

Study Guide For Charles Dickens Oliver Twist: Course Hero Study Guides

This study guide is an essential tool for students of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, offering a comprehensive overview of the novel's characters, themes, and historical context. Engage with insightful analysis, chapter summaries, and discussion questions to deepen your understanding of this classic work of literature.

Chapter Summaries

- **Chapter 1:** Oliver Twist is born in a workhouse and orphaned at a young age. He is sent to a baby farm, where he is mistreated and nearly starved to death.
- **Chapter 2:** Oliver is sent to an orphanage, where he is bullied and mistreated. He runs away and travels to London, where he meets the Artful Dodger, a member of a gang of pickpockets.
- **Chapter 3:** Oliver is taken in by the gang's leader, Fagin, and taught to pickpocket. He is also introduced to Bill Sikes, a violent criminal who is in love with Nancy, a prostitute.
- **Chapter 4:** Oliver is sent out to pickpocket with the Artful Dodger. He is caught and arrested, and is sent to prison.
- **Chapter 5:** Oliver is released from prison and meets Mr. Brownlow, a wealthy gentleman who takes him in. Oliver begins to live a happy and comfortable life, but is soon kidnapped by Bill Sikes and Nancy.
- **Chapter 6:** Oliver is forced to help Bill Sikes rob a house. The robbery goes wrong, and Oliver is shot. He is taken in by the Maylies, a

wealthy family who care for him.

- **Chapter 7:** Oliver's identity is revealed, and he is reunited with his long-lost father. He returns to live with the Maylies, and lives a happy and prosperous life.

Character Analysis

Oliver Twist

Oliver Twist is the protagonist of the novel. He is an orphan who is mistreated and abused throughout his childhood. Despite his hardships, Oliver remains a kind and compassionate person. He is determined to overcome his circumstances and find a better life.



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Artful Dodger

The Artful Dodger is a member of Fagin's gang of pickpockets. He is a skilled thief and a master of disguise. The Artful Dodger is also a loyal friend to Oliver, and he helps him to survive on the streets of London.

Fagin

Fagin is the leader of a gang of pickpockets. He is a cruel and greedy man who exploits children for his own gain. Fagin is responsible for Oliver's downfall, and he ultimately meets a tragic end.

Bill Sikes

Bill Sikes is a violent criminal who is in love with Nancy. He is a ruthless and heartless man who is capable of great cruelty. Bill Sikes is responsible for Oliver's kidnapping, and he ultimately murders Nancy.

Nancy

Nancy is a prostitute who is in love with Bill Sikes. She is a kind and compassionate woman who is trapped in a life of crime. Nancy tries to help Oliver escape from Fagin's gang, but she is ultimately murdered by Bill Sikes.

Themes

The dangers of poverty

Oliver Twist is a story about the dangers of poverty. Oliver is born into a workhouse and is orphaned at a young age. He is sent to a baby farm, where he is mistreated and nearly starved to death. He is then sent to an orphanage, where he is bullied and mistreated. Oliver's experiences show how poverty can lead to a life of crime and misery.

The importance of education

Oliver Twist is also a story about the importance of education. Oliver is taught to read and write by Mr. Brownlow, and this education helps him to improve his life. Oliver's experiences show how education can help people to escape poverty and to achieve a better life.

The power of compassion

Oliver Twist is also a story about the power of compassion. Oliver is helped by many people throughout his life, including Mr. Brownlow, the Maylies, and Nancy. These people show Oliver that there is still good in the world, and they help him to become a better person.

Historical Context

Oliver Twist is set in the Victorian era, a time of great social and economic change. The novel reflects the harsh realities of life for the poor in Victorian England. The workhouses, orphanages, and prisons that Oliver experiences are all real places that existed at the time. Oliver Twist is a valuable historical document that provides insight into the lives of the poor in Victorian England.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the main themes of Oliver Twist? 2. How does Oliver Twist reflect the social and economic conditions of Victorian England? 3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Oliver Twist as a character? 4. How does the novel's ending provide a sense of hope and closure? 5. What are the most important lessons that Oliver Twist teaches us?

Oliver Twist is a classic work of literature that has been enjoyed by readers for over 150 years. The novel is a powerful indictment of the social and economic conditions of Victorian England, and it is a moving story about the importance of compassion and education. Oliver Twist is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the human condition.



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