

From The KS3 Fiction Book: Oliver Twist



This PDF download is copyright © English and Media Centre. Permission is granted only to reproduce the materials for personal and educational use within the purchasing institution (including its Virtual Learning Environments and intranet). Redistribution by any means, including electronic, will constitute an infringement of copyright.

**English
& Media
Centre**

EMCdownload



Stop! Read me!

1. What does this Video PDF include?

Pages 1-34 are activity sheets for you to print out. They look like this:



Activities which use a video clip are indicated with this icon: 

Clicking on this icon will take you directly to the video page.

Page 35 is a video page (like a DVD). A look like this:



These pages include all the video clips referred to in the activity sheets.

2. How do I play the video clips?

First make sure you have saved the file to your desktop.

To play the video clips you need to open the file in Adobe Reader 9 or above.

You can download this free application by clicking here.



Follow the instructions to install the latest version of the Adobe Reader program. Once it is installed and you have agreed the license, open the program.

Go to 'File – Open' and navigate your way to the PDF you have downloaded. **NB: The video files will not display or play if you open the PDF in Adobe Reader 8 or below.**

Move your cursor onto the video image. Click and the video will begin to play within the page.

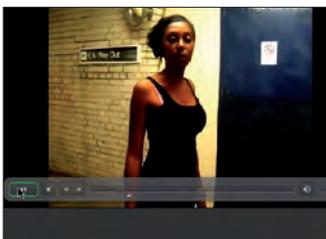
To play the video clips to a class you will need a computer, data projector and screen.

3. How can I play the video clips full screen?

Position the cursor on the video image. On a PC: right click. On a Mac either right click or 'Control+click'.

4. How do I stop the video clips playing?

Either move to another page in the PDF or click the Play/Pause button on the control panel, as shown here. **NB: The control panel is visible only when you move your cursor over the video image.**



5. What do I do after the video clip has finished playing in full screen mode?

To exit full screen mode, press the escape button on your computer.

In this unit you will:

- explore the connections between a nineteenth century novel and the time in which it was written and first read
- use drama to discover the way Charles Dickens brings characters to life
- prepare a reading of your own from the novel
- watch a key episode in a film adaptation of *Oliver Twist*
- do some short writing tasks about the film and about the novel
- have a go at some creative writing of your own.

The beginning of the story

Illustrations from Oliver Twist Pair and class work

The illustrations on page 2 are all taken from the same novel, *Oliver Twist*.

- Look closely at the drawings and try to work out what you think each one shows. You should think about:
 - what you imagine is happening
 - the characters (what they look like, which character seems to be the most powerful)
 - what the characters might be saying to each other.
- Take it in turns to feed back your ideas to the rest of the class.
- In the novel, each drawing has a caption or title underneath it to let the reader know something about it. Write a caption for each drawing. It should sum up what you think is happening. Be prepared to explain why you think your caption is a good one.
- Feedback your ideas for your captions. Talk about which ones you think work best and why. Your teacher will tell you the original caption for each drawing.
- What other ideas do the captions give you about what is happening and what the story might be about?

Sharing what you know Class work

You are going to read extracts from the first 13 chapters of *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. It was first published in monthly instalments in a magazine called *Bentley's Miscellany* between February 1837 and April 1839. It is set in London during the Victorian period.

- Spend five minutes sharing what you know already about:
 - Oliver Twist (the character and the story)
 - Charles Dickens
 - life in the Victorian period. For instance, what do you remember from the work you did in primary school?

Oliver Twist



Oliver asking for More



Oliver plucks up a Spirit



Oliver escapes being bound to a Sweep



Oliver introduced to the Respectable Old Gentleman

Getting started Class work

- Before you begin the story, read the following snippets of information about Charles Dickens and *Oliver Twist*.

From an early age Charles Dickens experienced poverty and hardship. His father was often in debt. When he was 12 Charles Dickens was sent out to work in a shoe polish factory. He also spent a brief period in the debtors' prison at Marchalsea. These experiences left a deep impression on him and they often found their way into his novels.

Charles Dickens is one of Britain's most famous writers.

Oliver Twist was his first novel. He wrote it when he was twenty five.

Oliver Twist was the first novel to have a child as its hero.

Dickens is famous for his larger than life, comic characters.

Dickens wanted to make his readers aware of the terrible conditions in which poor people lived. He sometimes uses humour, exaggeration and sarcasm to do this.

Oliver Twist was published two chapters at a time in monthly instalments – so it was a bit like a soap opera such as *EastEnders*.

In middle class families, a parent would often read the story out loud to the rest of the family.

Some poorer children learned to read at Sunday School and the Ragged Schools. These were free schools for poor children. Some factory owners employed people to read stories to their workers.

Charles Dickens used to tour the country doing public readings of his novels.

Dickens uses a lot of dialogue to bring his characters to life. He tries to show how people speak by the way he writes dialogue. This means that some of the spellings look very strange.

Dickens' language

Charles Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* more than 170 years ago. This means that you might find some of the language a bit tricky to understand. Don't worry if you don't understand all the words he uses, or if the way he expresses himself seems difficult to follow at first. If you are struggling, try reading the passage aloud – the way people would have done when it was first published.

Oliver Twist – the beginning of the story

One night a young woman is found lying in the street of an English town. She is brought into the workhouse where she gives birth to a baby boy and dies. Attending the birth are a surgeon and a nurse called Mrs Thingummy who drinks beer throughout.

- Listen to the extract from the end of the first chapter being read out loud.

Oliver Twist

‘It’s all over, Mrs. Thingummy!’ said the surgeon at last.

‘Ah, poor dear, so it is!’ said the nurse, picking up the cork of the green bottle, which had fallen out on the pillow, as she stooped to take up the child. ‘Poor dear!’

‘You needn’t mind sending up to me, if the child cries, nurse,’ said the surgeon, putting on his gloves **with great deliberation**. ‘It’s very likely it will be troublesome. Give it a little gruel if it is.’ He put on his hat, and, pausing by the bed-side on his way to the door, added, ‘She was a good-looking girl, too; where did she come from?’

‘She was brought here last night,’ replied the old woman, ‘by the overseer’s¹ order. She was found lying in the street. She had walked some distance, for her shoes were worn to pieces; but where she came from, or where she was going to, nobody knows.’

The surgeon leaned over the body, and raised the left hand. ‘The old story,’ he said, shaking his head: ‘no wedding-ring, I see. Ah! Good night!’

The medical gentleman walked away to dinner; and the nurse, **having once more applied herself to the green bottle**, sat down on a low chair before the fire, and **proceeded to dress the infant**.

What an excellent example of the power of dress, young Oliver Twist was! Wrapped in the blanket which had hitherto formed his only covering, he might have been the child of a nobleman or a beggar; it would have been hard for the haughtiest stranger **to have assigned him his proper station in society**. But now that he was **enveloped** in the old calico robes which had grown yellow in the same service, he was **badged and ticketed**, and fell into his place at once – a parish child – the orphan of a workhouse – the humble, half-starved drudge – to be cuffed and buffeted through the world – despised by all, and pitied by none.

Oliver cried lustily. If he could have known that he was an orphan, left to the tender mercies of churchwardens and overseers, perhaps he would have cried the louder.

¹ Supervisor

What type of story is it? Pair and class work

- What kind of story do you think this is going to be? Look at the list below to help you. Be prepared to explain your ideas. For example, you might argue that the name ‘Mrs Thingummy’ suggests it is going to be a funny story.
 - A horror story
 - A story about poverty
 - A criticism of the way the society is run
 - A funny story
 - A story which teaches the reader something
 - Like a pantomime
 - A story about the baby discovering who he really is
- Pull out two or three quotations from the extract to back up your thinking, then take it in turns to feed back your ideas to the rest of the class.

Language work – then and now Class work

- Look at the words or phrases printed in bold and talk about how you would explain them in everyday language. For each one work out what it is that makes this use of language different from your own. For example, is it:
 - the choice of words
 - the order of words in the sentence
 - the way the words are spelled
 - the way punctuation is used.

Plenary Class work

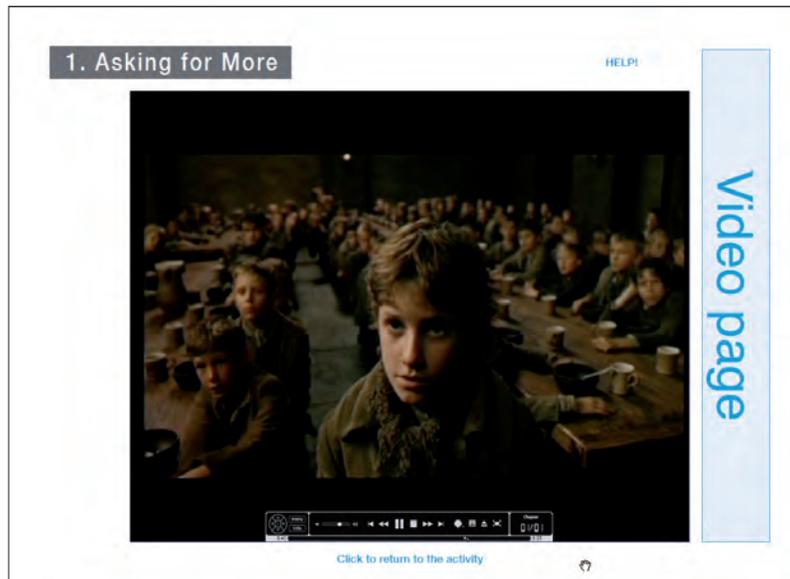
- Sum up what you have noticed so far about Dickens’ style of writing. You might like to share what you enjoy about the way he writes and what you find more difficult.

Video pages

The download you are previewing is a Video PDF publication.

This preview does not include the video pages.

In the download video pages (like a DVD) are included at the end of the PDF. They look like this:



These pages include all the video clips referred to in the activity sheets.

For a preview of the video clips included in the Video PDF publication, please click 'Video preview' on the website.

This PDF download is copyright © English and Media Centre. Permission is granted only to reproduce the materials for personal and educational use within the purchasing institution (including its Virtual Learning Environments and intranet). Redistribution by any means, including electronic, will constitute an infringement of copyright.

English
& Media
Centre

EMCdownload

