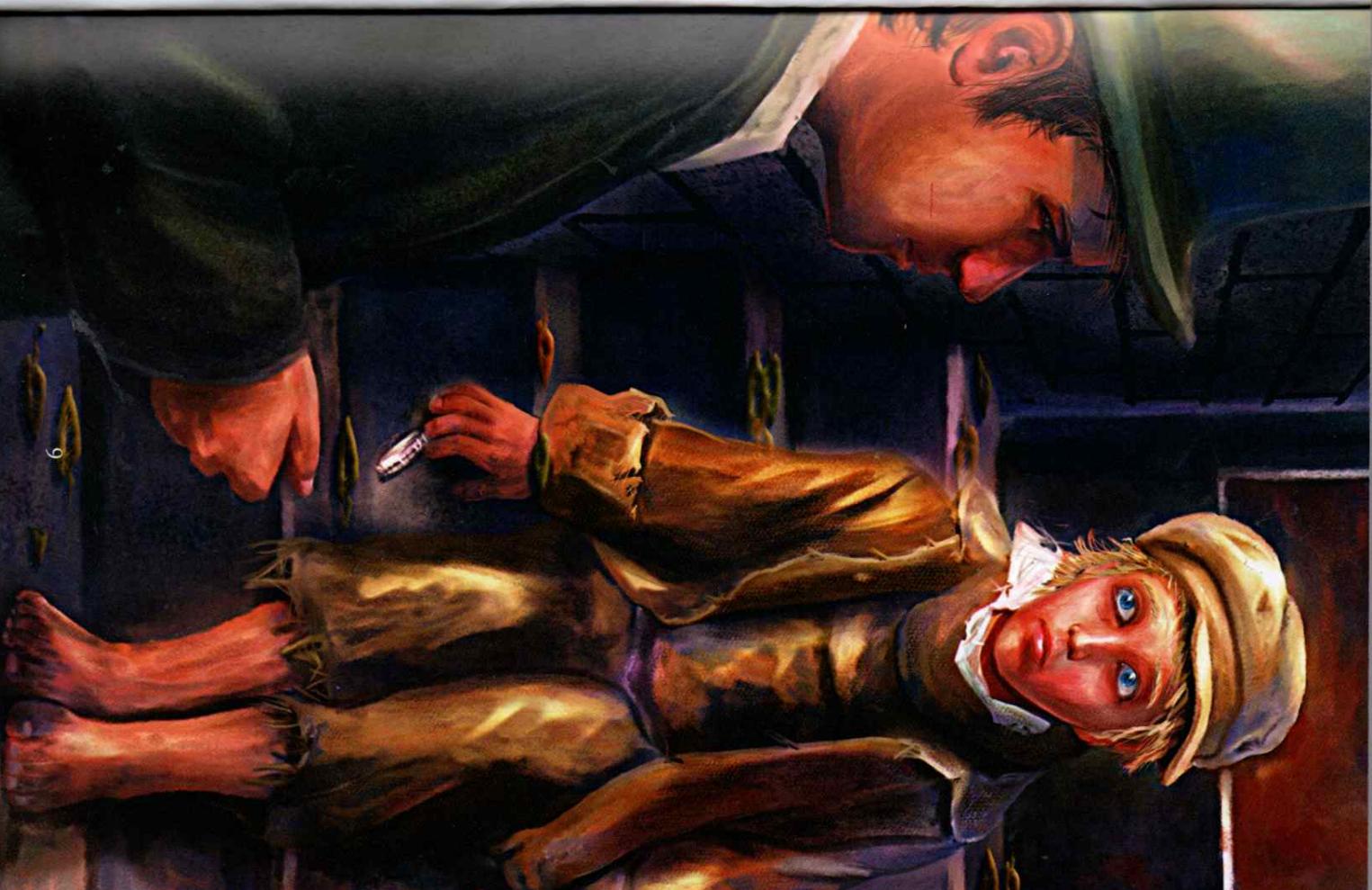
He spoke to Oliver. "Hello my covey! What's the row?" Oliver didn't understand, but he guessed the boy was asking how he was. "I am very hungry and tired," said Oliver. "I have been walking for seven days." Tears came into his eyes as he spoke.

"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.

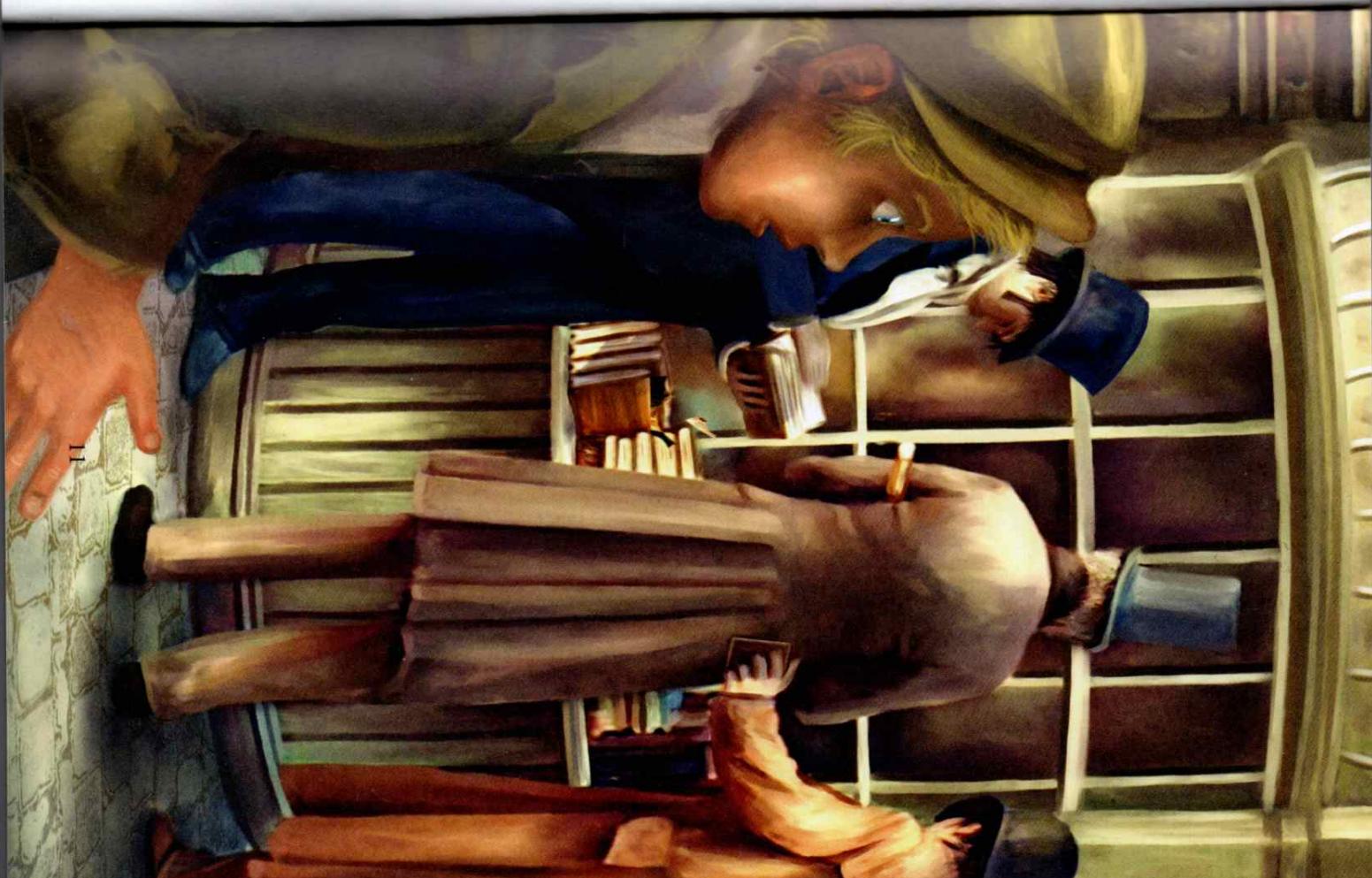
"Certainly, my dear Oliver. In a few days, the Dodger will show you how."

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.

- With his penny, Oliver a. steal from people in the street.
- Fagin had trained the b. stole the old gentleman's Dodger how to
- At the bookstall, the Dodger c. found a place to stay, but also
- The words 'Plummery and slam' d. bought some bread.
- With Fagin and the Dodger, e. were some kind of secret code Oliver 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
WORK
 - Stewart is a very hard _____ so his boss gave him a raise this year.
MUD
 - It rained all night and all the streets are
SEE
WORK
- 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)**
- 58
- 59

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!"

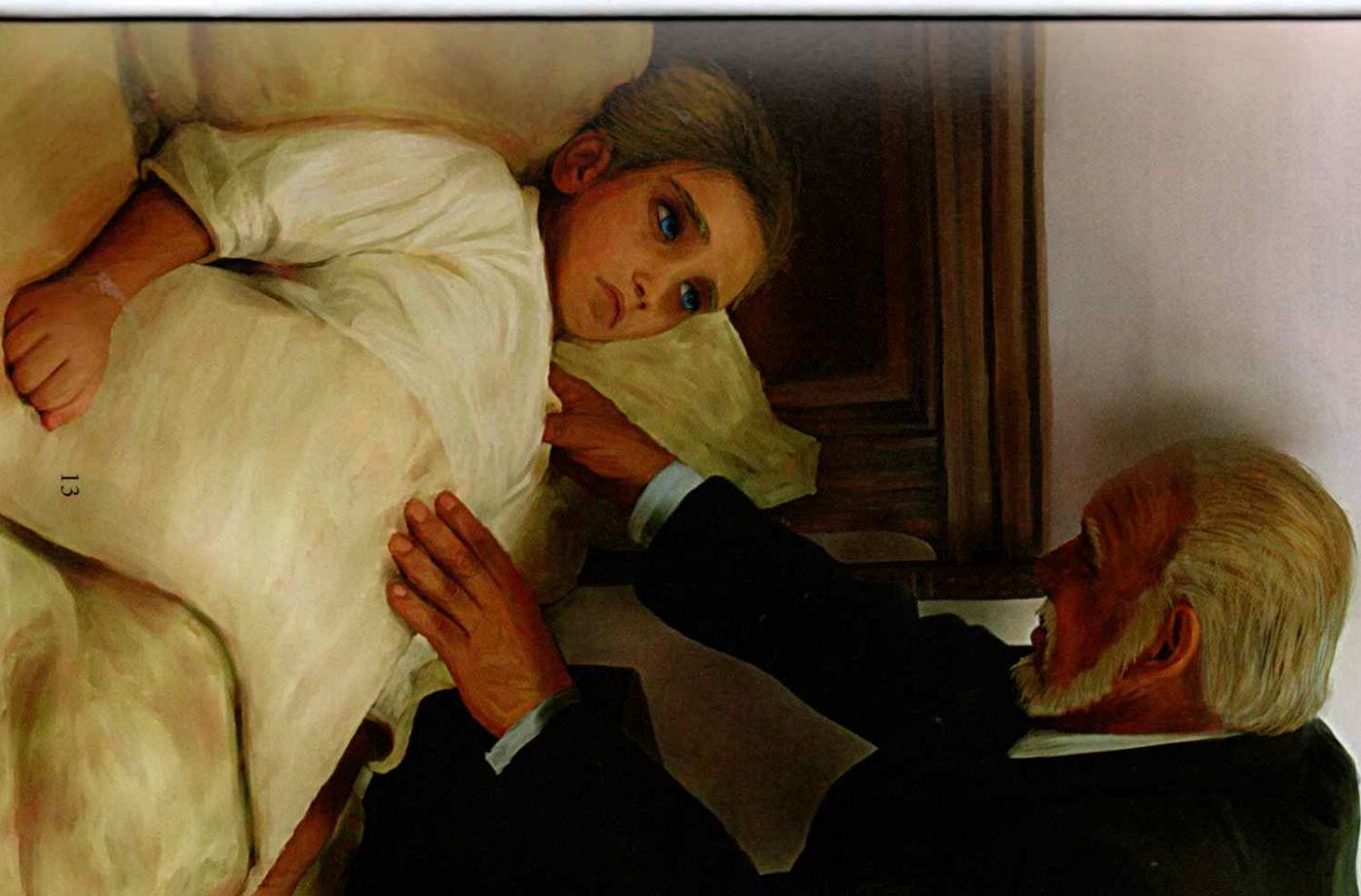
Then suddenly, the owner of the bookstall rushed in. "You have the wrong boy!" he shouted, out of breath from running. "I saw the thief!"

"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.

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

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

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

1. running after _____ (page 12)
2. lost consciousness _____ (page 12)
3. not working any more because of age _____
4. a group of twelve people or things _____ (page 14)
5. said yes _____ (page 14)
6. came nearer _____ (page 14)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. Who was to blame for Oliver's arrest?
2. What do you think of Mr Brownlow's attitude towards Oliver? Did he do the right thing?
3. By the end of the chapter, Oliver is back with Fagin and the Dodger. Why did they want him back?
4. 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)

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

- a. collected b. contained c. added

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

- a. portrait b. expression c. voice

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

- a. useful b. naughty c. loving

CHAPTER 4

“W

“WELCOME BACK, DEAR OLIVER,” FAGIN SAID MOCKINGLY.

“Thank you for bringing him home again, Nancy,” he added to the young woman who had kidnapped Oliver. Nancy was about twenty and very pretty. Like the Artful Dodger, she had been one of Fagin’s pupils. She was very good at lying and deceiving people.

Oliver knew he was in trouble, but spoke up bravely. “Please let me return these books! I owe this to Mr Brownlow. He took me in, and fed me, and was so good to me. Keep me here with you forever, but let me take them back! He will think I have stolen them!”

“No, it took a lot of effort to find you and bring you back, and I shall keep the books as payment,” Fagin said.

Before Oliver could reply, there was a call of “Plummy and slam!” “Open the door, Nancy, dear,” Fagin said. “And Oliver, you sit in the corner and don’t make any trouble. Or Bill Sikes will deal with you!” He laughed nastily, pointing at the door.

Bill Sikes was thirty-five, a big, strong man. His trousers were muddy, and he wore a dirty handkerchief around his neck. A white dog, with his face scratched and torn in twenty places, was following him. “Hurry up!” Sikes said to the dog, and gave him a kick.

“Good day, Bill dear,” said Fagin in a friendly tone to this unpleasant man. “Very cold day, isn’t it?”

“Yes,” said Sikes unpleasantly, “as cold as your heart.”

“Hush now, Mr Sikes,” Fagin said gently. Mr Sikes was in a very bad temper. He was a professional burglar who often worked with Fagin, so they began to discuss a house burglary that Sikes had been planning.

“There’s a big problem,” said Sikes. “We’ve got nobody to help us from the inside. The servants are all very loyal to their mistress.”

“That is unfortunate,” said Fagin. “But isn’t there another way

to break in? Remember, the precious gold plate is in there!"

"There is a way," Sikes said, "but I will need a boy. A small boy will be able to crawl through a window and unlock the door for us."

"That is no problem at all dear," Fagin said, looking at Oliver.

"I have the perfect boy for the job!"

Oliver realised that Fagin meant him. Terrified, he jumped up and ran to the door, banging on it and screaming for help. Bill Sikes' dog got to his feet, growling.

"Keep the dog back, Bill!" Nancy said suddenly, taking Bill Sikes' arm. "He'll tear the boy to pieces!"

"That would serve him right!" Sikes shouted. "Let go of my arm or you'll be very sorry!"

Nancy usually obeyed Sikes, but not now. With Oliver, she felt something she had not felt for a long time: pity for someone who was weak. She shouted at Sikes. "No! You'll have to kill me first!"

Fagin and the Dodger dragged Oliver back to his chair. "So you thought you would get away, didn't you," Fagin said to him, picking up a club.

Nancy let go of Sikes and grabbed the club. "No! I brought the boy here, but I won't let you hurt him!" she cried. "You'll make him a thief and a liar, just like you made me. Isn't that bad enough?" And saying this, Nancy burst into tears.

Sikes seized Nancy roughly and she fainted.

Now, Oliver didn't have any chance to escape. They kept him locked in the house. He kept thinking of Mr Brownlow. If only he could find him again!



CHAPTER 4

Comprehension

1 Complete the sentences with the correct name.

Fagin Oliver Sikes Nancy

- _____ was very good at telling lies to people.
- _____ wanted to take the books back to Mr Brownlow.
- _____ tried to be friendly towards _____.
- _____ was in a very bad mood.
- _____ felt bad about _____'s troubles and wanted to protect him.
- _____ and _____ planned to steal a gold plate from a house.
- _____ suggested they should use _____ to break into the house.

2 Complete the summary of Chapter 4 with words or short phrases.

Nancy _____ Oliver and brought him back to Fagin. Oliver was upset because he realised he was _____ and wouldn't be able to _____ for Mr Brownlow. Then, Bill Sikes with his _____ entered the house. He was a _____ and started discussing a _____ with Fagin. When Oliver realised that he was going to be used for the job, he _____ and ran to the door but he was stopped by Sikes' dog. Nancy tried to _____ Oliver from Sikes. She _____ his club and didn't let Sikes _____. Oliver now knew that he didn't have _____ to escape.

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences using the prepositions in the box.

into up in for at to of with

- Let go _____ my arm! You are hurting me.
- The burglars used a trained dog to break _____ the house.
- Helen is really good _____ painting. I think she's going to be a painter when she grows up.

4. If your mum finds the house in such a mess, you'll be _____ trouble.

5. There are still some problems I have to deal _____ in my new neighbourhood.

6. What are you pointing _____? I can't see very clearly.

7. When I heard the big bang I got _____ my feet and ran out of the house to see what it was.

8. When she heard the shocking news, she burst _____ tears.

9. Will you pick that pencil _____, please?

10. I really feel sorry _____ homeless people.

4 Complete the crossword.

- A person working in another person's house
 - Seize, violently take hold of something
 - Hit something very hard so that it makes a noise
 - To do what you are told
 - A heavy stick with one end thicker than the other
 - A try, an attempt
 - A person entering a house illegally
 - Unlucky
 - Valuable
- <img alt="A crossword puzzle grid with 15 squares across and 15 squares down. Squares 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 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CHAPTER 5

MEANWHILE, MR BROWNLOW WAITED FOR OLIVER TO return. As the time passed however, he realised that Oliver 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.

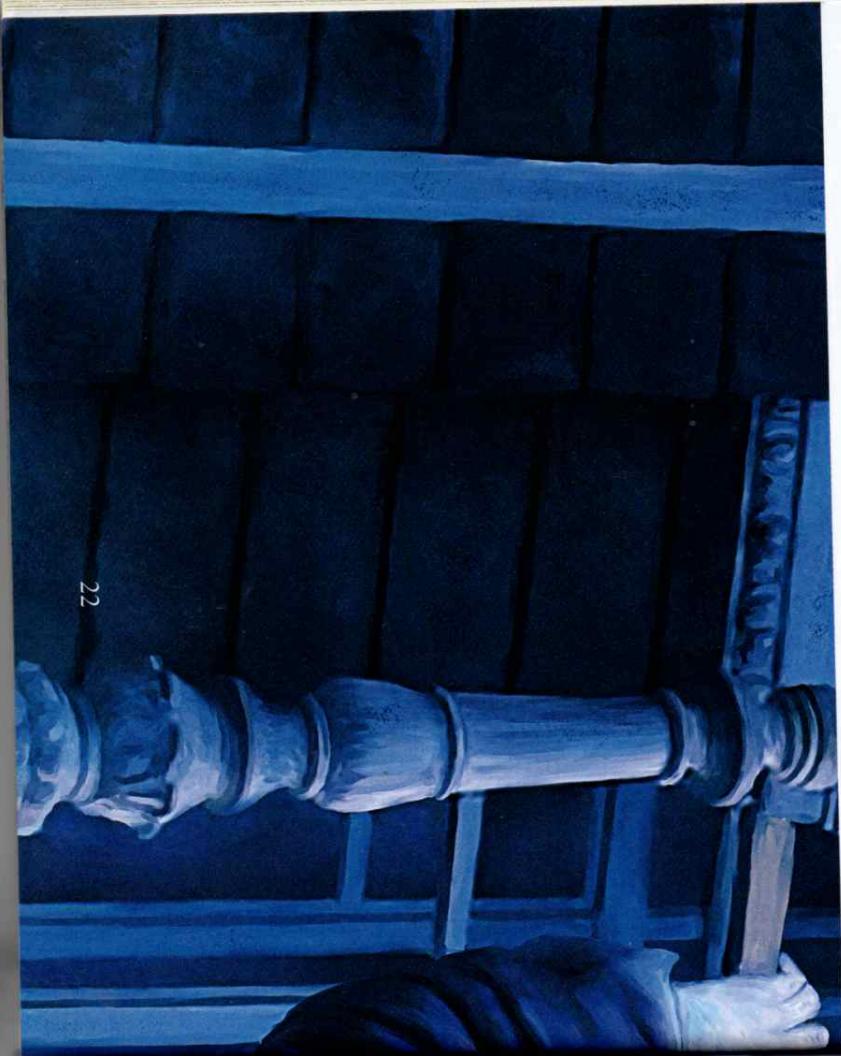
It was this woman who looked so much like Oliver. Was Oliver the key to the mystery? Mr Brownlow decided to do his best to find out. So he made a poster, offering a reward to anyone who could tell him anything about Oliver Twist. He put this poster up around London and in nearby towns, too. Then one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



"Ssssh! 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.

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| 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)
-

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.

- When Oliver first tried to get up from the ditch
 - that the boy would be well protected in their house.
- When Oliver showed up at the Maylie house
 - and had also caught a fever from lying in the rain.
- Mrs Maylie promised Rose
 - he wasn't feeling well and fell back down.
- Oliver had a broken arm
 - made him think less and less of his old troubles.
- The happiness and love Oliver found with the Maylies
 - 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.

- asleep _____ (page 24)
- young _____ (page 24)
- healthy _____ (page 24)
- strong _____ (page 24)
- inside _____ (page 26)
- sad _____ (page 26)
- unhappiness _____ (page 26)
- hated _____ (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)**