

# Kemnal Keys

**Year 7 Term 1 *Oliver Twist***

**Assessment Question:**

What kind of Character is Bill Sikes? (extract and whole-text response)

	Know This is what students should have a <i>working knowledge</i> of	Remember This is what students should remember in the <i>long-term</i>
<b>Biography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dickens's father was sent to a debtors' prison.</li> <li>He was born in Portsmouth.</li> <li>He wrote many novels: "Great Expectations", "A Christmas Carol", "Bleak House", "Nicholas Nickleby", and "Barnaby Rudge", amongst others.</li> <li>His novels were published as periodicals.</li> <li>Lived from 1812-1870.</li> <li>His novels were popular in his own lifetime.</li> <li>Dickens was a master satirist: his novels are laced with sarcasm and exaggeration to emphasise the cruelty his protagonists suffer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charles Dickens was a famous Victorian novelist.</li> <li>Charles Dickens wanted to show support for vulnerable members of society.</li> </ul>
<b>Context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Victorian era was from 1837-1901.</li> <li>London was the largest city in the world.</li> <li>The Industrial Revolution affected people's day-to-day life.</li> <li>Criminals could be transported to British colonies, like Australia.</li> <li>London was often covered in smog.</li> <li>The Poor Law of 1834 effectively criminalised the poor.</li> <li>Children picked oakum and broke rocks in the workhouses.</li> <li>Death in childbirth was more common the Victoria era.</li> <li>Orphans were much more common in this time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Victorian era was a time of great social change.</li> <li>Queen Victoria was the monarch.</li> <li>London was a growing, dirty city.</li> <li>The poor were treated like criminals.</li> <li>Rich and poor led different lives.</li> <li>Disease was rife across all classes.</li> <li>A novel is an extended work of fiction, telling a story.</li> </ul>
<b>Characters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oliver's mother died during childbirth.</li> <li>Mr Bumble gave Oliver his surname.</li> <li>Oliver forms one meaningful friendship at the workhouse: Dick, who later dies of a childhood illness.</li> <li>Oliver spends time at the Sowerberrys – an undertaker's.</li> <li>Oliver stands up for himself against Noah and Bill.</li> <li>Fagin hoards jewellery.</li> <li>Fagin is also known as "the jew". Dickens stopped using this moniker to describe Fagin halfway through publication in response to criticism from his Jewish friends.</li> <li>Fagin gives the pickpockets gin.</li> <li>The Artful Dodger speaks with a heavy London dialect.</li> <li>Nancy does not betray Bill when she tries to save Oliver.</li> <li>Fagin is able to use Bill's unpredictability to manipulate him into murdering Nancy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oliver Twist is the hero. He is an orphan. He is good. He has a happy ending.</li> <li>Bill Sikes is the brutal, violent villain. He murders Nancy. He gets his comeuppance at the end of the novel.</li> <li>Fagin is a corrupt villain. He leads the gang of pickpockets. He gets his comeuppance at the end of the novel.</li> <li>The Artful Dodger is a cheeky pickpocket.</li> <li>Nancy is Bill Sikes's girlfriend. She is good. She saves Oliver. She is murdered by Bill Sikes.</li> <li>Mr and Mrs Bumble run the workhouse. They are corrupt. Conditions in the workhouse are terrible because of the Bumbles.</li> <li>Noah Claypole is a malicious bully.</li> </ul>
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plot of "Oliver Twist".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oliver is an orphan.</li> <li>He grows up in the workhouse.</li> <li>He asks for more gruel and is sent away from the workhouse.</li> <li>Mr Brownlow rescues Oliver.</li> <li>Bill Sikes hits his dog.</li> <li>Bill Sikes forces Oliver to rob a house.</li> <li>Nancy tries to save Oliver.</li> <li>Bill Sikes murders Nancy in cold blood.</li> <li>Bill Sikes dies at the end of the novel.</li> <li>Villains often have a comeuppance.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oliver Twist and the boys in the workhouse are orphans.</li> <li>A moral for Oliver Twist is not to treat the poor like criminals.</li> <li>The orphans are vulnerable because they are starved, forced to undertake gruelling work, and have nobody to protect them.</li> <li>Bill Sikes's murder of Nancy is brutal, as are his threats to Oliver.</li> <li>The Bumbles are corrupt when they keep the money meant to be spent on the boys for themselves.</li> <li>Sikes, Fagin, and the Bumbles are all villains.</li> <li>Noah Claypole cruelly taunts Oliver with malicious comments about Oliver's late mother.</li> <li>Oliver and Nancy are victims of Bill Sikes and of Victorian society.</li> <li>Oliver is naïve when he is taken pickpocketing by Dodger and Charley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>orphan</li> <li>moral (n.)</li> <li>vulnerable</li> <li>brutal</li> <li>corrupt</li> <li>villain</li> <li>malicious</li> <li>victim</li> <li>naive</li> </ul>

## MUST KNOW

- Characters are not real people. They are constructed by the writer.
- A correct topic sentence should say something relevant, accurate, and contain a single point.
- Relevant quotations from the text support topic sentences.
- Essays are composed of a series of analytical paragraphs.

## Literary themes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good vs. evil</li> <li>The plight of the working classes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime and punishment</li> <li>Morals and morality</li> </ul> |
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