Answer keys

**Oliver Twist**

**Book key**

1. Open answers
2. a apprentice, maid, pedlar, tinker, undertaker
   b villain
3. a young, attractive.
   b pale, thin, hungry.
   c locked in a room, beaten daily, offered for sale.
   d a chimney sweep, in need of money, ready to take Oliver.
   e an undertaker, a friend of Mr Bumble.
   f insults his mother.
   g mad, ungrateful, in need of a beating.
4. Open answers
5. a The boys had a meeting to decide who would ask for more. They had a vote and Oliver was the unlucky loser.
   b Noah Claypole is also a charity-boy, which means that his family gets money from the parish. But he is not an orphan, although his mother is a poor washerwoman and his father is a drunken, out-of-work soldier. He is older than Oliver and has worked for Mr Sowerberry for some time, so he feels superior to him. It is also in his character to treat anyone smaller and weaker than himself badly.
6. Open answers
7. a X  b ✓  c X  d ✓  e ✓  f ✓  g X  h ✓
8. Open answers
9. a The Artful Dodger is talking to Oliver in Barnet, outside London. He is pretending to be more important than he is to persuade Oliver to go with him into London. The respectable old gentleman is Fagin, the head of a gang of thieves, who is always looking for new boys to train as pickpockets.
   b Charley Bates is talking about Oliver, who is such an innocent little boy that he doesn’t realise they are a gang of thieves. If Oliver knew what villains these people were, he would not go out stealing with Dawkins and Bates.
   c The owner of the bookshop is talking to the magistrate (Mr Fang) after the magistrate has sentenced Oliver to three months in prison with hard labour for stealing from Mr Brownlow. He succeeds in persuading the magistrate that Oliver is innocent, and Mr Brownlow is then able to take Oliver to his home, where his whole life begins to change.
10. a Mr Brownlow is a good, kind man. He is sorry for Oliver, who is ill and injured. He is a weak character, not firm enough to stop the magistrate from sentencing Oliver. But he then takes the boy home with him and looks after him well.
   b Open answers
11. a Mrs Bedwin
   b Mr Grimwig
   c Nancy
   d Fagin
   e Charley Bates
   f Bill Sikes
   g Nancy
   h Toby Crackit
12. a Nancy catches Oliver in a dark street in a poor area. She pretends to be his sister, and she and Bill Sikes take Oliver back to Fagin.
   b Nancy protects Oliver. Although she is Bill’s girlfriend and has been a criminal all her life, she has some motherly feelings for Oliver because he is so weak and innocent. She is ashamed of her part in catching him and bringing him back to a life of crime.
   c Bill and Toby want to steal the silver from the house in Chertsey, but they can’t get into the house. The servants won’t help them and the doors and windows are locked. But there is one small window which is not locked. They need a small boy to get through this window and open a door for them.
13–14 Open answers
15. a do not find
   b arm, Mr Giles
   c on the doorstep
   d arrested
   e Nancy
   f before
   g young
   h probably not
16. a These are the words of Mr Giles, when they find Oliver injured on the doorstep. He wants to appear brave to Mrs Maylie and the other servants. In fact he is a complete coward.
   b Fagin is talking to Monks about Oliver. Fagin is surprised that Oliver is so innocent and basically honest. Most boys who have been brought up in the workhouse are easy to train as thieves.
c Monks says this to Fagin. They are worried because Nancy is helping and protecting Oliver. Monks is quite happy for Nancy to be killed; he is a heartless criminal. Even Fagin will not kill someone without good reason.

d Rose Maylie is talking about Oliver to the doctor. Because Oliver is so young and pale, Rose is sure that he is an innocent victim. Rose’s character is very sympathetic and good. She and her aunt protect Oliver and take him into their family.

17 Open answers

18 a Open answers

b Nancy was an orphan, like Oliver, and grew up with thieves. She was taught by Fagin and has lived with villains on the streets all her life. She has grown up a criminal, but she is showing kind feelings towards Oliver, so she cannot be all bad. She can see that he is an innocent child and she doesn’t want him to follow the same path in life as she did. Bill Sikes treats her very badly, so it is hard to understand why she stays with him. She must think that she loves him and should be loyal to him.

19 a 5 b 3 c 6 d 9 e 1 f 7 g 4 h 8 i 2

20 Possible answers:

a Nancy loves Bill Sikes and is loyal to him although he treats her very badly. She will not give him up to the police or run away from him. Sikes uses Nancy. He doesn’t love her or respect her or even appreciate what she does for him.

b Rose Maylie is kind and generous. She sees only the good in everyone. She offers Nancy safety and a new life because she is sorry for her and grateful for her protection of Oliver. Nancy is grateful to Rose and thinks she is kind. But it is too late for her to change. She will not betray Sikes.

21 Monks is a villain. He is very interested in Oliver and has found and destroyed some evidence of his birth. He wants Fagin to train Oliver to become a thief and for Oliver to be arrested, but he doesn’t want Oliver to be killed. He is trying to trap him into becoming a criminal. He calls Oliver his brother.

22 Open answers

23 Rose, happy/pleased arrested, snuff-box, magistrates, laugh, eleven, London, let, followed/watched, goes, sees/meets, next/following, Brownlow, Monks, throat, safe/quiet, saved/helped

24–25 Open answers

26 a If Fagin or Sikes is arrested, they will certainly be hanged for their crimes. Many of Fagin’s boys have been hanged before. It is a real and constant threat. If Nancy tells the police where they are, it could mean their deaths.

b Open answers

27 a × b ✓ c × d ✓ e ✓ f ✓ g ✓ h ✓ i × j ×

28 Open answers

29 One of Oliver’s father’s relations died and left a lot of money. Monks wanted all the money, so he did not want anyone to know that Oliver was his brother. If they did find out, and Oliver was a criminal, Oliver would not receive any of the money anyway. Mr Brownlow makes him share the money with Oliver, so Oliver becomes rich. Oliver is also happy at the end of the story, because he becomes Mr Brownlow’s son and lives near Rose.

30–39 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–4 Open answers

5 Possible answer: Oliver Twist is born to an unmarried mother in the workhouse. His mother dies shortly after his birth and he spends his early years with a nurse who treats all her charges badly. He is thin and undernourished. When he is nine he is taken back to the workhouse. He is so hungry that he asks for more food. This outrages the authorities and they quickly seek to apprentice him. He goes to work for an undertaker where he is taunted by one of the other boys. He is so unhappy and lonely that he decides to run away to seek a better life.

6–8 Open answers

9 Possible answer: Mr Bumble: Oliver Twist is an ungrateful, impertinent scoundrel. He refuses to obey the rules and makes life very difficult for us at the workhouse. He is a pauper and should realise that he is lucky to be alive. Without the kindness and devotion of the authorities he would have died on the day he was born.

10–12 Open answers

13 Fagin is a bully – he throws a pot of beer at the Dodger. He forces Nancy to do his dirty work by allying himself with Sikes to convince her to go to the police station. He is cruelly sarcastic towards Oliver when he has recaptured him. He locks Oliver in a room on his own for many days. He sends Oliver on a dangerous robbery with Sikes.

14–23 Open answers
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24 Possible answer: Yesterday in court, John Dawkins, also known as 'the Artful Dodger' appeared in court for pickpocketing. The defendant refused to answer to the charge against him and instead attempted to make a mockery of the court proceedings by saying he would be appealing to the Home Secretary. The magistrate sent him to the cells.

Activity worksheets key
1 a T b T c NT d NT e T f T
2 a 2 b 3 c 1 d 3
3 a The Artful Dodger
   b Fagin
   c Oliver Twist
   d Charley Bates
   e Mr Brownlow
   f Mr Fang
   g the bookseller
4 a 4 b 3 c 7 d 6 e 5 f 2 g 1
5 a Bill Sikes is talking to Fagin about the way he treats the boys.
   b Nancy is at the police station, pretending she has lost her brother.
   c Fagin is talking to Sikes about the things they are hoping to steal from the house in Chertsey.
   d Bill Sikes is threatening to kill Oliver if he doesn’t obey him during the robbery.
6 a Because they take pity on the boy and cannot believe that such an innocent-looking child could have taken part in a robbery.
   b He is possibly trying to teach the reader about the importance of the presumption of innocence and the risk of jumping to quick conclusions.
   c Dr Losberne saves Oliver from being arrested by making Giles realise that he cannot be sure Oliver was the boy he shot in the dark.
   d Oliver leads a very peaceful and happy life in the country with the Maylies.
7 a Monks
   b Dr Losberne, Rose, Mrs Maylie
   c Bill Sikes
   d Mrs Maylie, Rose
   e Monks
   f Monks
   g Mr Bumble
   h Mr Bumble
   i Nancy, Rose
   j Bill Sikes
   k Monks
   l Nancy
8 a NT. Monks gives Mrs Bumble £50 for her information about Old Sally.
   b T
   c NT. Sikes sends Nancy to Fagin’s to get some money.
   d T
9 Possible answers:
   a she is extraordinarily pale
   b he managed to turn Oliver into a thief
   c Oliver’s real identity
   d she can talk with Mr Brownlow
   e Nancy has another lover
   f he thinks she has betrayed him to the authorities
10 a Bill Sikes thinks of escaping to France after he has murdered Nancy.
   b Edward Leeford and Monks are the same person.
   c Oliver Twist and Edward Leeford are half-brothers – they have the same father.
   d Bill Sikes dies on Jacob’s Island.
   e Mr Brownlow adopts Oliver Twist when he realises he is the son of his good friend.
11 a Fagin is hung. Oliver Twist is adopted by Mr Brownlow. Charley Bates gives up crime and becomes a farm labourer. Mr and Mrs Bumble become paupers and end up in the workhouse. Monks takes his share of the money and goes abroad.
   b–d Open answers

Progress test key
1 a 7 b 2 c 4 d 6 e 8 f 5 g 1 h 9 i 3
2 a Mr Bumble
   b Dr Losberne and Mr Grimwig
   c Bill Sikes
   d Mr Brownlow and Dr Losberne
   e Fagin, the Artful Dodger, and Mr Grimwig
   f Fagin
   g Nancy
   h Monks and Oliver
3 1 b 2 c 3 a
4 a NT b T c NT d T e NT f T g NT
5 Oliver Twist was born in a WORKHOUSE to an UNMARRIED mother. His mother died soon after he was BORN, and he grew up with twenty or thirty other young ORPHANS. When he was nine he was APPRENTICED to an undertaker, but he was so
Oliver Twist

unhappy there that he decided to run AWAY.
After walking for many days, he arrived in BARNET
where he met Jack Dawkins who said he knew an old
gentleman who would offer him SHELTER and a job.
Oliver accepted the offer, but it soon became clear that
the old gentleman was in fact the leader of a gang of
THIEVES/PICKPOCKETS.
The old man tried to teach him how to PICK.
pockets, but Oliver was not a good pupil and he was
ARRESTED while out on his first ‘job’.
Fortunately for Oliver, the man whose pocket the gang
had picked took PITY on him and Oliver’s fortunes
began slowly to change.
The gang managed to KIDNAP/CAPTURE Oliver
once more and forced him to take part in a ROBBERY/
BURGLARY, but in the end everything ended well for
him, and he was ADOPTED by Mr Brownlow and
lived a happy and contented life.