



## Worksheet

Name :		Subject:	Reading Comprehension Lesson 4A
Class:	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	Date:	

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below.

### Part 1

In England during the 1800s, many people came to the cities to work. There were places called *workhouses* where the poorest people could live, work, and eat to make ends meet. But life in the workhouses was not easy, where people somehow managed a subsistence, living day-to-day, huddled together to keep warm.

One night, a woman arrived at a workhouse. She gave birth to a baby but then sadly died. A nurse called the baby **Oliver Twist**, and he was sent to a house for orphans until he was nine. Then he was sent to a workhouse to work. Oliver was sad to leave the other orphans. Although the boys lived hand-to-mouth, they had a sense of belonging at the house and looked after each other.

At the workhouse, all the other boys were as malnourished as Oliver. One day, they encouraged Oliver to beg for more food, but this made the managers of the workhouse angry. Oliver decided to escape to London but had no food and went hungry for days, before he met another boy called **Jack Dawkins**. He showed Oliver the way to the city.

Jack introduced Oliver to an old man called **Fagin**, who gave Oliver some food and a bed to sleep on. The next day, Oliver saw many other boys come to Fagin's house. The boys gathered together to give the old man watches and jewellery. Fagin then told Oliver to go into the streets with the other boys and learn from them. Oliver was shocked when he saw the boys take things from people's pockets. He understood that they were thieves!

Suddenly, a man saw the boys take a handkerchief from his pocket. He shouted at the boys, and as they ran away, a police officer tried to arrest Oliver. But a man, **Mr Brownlow**, told the police officer that Oliver had not taken anything. Mr Brownlow was worried about the skinny boy and took him back to his house, where the housekeeper looked after Oliver.

When Oliver was better, he was walking along the streets when a woman grabbed him. She took him back to **Fagin's**. Fagin then asked Oliver to help **Mr Sikes** with a job in the country. They told Oliver to climb through a small window of a house. When he did so, he was shot. Luckily, he survived.

When he was better, he was taken to Mr Brownlow, and was made to feel at home. Mr Brownlow explained that Oliver's mother was a rich woman. But his brother, a man called **Monks**, knew that Oliver would only get the money if Oliver was an honest person. So he watched Oliver and made sure that he met Jack Dawkins, and then Fagin. In this way, Oliver would never be honest and Monks could keep all the money.

At the end of the story, Monks gives Oliver the money that is owed to him and leaves the country. Oliver is adopted by Mr Brownlow, which shows what a kind man he is.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet

### Oliver Twist – Summary

#### Part 1: Answer the questions.

1. What kinds of people lived in a workhouse?  
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  2. Why did Oliver decide to walk to London?  
.....
  3. Why do you think Fagin and Mr. Sikes used children to take things from people?  
.....
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#### Answer Key – Part 1

1. The poorest people at that time.
  2. He was malnourished and life was cruel in the workhouse, so he wanted to leave.
  3. Suggested answer: People probably did not expect children to take things from them. Also, they were small and quick. Sikes and Fagin could make them steal and reward them with food and a place to sleep.
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#### Part 2: Choose the correct answer.

1. Why was Oliver sad to leave the house for orphans?
    - a) It was where he was born.
    - b) The orphans helped each other.
    - c) He had plenty to eat there.
  2. Why do you think Fagin gave Oliver food and a bed to sleep on?
    - a) He wanted to help the poor orphans of London.
    - b) He wanted Oliver to trust him and then work for him.
    - c) He was a rich man in a smart, modern house.
  3. Why did Oliver's brother Monks want Oliver to be a thief?
    - a) He could get watches and jewellery from him.
    - b) He was an honest person.
    - c) He wanted to have all of his mother's money.
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#### Answer Key – Part 2

1. b
  2. b
  3. c
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**Part 3: Read the following text carefully, then answer the questions.**

1. Where did the poorest people live during the 1800s?  
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  2. There are several pieces of evidence that living in workhouses was difficult. Mention two of them.  
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  3. How long did Oliver stay in the orphanage?  
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  4. Why were the managers angry at Oliver?  
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  5. What did the boys give to Fagin?  
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  6. There are several incidents which show the kindness of Mr. Brownlow. Mention one of them.  
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  7. Why did Fagin send Oliver to the streets?  
.....
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**Answer Key – Part 3**

1. In workhouses, where the poorest people could live.
2. People somehow managed a subsistence, living day to day, huddled together to keep warm.
3. He stayed in the orphanage until he was nine years old.
4. They encouraged Oliver to beg for more food, but this made the managers angry.
5. The boys gathered together to give the old man watches and jewellery.
6. Oliver was adopted by Mr. Brownlow, which shows what a kind man he was.
7. Fagin sent Oliver to the streets to learn from the other boys how to be a thief.