

Kemnal Keys

Year 7 Term 2 *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 i o g r a p h y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dickens's father was sent to a debtors' prison. He was born in Portsmouth. He wrote many novels: "Great Expectations", "A Christmas Carol", "Bleak House", "Nicholas Nickleby", and "Barnaby Rudge", amongst others. His novels were published as periodicals. Lived from 1812-1870. His novels were popular in his own lifetime. Dickens was a master satirist: his novels are laced with sarcasm and exaggeration to emphasise the cruelty his protagonists suffer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Dickens was a famous Victorian novelist. Charles Dickens wanted to show support for vulnerable members of society.
C o n t e x t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian era was from 1837-1901. London was the largest city in the world. The Industrial Revolution affected people's day-to-day life. Criminals could be transported to British colonies, like Australia. London was often covered in smog. The Poor Law of 1834 effectively criminalised the poor. Children picked oakum and broke rocks in the workhouses. Death in childbirth was more common the Victoria era. Orphans were much more common in this time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian era was a time of great social change. Queen Victoria was the monarch. London was a growing, dirty city. The poor were treated like criminals. Rich and poor led different lives. Disease was rife across all classes. A novel is an extended work of fiction, telling a story.
C h a r a c t e r s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver's mother died during childbirth. Mr Bumble gave Oliver his surname. Oliver forms one meaningful friendship at the workhouse: Dick, who later dies of a childhood illness. Oliver spends time at the Sowerberrys – an undertaker's. Oliver stands up for himself against Noah and Bill. Fagin hoards jewellery. 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. Fagin gives the pickpockets gin. The Artful Dodger speaks with a heavy London dialect. Nancy does not betray Bill when she tries to save Oliver. Fagin is able to use Bill's unpredictability to manipulate him into murdering Nancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver Twist is the hero. He is an orphan. He is good. He has a happy ending. Bill Sikes is the brutal, violent villain. He murders Nancy. He gets his comeuppance at the end of the novel. Fagin is a corrupt villain. He leads the gang of pickpockets. He gets his comeuppance at the end of the novel. The Artful Dodger is a cheeky pickpocket. Nancy is Bill Sikes's girlfriend. She is good. She saves Oliver. She is murdered by Bill Sikes. Mr and Mrs Bumble run the workhouse. They are corrupt. Conditions in the workhouse are terrible because of the Bumbles. Noah Claypole is a malicious bully.
E v e n t s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plot of "Oliver Twist". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver is an orphan. He grows up in the workhouse. He asks for more gruel and is sent away from the workhouse. Mr Brownlow rescues Oliver. Bill Sikes hits his dog. Bill Sikes forces Oliver to rob a house. Nancy tries to save Oliver. Bill Sikes murders Nancy in cold blood. Bill Sikes dies at the end of the novel. Villains often have a comeuppance.
V o c a b u l a r y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver Twist and the boys in the workhouse are orphans. A moral for Oliver Twist is not to treat the poor like criminals. The orphans are vulnerable because they are starved, forced to undertake gruelling work, and have nobody to protect them. Bill Sikes's murder of Nancy is brutal, as are his threats to Oliver. The Bumbles are corrupt when they keep the money meant to be spent on the boys for themselves. Sikes, Fagin, and the Bumbles are all villains. Noah Claypole cruelly taunts Oliver with malicious comments about Oliver's late mother. Oliver and Nancy are victims of Bill Sikes and of Victorian society. Oliver is naïve when he is taken pickpocketing by Dodger and Charley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> orphan moral (n.) vulnerable brutal corrupt villain malicious victim naive

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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| • Good vs. evil | • Crime and punishment |
| • The plight of the working classes | • Morals and morality |