**OLIVER TWIST**

**BY**

**CHARLES DICKENS**

**About the Novelist**

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| **Charles Dickens**  Charles John Huffam Dickens | |
| [Charles Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dickens_Gurney_head.jpg) | |
| **Born** | 7 February 1812 [Portsmouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth), England |
| **Died** | 9 June 1870 (aged 58) [Higham, Kent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higham,_Kent), England |
| **Resting place** | [Poets' Corner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poets%27_Corner), Westminster Abbey, England |
| **Occupation** | Novelist |
| **Notable works** | * [*The Pickwick Papers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pickwick_Papers) * [*Oliver Twist*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Twist) * [*Nicholas Nickleby*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Nickleby) * [*A Christmas Carol*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carol) * [*David Copperfield*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Copperfield) * [*Bleak House*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleak_House) * [*Little Dorrit*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Dorrit) * [*A Tale of Two Cities*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Tale_of_Two_Cities) * [*Great Expectations*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Expectations) |
| **Spouse** | Catherine Thomson Hogarth |
|  |  |
| **Children** | * [Charles Dickens Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Dickens_Jr.) * [Mary Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Dickens) * [Kate Perugini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Perugini) * [Walter Landor Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Landor_Dickens) * [Francis Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Dickens) * [Alfred D'Orsay Tennyson Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_D%27Orsay_Tennyson_Dickens) * [Sydney Smith Haldimand Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sydney_Smith_Haldimand_Dickens) * [Henry Fielding Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Fielding_Dickens) * [Dora Annie Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dora_Annie_Dickens) * [Edward Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Dickens) |
|  | |
|  | |

* **Charles John Huffam Dickens** 7 February 1812 – 9 June 1870) was an English novelist and social critic who created some of the world's best-known fictional characters, and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the [Victorian era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era).His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime and, by the 20th century, critics and scholars had recognised him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories are widely read today.
* Born in [Portsmouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth), Dickens left school at the age of 12 to work in a boot-blacking factory when his father [John](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dickens) was incarcerated in a [debtors' prison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debtors%27_prison). After three years he returned to school, before he began his literary career as a journalist. Dickens edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote 15 novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles, lectured and performed [readings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penny_reading) extensively, was an indefatigable letter writer, and campaigned vigorously for [children's rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children%27s_rights), for education, and for other social reforms.
* Dickens's literary success began with the 1836 serial publication of [*The Pickwick Papers*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pickwick_Papers).

**ABOUT THE NOVEL OLIVER TWIST**

* Oliver Twist; or, The Parish Boy's Progress, is the second novel by English author Charles Dickens. It was originally published as a serial from 1837 to 1839, and as a three-volume book in 1838.
* **Originally published:**April 1839
* **Author:**[Charles Dickens](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Charles+Dickens&si=ALGXSlYzFQQn5id74gU-GPAR8UsllKNebHx5zj2txQsc1FfqFPsPtXCPXGMXmALEvHYhEa7ECRl4fw6EjlptVsGoA52uXXI4JSdaMrgJAhAoU8X-8SvtH04EFhp5BSNTr_erJtKEKB2O-uqqU54onabpyku2lLINXmnA2Num7IpCoRdY-PTUIWGIoLDoCQ1CY9Jq33D6gRK5aD2g5x1fqy4Bs6Lv_OweOQ%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoAHoECCgQAg)
* **Characters:**[Fagin](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Fagin&si=ALGXSlYh1-GEPndq7qMo--O-TPixQtNN4JMroSxgItz5kq0stE2EpXp39WUwhdtbRUWCaZNTmpQ3QCg2E8uua5dn38h3H9w6iHmwxxxHv3jRSlBIyo95xMHD_syzcgrtM7pRT0JD07LZq4dbBMMvugfbfOb-4TIAVBweVba5wM84KNejyXDe-5h76ArkPtYd0shcXAxo9zkSjzxFrBGc4kTGksH1-gbeQm1KCcV4_RmMg2yrLPUvER5c1UhuRkIfzhIy4nYLJf8OHLM3xbKr73-un_qCx07WOg%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoAHoECCUQAg), [Artful Dodger](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Artful+Dodger&si=ALGXSlYh1-GEPndq7qMo--O-TPixQtNN4JMroSxgItz5kq0stASrPfS7XAGtU7xDyd36OIBzNhD8jnYrFvxkzZsvEefonrefMkEi_3KAIbPVCZrAe5HjkQLsIBroYKLp4DbdZm3Tw12YP7-lpI2M8MLJtU0asw6J2FsjlikXaMpUWYySwfEkwMWLnuOmzpWsEwJjPWNaNW3beI2PS4q38Z4cwiEGV80PsdqsDuBssBQooROCz6PEvdRaDKzuLBtVJTxUHEoPgQE8ArkJmEmPsn0Bf_Lp02x-rg%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoAXoECCUQAw), [Bill Sikes](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Bill+Sikes&si=ALGXSlYh1-GEPndq7qMo--O-TPixQtNN4JMroSxgItz5kq0stCH9E5VHRC9kCgFZbHKrFiRmidn1VhA5U_sq0kbTil_WOFO9V2rLNEkcWsLHHhoh0aqpqU6rNjsa6L034jmYmkbxkU6LhgFRHoeUsyi_7x7hP2VzIs-n75g2KAW4WFJeW6WH3JF17MdRkYgW2Zs-lK_ppkG03VEMkEyUzE70nycBgwzANtOsjIaeajoiyB2lLxHjvNhGIvd2K2XAWOYJnsLxArw9vM3hv2hQUAnoJoYMYzbPNA%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoAnoECCUQBA), [Mr. Bumble](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Mr.+Bumble&si=ALGXSlZZLz93Q5j8HVkpXyxpTaoqXw8cocmoi-DFAGsSj5diF9BpL6UxL6d0GDJLo_yKEAr5ALwmq7It06JGACMUbAvXgpxyVLAOSjsGVwuWLhzlddAvZvb9Bc8Zgp0tIAgZ2nBw9Vi8tGP2wziWwyLOJOb-duTdynaDudAosKR9Rm3IgwGHUD3UhJkWGWptIywqkJ7J41mDDyfaCACUUk64ksbK4D_eEfT08yTTg0UlII3cwhhhzcuJk0nnCVlW2h6hjksdtKWOqsJyqxPRXkh_mZHMaTN6vg%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoA3oECCUQBQ), [Nancy](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=Nancy+(Oliver+Twist)&si=ALGXSlYh1-GEPndq7qMo--O-TPixQtNN4JMroSxgItz5kq0stDSdJ8avFC1JDjx9mUKfHT3ca8U5HUX3g-gOTmj0dA0g1ldCQrpOAdm7AdVcUkEGUCKDA5lzF14BAVc8q8d2v_BvDjdTx9JpO3UFpvJXJptl6g_dGdwZ2NXclCf8d_gh5WLdyCYLWj-5Quxv7I2U-UJg37BK0J00doYKnYjSGqZJYXBoHp6CFQWV2sy0cF5tZgGn1gd3Xp4XVHb4ghayR2OqPbbh5CAOoHzJ1zI9AKGWxG4Zog%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQmxMoBHoECCUQBg), [MORE](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=574716396&rlz=1C1ONGR_enIN1068IN1068&q=oliver+twist+characters&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MDRNTrPQUspOttJPys_PBhNWyRmJRYnJJalFxfHlGfk5qQWJ6amLWMXzczLLUosUSsozi0sUEGoAj5IfFEsAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiN9vDat4GCAxUbgFYBHRnwC6cQ44YBKAV6BAglEAc)
* **Genre:**Serial novel
* **Original title:**Oliver Twist; or, The Parish Boy's Progress

## What Is *Oliver Twist* About?

*Oliver Twist* is English novelist Charles Dickens' second novel. Oliver Twist is a **satirical**novel, which uses humor and irony to unveil the lives of criminals and orphans to explore the realities of domestic violence and child labor in [19th century London](https://study.com/learn/lesson/victorian-england-society-social-classes-culture-1800s.html). Although the plot can sometimes be complex, to answer *what is*Oliver Twist*about*: the novel follows a young orphan named Oliver Twist in his dismal and often cruel life.

## Characters

Although there are many *Oliver Twist* characters that appear, the main characters are:

**Oliver Twist**

The titular character is born an orphan and is forced into unjust and cruel situations from *child farms* to workhouses to a life of crime. He is constantly thrown into trusting the wrong adults. The boy's innocence reveals the extreme suffering of the poor in Victorian England. Oliver's pure actions like asking for food and attempting to stop a burglary show how misfortune lives can be difficult to escape.

**Fagin**

He is hired by a man to turn Oliver into a criminal. He constantly does the wrong thing out of greediness and doesn't see anything wrong with harming children for his gain.

**Nancy**

Nancy attempts to break away from the safety of Fagin's gang to help Oliver, leading to her murder. Her desire to do the right thing leads to her martyrdom and shows that no matter the circumstances people are put in, it is up to them to do the right thing.

**Mr. Bumble**

A wealthy stakeholder in the cruel [**workhouses**](https://study.com/academy/lesson/workhouse-overview-history-facts.html)meant to help the poor, [Mr. Bumble](https://study.com/learn/lesson/mr-bumble-oliver-twist-charles-dickens-traits-analysis.html) upholds systems that oppress the very people he's meant to help.

**Artful Dodger**

Another one of Dickens' orphan characters, the young boy is taken in by Fagin and finds Oliver while he's running away. The Artful Dodger shows how poverty can lead people into a life of crime for survival.

**Bill Sikes**

Another one of Fagin's group, [Bill Sikes](https://study.com/learn/lesson/bill-sikes-oliver-twist-character-analysis.html) is a violent man. Bill's inability to control his anger leads him to kill Nancy, and ultimately leads to his own consequential death.

**Monks**

Although he doesn't appear until the end of the novel, he is key in Oliver's fate. Monks is Oliver's half-brother, and although he wanted Oliver out of the picture to get a bigger inheritance, he is forced to sign over the money to Oliver. Monks acts only out of selfishness, which leads him to gain nothing.

## *Oliver Twist* ‘summary

Although the novel follows the childhood of Oliver, Dickens weaves many characters into his life who influence each other's actions and consequences, leading *Oliver Twist's*plot to be complex and interconnected. *Oliver Twist's* summary condenses the key aspects of his dismal childhood and connects the characters' interdependent lives.

* The novel introduces Oliver Twist, who was born in early Victorian London to an unidentifiable woman who died after giving birth to him.
* Oliver spends his youth in a sort of orphanage which Dickens calls a *child farm* until it is decided he is old enough to work. At almost nine years old, Oliver is sent to work at an adult workhouse. Here, he suffers tremendously and is left hungry. Left with little food, he utters the famous words: please sir, I want some more. Disgusted with the boy's hunger, the parish officials sell Oliver to Mr. Sowerberry, an undertaker, who uses him as an apprentice to his trade.
* After being mistreated again, he runs away to London, where he befriends the Artful Dodger and Fagin, who let Oliver live with them and teach him pickpocketing.
* While pickpocketing, Oliver is caught by Mr. Brownlow, a victim of the team's criminal acts. Believing Oliver to be a victim of misfortunate events, Mr. Brownlow offers to take Oliver in and help him.
* Fagin sends Bill Sikes and Nancy to kidnap Oliver and bring him back.
* Oliver is paired with Bill on a house burglary, but they are too loud and wake up the servants. Oliver is shot in the scuffle but reveals he was trying to wake up the house to warn them of Fagin's gang. The homeowners, Mrs. Maylie and her young niece, Rose, take in Oliver to nurse him back to health. Here, he learns to read and write and is reunited with Mr. Brownlow.
* Fagin reveals that a man named Monks paid him off to turn Oliver into a criminal. After hearing this, Nancy secretly tries to help Oliver, but Bill kills her after feeling betrayed.
* Mr. Brownlow finds Monks and discovers that Monks is Oliver's half-brother because their father had an affair with Oliver's mother. Monks' plan was to strip Oliver from their shared inheritance. However, this discovery leads Monks to have to give Oliver his share.
* Rose turns out to be related to Oliver as well. She was his mother's younger sister and was adopted by Mrs. Maylie after her death.
* Fagin is found guilty of his crimes and hanged.
* Mr. Brownlow adopts Oliver, and they live peacefully with Mrs. Maylies.