

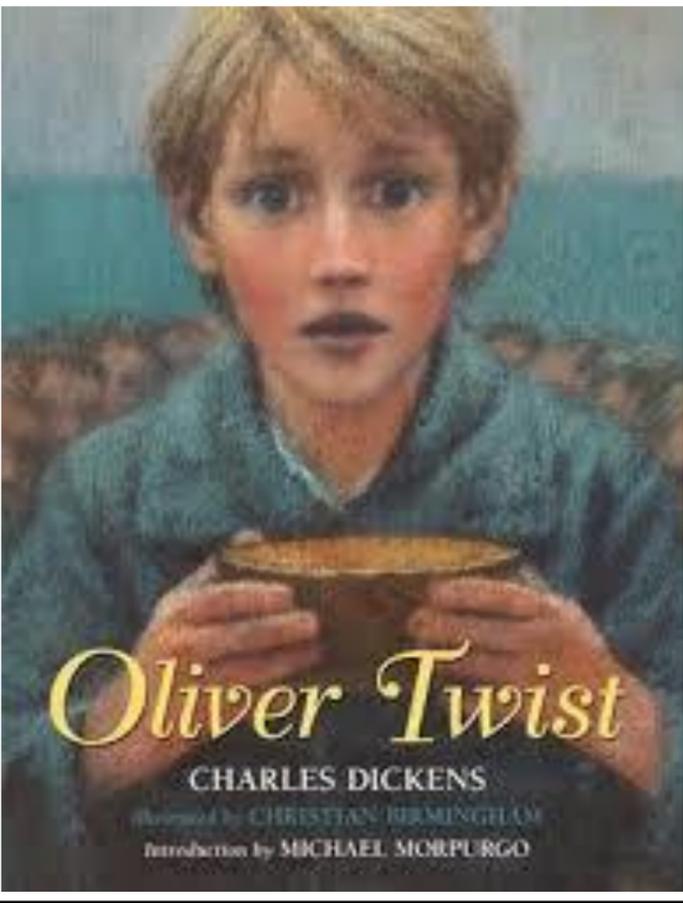


Authorial Focus	
Author	Charles Dickens
Date of birth	7 th February 1812
Place of Birth	Portsmouth
Early life	Dickens had an idyllic early life in the Hampshire countryside until his father was imprisoned for bad debt and he moved to London.
Published	First published as a serial in 1837 and then in book form in 1839.
Later Life	Married but later estranged from his wife after the birth of their ten children. Dickens died in 1870 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Cultural Focus	
Daily life in Victorian times	Families were usually large and had many children, not least the royal family who had nine children. Family members had roles to play within the home and children were taught to be “seen but not heard”! Religion was very important and families attended church at least once every Sunday.
Rich People	The rich had servants to complete their housework and look after their children. They were well fed, well dressed and wore shoes on their feet. Children who did not work went to school. They would live in large houses with a special room called a nursery for the children, who were looked after by their nanny – they didn’t often see their parents.
Poor People	The poor were generally thin, hungry, wore ragged clothes and no shoes on their feet. Children as young as five would go to work in the factories. They lived in tiny cottages or city slums. Life was hard!

Geographical Focus	
Victorian London	London was a thriving center of industry, it was also a hotbed of crime. The city was a dirty and disease ridden place, as a result of which there was a large population of street children who grew up in a life of pick-pocketing.
Urban Life vs Rural Life	At the start of the 1800s most people lived in the countryside; however it was a time of great movement for the population many of whom moved to towns or cities for work as a result of the industrial revolution. Rural life was idealized by many living in the city including Charles Dickens and this shows in his literary works. Many people lived and died in poverty regardless of whether they lived in a rural or urban location.

Historical Focus	
Industrial Revolution	This was the age of invention and began in Great Britain. Transport was revolutionised by steam power! Factories also became common places for production and employment.
The Poor Law	The Poor Law was passed in 1834 and designed to encourage people to work by terrifying them! If they didn’t work they were housed together in poor conditions and those fit enough were sent to the workhouse.
Workhouses	People who had no home or job would be put into the workhouse where they would complete hard labour in return for a small amount of food and a roof over their heads. Families would be separated and would often be punished if they tried to speak to each other.
Children and School	Very few children were lucky enough to go to school and it was not free. Most of the children who got to attend didn’t actually learn much. In ‘ragged’ school for the poor, older children were used to teach the younger children. It wasn’t until 1880 that Parliament decided every child aged 5-10 had to go to school.
Women in Victorian times	Women did not have the rights that they do now, they were not allowed to vote, sue or own property. When they got married they become the “property” of their husbands and had to do what they were told.
Crime and Punishment	Crime was a huge problem as poor people resorted to crime to survive. Minor crimes, including drunkenness, or being unemployed were punishable by imprisonment; major crimes, such as murder or burglary were punishable by a painful and public death.
Inspiration for Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens was inspired to write his novel by his experiences in London, particularly when he was sent from school to work in a factory where he met people condemned to life in the workhouse.

What happened to Dickens when his father went to prison?	
Who was the queen of England when Oliver Twist was published?	
What kind of workplace became more common during the industrial revolution?	
When was the Victorian 'Poor Law' enacted?	
Why was the workhouse feared by the poor and the old?	
How would being poor affect your education?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) You had your education paid for. b) You only went to school in the morning. c) You were tutored at home. d) You would not go to school as you couldn't afford it.
How were children expected to behave in Victorian households?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They were taught to be seen but not heard. b) They were in charge. c) They were sent out all day. d) They

Geographical Focus Quiz	
How many people in Britain lived in the countryside at the beginning of the 1800s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 75% b) 40% c) 80% d) 90%
By 1850, what percentage of people lived in towns and cities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 70% b) 50% c) 25% d) 100%
Why did so many people move to towns and cities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were more opportunities for work. b) The government gave them new homes. c) The countryside smelled of cows. d) There was no room in the country.
What led to a massive increase in the number of factories in Britain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were new railways. b) More powerful machines were being invented. c) People had got cleverer. d) More people lived in the cities.
Why was crime more of a problem in big cities like London?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were more rich people. b) There was nothing to steal in the countryside. c) There were more poor people in the cities who couldn't afford to eat. d) People wanted to steal from the Queen.
Where did Charles Dickens spend his early life?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In the countryside b) On the moon c) In France d) In London