

Comprehension

CHAPTER 1

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.
5. Oliver's plan was
 - a. to continue picking oakum in the workhouse.
 - b. to run away and work as an apprentice.
 - c. to run away to London.

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.

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?

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)