

Oliver Twist

Guided Reading

Oliver Twist is a novel by Charles Dickens, published in instalments between 1837 and 1839. Oliver is an orphan who ends up living with a gang of thieves in London. In this extract, he is forced to attempt a burglary by Fagin, the gang's leader, and Bill Sikes, a violent robber.

Meanwhile Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary. They realised that someone would be needed to climb through a small window. Someone thin and not on the tall side — someone like Oliver.

5 The following night, Nancy came to take Oliver to Bill Sikes. They set off in the dark with a fierce wind pushing them onward. Eventually they reached his door.

"Have you brought the boy?" whispered Sikes, when they reached the door.

"He is here," she replied, and Oliver stepped out from behind her.

"Do you know what this is?" Sikes asked, holding a pistol up to his face. Oliver nodded.

"He is here," she replied, and Oliver stepped out from behind her.

"Do you know what this is?" Sikes asked, holding a pistol up to his face. Oliver nodded.

"Good. Don't speak a word while we're out or I'll shoot yer."

10 They set out before daybreak, stopping at a house where they met a man called Toby Crackit. As the clock approached midnight they neared a large house. Oliver suddenly realised the task in hand and collapsed to his knees.



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"Get up," said Sikes. "Or I'll blow yer brains out."

"Please don't make me steal," begged Oliver.

Crackit forced open a small window and told Oliver to climb through and unlock the front door. But Oliver saw a chance to raise the alarm.

"Get back!" yelled Sikes as Oliver went to climb the stairs. Suddenly there was a cry and a loud noise as two people

20 appeared at the top of the stairs. Oliver felt himself fall back.

"They've hit the boy," cried Sikes, dragging him backwards. Oliver felt himself being carried over uneven ground. Shouts and cries rang out in the distance. Suddenly he was still. He felt and heard nothing more.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday										
Read through the text and highlight any words you are unsure about. Can you find the definitions in a dictionary?	Day 2: Today we are going to explore the grammar and vocabulary within the text and who its audience is. 1. What do you think the word ‘eventually’ means in line 5? Use a dictionary to help you. (1 mark) 2. The word ‘uneven’ on line 22 is... (1 mark) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a verb,an adjective,a nounan adverb 3. ‘Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary.’ What does the word villainous mean in this sentence? (1 mark) 4. “‘Please don’t make me steal,” begged Oliver.’ Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word begged as it is used here? (1 mark) <ul style="list-style-type: none">askedpleadedworrynag 5. Why did the author use the word ‘forced’ to describe how Crackit opened the small window? (1 mark) 6. ‘...someone would be need to climb through a small window.’ Give two other words the author could have used instead of the word climb. (1 mark) 7. ‘Oliver suddenly realised the task in hand and collapsed to his knees.” Explain what this description suggests about the character. (2 marks)	Day 3: Today we will be focusing on our retrieval skills. What does retrieval mean? 1. Who brought Oliver to meet Sikes and Fagin? (1 mark) 2. What time of day did this extract take place? (1 mark) 3. What happens when Oliver starts to climb the stairs? (1 mark) 4. Find and copy one phrase that shows Oliver did not want to take part in the burglary (1 mark) 5. Give two reasons why Oliver took part in the burglary. (2 marks) 6. Write down three things that you are told about Oliver. (1 mark) 7. Order the statements 1-5 in the order that they happen in the text. (1 mark) <table><tr><td>Oliver felt himself being carried over uneven ground.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Oliver and Sikes set out before daybreak, stopping outside a large house.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Crackit forced open a small window and told Oliver to climb through.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Nancy brought Oliver to Bill Sikes.</td><td></td></tr></table>	Oliver felt himself being carried over uneven ground.		Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary.		Oliver and Sikes set out before daybreak, stopping outside a large house.		Crackit forced open a small window and told Oliver to climb through.		Nancy brought Oliver to Bill Sikes.		Day 4: Today we are going to be focusing on our inference and explaining skills. 1. Why do Fagin and Sikes want Oliver to help with the burglary? (2 marks) 2. Why do you think Oliver stands behind Nancy when they go to Sikes’ house? (2 marks) 3. Why do you think they set off ‘before daybreak’? (2 marks) 4. Why did Oliver nod at seeing Sikes hold up a pistol to his face? (1 mark) 5. How do you know that Oliver was afraid of Sikes? Explain your reasoning (2 marks) 6. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘They set out before daybreak...’ What does this tell you about Bill Sikes’ character? Explain two features of his character using evidence from the text. (3 marks) 7. Why did ‘shouts and cries rang out in the distance’?(1 mark) .	Day 5: Today we are going to be focusing on the whole text. 1. Why did Bill Sikes yell ‘Get back!’ to Oliver? (1 mark) 2. Why do you think Nancy brought Oliver to Sikes? (1 mark) . 3. How do you think Oliver felt when he realised the task in hand? (2 marks) 4. Do you think Sikes enjoys stealing? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks) 5. What do you think might happen next in the story? (1 mark) 6. What impression do you get of Oliver’s character? (3 marks) 7. Do you think Bill Sikes will change his behaviour in the future? Use evidence from the text to support your answer (3 marks)
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<p>Read through the text and highlight any words you are unsure about. Can you find the definitions in a dictionary?</p>	<p>Day 2: Today we are going to explore the grammar and vocabulary within the text and who its audience is.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">What do you think the word ‘eventually’ means in line 5? Use a dictionary to help you. (1 mark) at some point/they’d finally reached the door.The word ‘uneven’ on line 22 is... (1 mark)<ul style="list-style-type: none">a verb,an adjective,a nounan adverb‘Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary.’ What does the word villainous mean in this sentence? (1 mark) a wicked or nasty burglary. It implies Fagin and Sikes were bad characters who did awful things.“Please don’t make me steal,” begged Oliver.’ Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word begged as it is used here? (1 mark)<ul style="list-style-type: none">askedpleadedworrynagWhy did the author use the word ‘forced’ to describe how Crackit opened the small window? (1 mark) it is an example of precise vocabulary, which shows the reader how Crackit opened the window. It implies the window was hard to open.‘...someone would be need to climb through a small window.’ Give two other words the author could have used instead of the word climb. (1 mark) crawl, clamber, go into‘Oliver suddenly realised the task in hand and collapsed to his knees.” Explain what this description suggests about the character. (2 marks) He really does not want to burgle this house. He has been forced to do so by Fagin and Sikes.	<p>Day 3: Today we will be focusing on our retrieval skills. What does retrieval mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Who brought Oliver to meet Sikes and Fagin? (1 mark) NancyWhat time of day did this extract take place? (1 mark) before daybreak, night time, at midnight.What happens when Oliver starts to climb the stairs? (1 mark) Two people appeared at the top of the stairs. Oliver had been caught and had been hit.Find and copy one phrase that shows Oliver did not want to take part in the burglary (1 mark) “Please don’t make me steal” begged Oliver or ‘Oliver suddenly realised the task in hand and collapsed to his knees.’Give two reasons why Oliver took part in the burglary. (2 marks) Sikes had threatened Oliver with a pistol and said he would shoot him if he caused trouble. Oliver was an orphan and didn’t have anyone looking out for him apart from the gang of thieves.Write down three things that you are told about Oliver. (1 mark) He is an orphan, he is thin and not on the tall side, he does not want to go through with the burglary but is afraid of Sikes and Fagin.Order the statements 1-5 in the order that they happen in the text. (1 mark) 5, 1, 3, 4, 2	<p>Day 4: Today we are going to be focusing on our inference and explaining skills.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Why do Fagin and Sikes want Oliver to help with the burglary? (2 marks) Because they realised they needs someone small to climb through a window. Oliver would be able to climb through it easily.Why do you think Oliver stands behind Nancy when they go to Sikes’ house? (2 marks) He is scared. He is hiding behind Nancy and is reluctant to join in with the more villainous burglary.Why do you think they set off ‘before day-break’? (2 marks) Daybreak means before the sun has come up/at dawn. They sat off when it was dark so they wouldn’t be caught stealing.Why did Oliver nod at seeing Sikes hold up a pistol to his face? (1 mark) Oliver nodded because he understood what Sikes meant. He understood that if he was to cause a scene or speak, he would be shot. This scared him and he was too afraid to say anything.How do you know that Oliver was afraid of Sikes? Explain your reasoning (2 marks) Oliver was afraid of Sikes because he had a pistol and threaten to shot him. He begged Sikes not to make him steal but still climbed through the window as that was his order. Oliver hid behind Nancy.Look at the paragraph beginning ‘They set out before daybreak...’ What does this tell you about Bill Sikes’ character? Explain two features of his character using evidence from the text. (3 marks) Bill Sikes is a nasty villain. He is a violent robber and is keen not to get caught by the police so sets off at night time. He tries to steal as much as he can, even forcing children to join him and often threatens people with a pistol.Why did ‘shouts and cries rang out in the distance’?(1 mark) It was the two people who realised that they were being robbed. It was their reaction at finding a little boy trying to climb through their window and hitting him.	<p>Day 5: Today we are going to be focusing on the whole text.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Why did Bill Sikes yell ‘Get back!’ to Oliver? (1 mark) because Sikes had noticed two people and was warning Oliver.Why do you think Nancy brought Oliver to Sikes? (1 mark) Any relevant answer – perhaps she too is being black-mailed or forced to do it by Sikes.How do you think Oliver felt when he realised the task in hand? (2 marks) He felt shocked, he really did not want to steal, upset, angry because he was being forced into doing something he didn’t want to do.Do you think Sikes enjoys stealing? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks) Yes or no – the fact he is a violent robber shows he has committed a similar offence before. Perhaps he only steals in order to survive – he is poor, needs food etc.What do you think might happen next in the story? (1 mark) any relevant answerWhat impression do you get of Oliver’s character? (3 marks) Oliver knows what is right and wrong but is forced into the burglary by Sikes. He doesn’t want to upset anyone including the owners of the large house. He has to take part in order to survive – he is a poor orphan and has fallen in with a gang of thieves.Do you think Bill Sikes will change his behaviour in the future? Use evidence from the text to support your answer (3 marks) Yes- he might have had enough of stealing. No – he is poor so needs to steal in order to survive – this is how he makes his leaving stealing from the rich.

Guided Reading
Answers