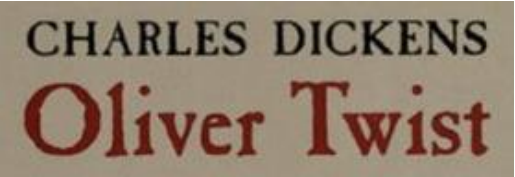


KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:



Core Knowledge

What was life like in Victorian London?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The population grew rapidly, which led to overcrowding.The city was polluted and unhygienic.There was a disparity in the quality of life for the rich and poor. This led to social inequality.Poor Victorians experienced deprivation. They often lacked access to enough food and proper housing.Children in poverty often worked to provide for their families.Children from wealthier families received an education while poor child often worked.

What were workhouses like in the Victorian era?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Workhouses became more common during the Victorian era.Desperation caused people in poverty to go to the workhouse for food and shelter.Workhouse life was difficult. People were given hardly any food and had hard, tiring work to do.Workhouses were designed to be so severe that no one would want to seek help from them unless they were desperate.

Who is Charles Dickens?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Charles Dickens wrote the novel ‘Oliver Twist’.His father was sent to prison for owing money. Dickens had to work in a factory to help pay off the money his father owed.Dickens did not agree with how the poor were treated and tried to raise awareness of this through his stories. This makes them social commentaries.Dickens wanted to promote altruism to help reduce the disparity between the rich and poor.

How did social inequality lead to crime? How were crimes punished in the Victorian era?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Crime, particularly theft, was a common problem in cities.Most crime was carried out by people in poverty due to their desperation.Punishments were severe: common punishments were imprisonment, hanging or transportation.Poor workers were desperate to keep their jobs and so were vulnerable to exploitation by employers.Exploitation of children was common: they were often used to steal things. Naïve children often did not understand that they were being exploited.

Plot
Oliver is taken to the workhouse just after he is born. His mother died giving birth to him. The conditions in the workhouse are dire; it is run by the corrupt Mr and Mrs Bumble who water down gruel, the food the boys eat, to keep the extra money for themselves. When he is older, he is nominated to ask for more food because the boys are starving.
The workhouse board think Oliver is ungrateful for asking for more food. He is then kicked out of the workhouse and sold to the Sowerberry family to be an undertaker’s apprentice. He is bullied by the malicious Noah Claypole, a poor child also looked after by the Sowerberrys. They fight and Oliver is locked up.
Oliver runs away to London. After a long and difficult journey, he meets Dodger and is introduced to Fagin’s gang. Oliver is naïve and doesn’t realise that Fagin is also corrupt and exploits the children, making them pickpocket for him.
Oliver is taken out with the gang and is horrified to see Dodger steal a gentleman’s handkerchief. Oliver is wrongly arrested for the theft. The gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, takes pity on Oliver and takes him in. The gang plot to get him back in case he reveals information about them, and Oliver is abducted by the gang whilst running an errand for Mr. Brownlow.
Oliver is used by Bill Sikes in a burglary. Although Bill threatens to shoot Oliver, Oliver refuses to break the law so he makes noise to wake the people in the house. They fail, Oliver is shot, and Sikes runs away. Oliver is left behind but the people who live there feel sorry for him and look after him. They are called Fred and Rose Maylie.
When Bill and Fagin realise what has happened, they plot to catch Oliver again. Nancy overhears and visits Mr. Brownlow to warn him. Fagin tells Bill about Nancy’s betrayal and Bill brutally murders her. Fagin is discovered and sent to prison, Dodger is transported to Australia and Bill dies trying to run away.
Oliver discovers that his mother was related to the Maylies. He and joins them and Mr. Brownlow to live happily ever after.

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
agency	The ability to make your own choices.
altruism	Being kind and helping others, without expecting anything back.
brutal	Very cruel and violent.
characterisation	What a writer makes a character like (as a fictional ‘person’).

compassionate	The feeling of care and sympathy for other people.
corruption	When someone uses their power unfairly to make life better for themselves.
critique	A judgement or criticism of something.
dehumanise	To treat someone as if they are less than human.
deprivation	When someone doesn’t have something they need, usually because it is taken away from them.
desperate	Needing or wanting something very much.
disparity	A big difference between two things, especially in the way people are treated or what they have.
exploitation	The act of treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work.
injustice	A lack of fairness.
malicious	When someone does or says things that are meant to upset someone.
manipulate	To control or influence someone or something unfairly.
moral	A lesson that can be learnt from a story.
naïve	When you easily trust or believe things because you don’t know much about life.
poverty	The state of being extremely poor.
severe	Describes something very strict or harsh.
social commentary	Writing about issues in society.
social inequality	When people in society do not have the same status, rights or opportunities
society	People living together as a community.
sympathy	The feeling of care or sadness for someone else’s troubles.
unpredictable	When someone or something can change suddenly without reason.
victim	Someone who has been harmed, often by other people.
villain	A bad person in a story, who harms other people or breaks the law to get what they want.
vulnerability	When someone could be easily harmed.
workhouse	A building where desperate people would go to work so they would get food and shelter.