

Stage 4 A2

Young Readers



Classic

charles dickens

oliver Twist

illustrated by
Gustavo Mazali



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YOUNG  READERS

Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist

Retold and activities by Jane Cadwallader
Illustrated by Gustavo Mazali



INTRODUCTION

- 2 Charles Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* nearly two hundred years ago. Life was very difficult for poor children, and there were many poor children! Very poor people lived in special houses called *workhouses*, where families couldn't be together and they had very little to eat. There wasn't much difference between a workhouse and a prison!

WHO WAS CHARLES DICKENS?

When Charles Dickens was a child, his father was put in prison. He left school and worked in a factory to help his family. When his father left prison, Charles Dickens went back to school



but he never forgot that difficult time. Charles Dickens was a kind man and he wanted people to know about the terrible life of poor people. Here is a message from Charles Dickens: 'Have a heart that never gets hard.'

3 MEET THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY



Oliver Twist:
The hero of the story



Mr Bumble:
The unfriendly head
of the workhouse



Fagin: The horrible head
of the gang of child thieves



Bill Sykes: Fagin's
dangerous friend



Nancy: A girl
in Fagin's gang



Mr Brownlow: A kind man
from London



Rose: A kind young woman
from the countryside



The Artful Dodger: A boy in
Fagin's gang. He got his name
because he is the best thief!



Mr Monks: A man who knows
about Oliver Twist's past

CHAPTER 1: Oliver Twist's early life

- 4 Oliver Twist was an orphan. He had no mother or father but grew up in a workhouse with other poor children. They were always cold and hungry. One day, the children were eating a small bowl of watery soup in the dining room.



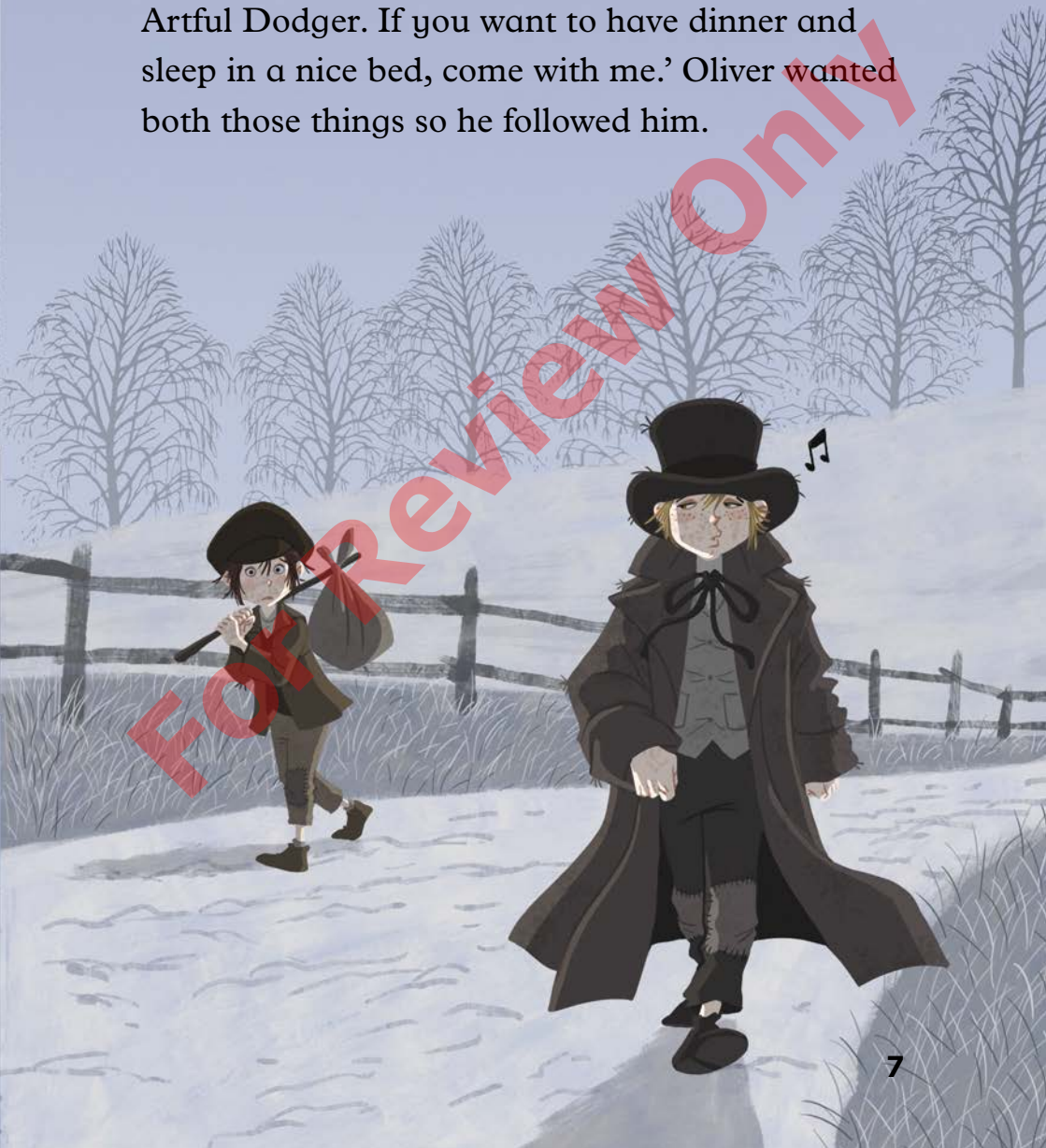
Mr Bumble, the head of the workhouse, was putting away the extra soup when Oliver Twist said, 'Please, sir. I want some more...' Mr Bumble couldn't believe his ears. 'WHAT DID YOU SAY?' he shouted and began to hit Oliver with a big soup spoon.



► 5 Mr Bumble was so angry that the next day he sent Oliver to work for an undertaker. Oliver was only 10 years old but he had to work hard. There was an older boy who worked there too, but he was unkind. Oliver was very unhappy! One morning, Oliver decided to run away and go to London. He thought, 'No one, not even Mr Bumble, will find me in London!' He started walking.



- 6 One day he saw a boy. He was whistling and he looked very funny! He was wearing a man's hat and a coat that came nearly to his feet! The boy smiled at him and said, 'You can call me the Artful Dodger. If you want to have dinner and sleep in a nice bed, come with me.' Oliver wanted both those things so he followed him.





Activity Pages



1 Think. Discuss with a partner.

- 1 Why did Charles Dickens write about poor people?
- 2 What does his message on page 2 mean?
- 3 How is your life different from Oliver Twist's?

2 Read the character descriptions on page 3 and write the names in pencil. As you read, you can change the names from one list to the other.

Good characters

Bad characters



3 Write the names and match the people to what they are thinking.

'Poor boy!'

'It wasn't him!'

'We must get him back!'

'Oh no! The Artful Dodger is a thief!'

'He's a thief!'

A



B



C



D



E

