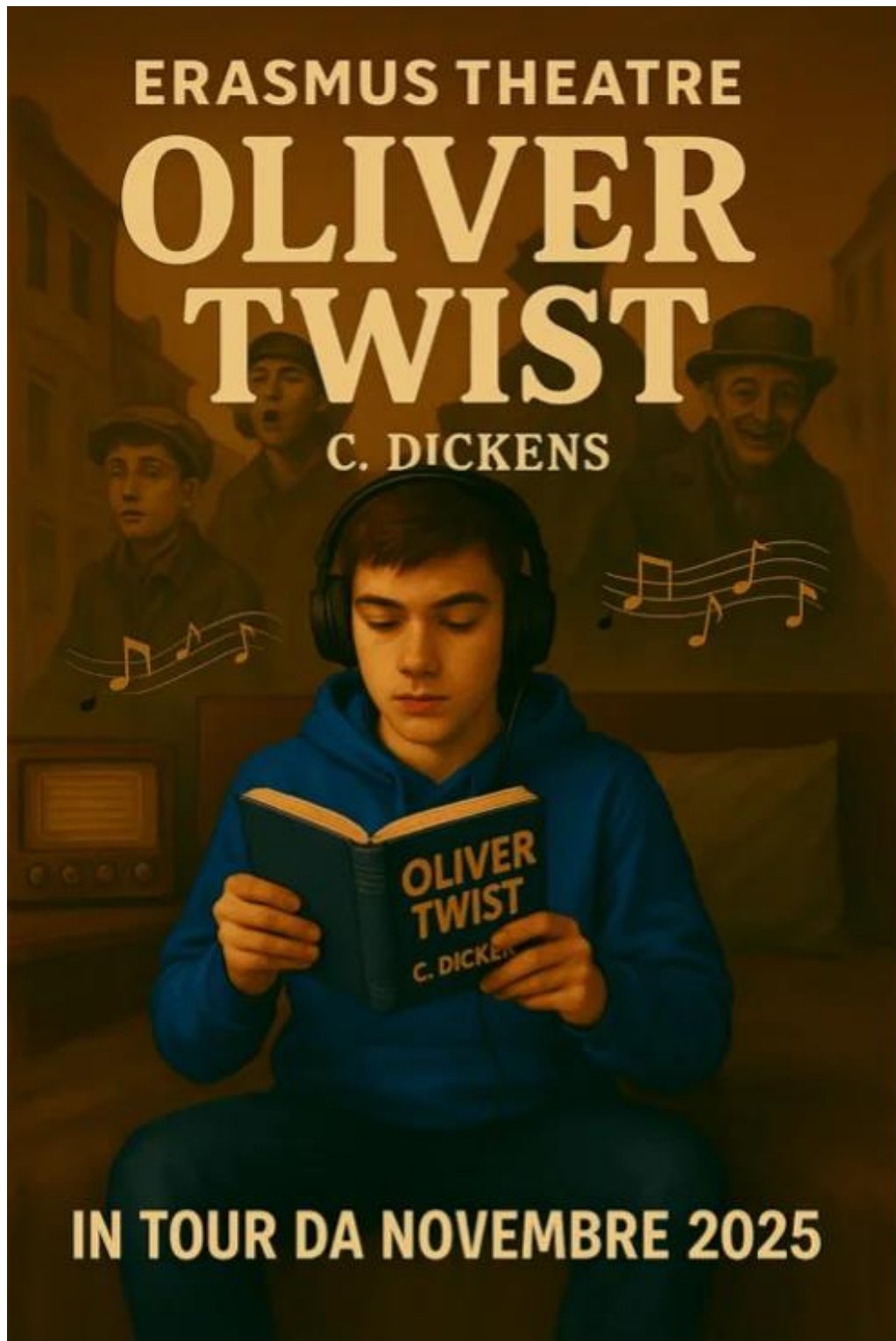


TEACHER'S MATERIAL



# Oliver Twist — Our Stage Adaptation



Welcome! In our adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic, the story opens inside the workhouse and rushes into the streets of London like a chase movie. We use fast scene changes, a live soundscape and projected city textures to move from the grim kitchen to Fagin's den, from busy markets to a quiet home where Oliver finally feels safe. Humour and danger travel together: the Artful Dodger is charming and quick, Nancy is brave and conflicted, and Fagin plays a risky game with his 'family'. The language is clear and musical, so you can follow every choice Oliver has to make.

Plot in a nutshell: Oliver, an orphan who dares to ask for more, is pushed out of a workhouse and escapes to London. He meets there the Artful Dodger and Fagin's gang of pickpockets. Fagin and Bill Sikes try to take advantage of him, but after a failed theft, Mr Brownlow offers Oliver a home. Our staging ends with a hopeful reunion and a city that feels a little less cold.



## About the author — Charles Dickens (1812–1870)

Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* when he was 25. He published it in monthly episodes and he ended every chapters with cliffhangers that caught readers' attention — it's just like following a series today. He walked the city for hours to capture real voices and places, and he used his stories to expose poverty and injustice. Social critique + energy + unforgettable characters: this is why his novels still work perfectly on stage.



# Theatre Terms — Glossary

Italian ↔ English reference for the show

<b>Italiano</b>	<b>English</b>
teatro (la sala)	theatre (the house)
palcoscenico / palco	stage
platea	stalls / orchestra (seating)
galleria / loggione	balcony / gallery
quinta / quinte	wing(s)
retropalco	backstage
sipario	curtain
chiamata in scena	curtain call
scena	scene
atto	act
intervallo	intermission
scenografia	set / scenery
fondale	backdrop
props (attrezzeria)	props (properties)
costume	costume
trucco	make-up
luci	lighting
faro / spot	spotlight
effetti sonori	sound effects
microfono	microphone
copione / testo	script
battuta (di testo)	line
segnale	cue
regia	direction
regista	director
autore / drammaturgo	playwright
direttore di scena	stage manager
compagnia / cast	cast / company
protagonista / ruolo principale	lead role
ruolo di riserva	understudy
ensemble / coro	ensemble
prove	rehearsals
prova generale	dress rehearsal
bloccaggio (spostamenti in scena)	blocking
coreografia	choreography
buca dell'orchestra	orchestra pit
foyer / front of house	foyer / front of house
biglietteria	box office
maschere (personale di sala)	ushers

# MAIN CHARACTERS — OUR STAGE ADAPTATION

A guide to the characters Oliver meets — who they are, what they want, and how they change.

## OLIVER

He fight for fairness. He doesn't shout; he observes, learns quickly, and refuses to copy cruelty.

### Traits:

- empathetic, resilient, truthful
- brave
- values family affection more than safety

### Key moments in our version:

- asks for more food at the workhouse — the first act of resistance
- refuses to steal during the theft scene
- accepts Mr Brownlow's help without losing his independence

### Arc / Change:

From frightened orphan to a boy who chooses who he is, not what the other tell him to be.

## ARTFUL DODGER

Street-smart and funny; the best 'guide' to London's rules-that-aren't-rules. He sees Oliver's innocence as both weakness and superpower.

### Traits:

- charismatic, quick thinker
- loyal to the crew, but curious about Oliver's different values
- lives his life like a game he intends to win

### Key moments in our version:

- recruits Oliver and teaches him survival tricks
- covers for Oliver after the failed theft
- has a brief, telling hesitation when Fagin targets Oliver again

### Arc / Change:

He think about change but ultimately chooses to stay on the streets — a mirror of what Oliver could become.

## FAGIN

A master of smiles and calculations. He offers shelter, food and 'family' — with invisible strings attached.

### Traits:

- manipulative yet oddly caring on his terms
- always two moves ahead; reads people for personal profit
- makes danger feel like protection

### Key moments in our version:

- welcomes Oliver, then tests him with 'work'
- spins a warm story about 'our little family' to keep kids loyal

### Arc / Change:

Try to defend Nancy from Sikes.

## **NANCY**

Heart first, then fear. She belongs to the same world as Fagin and Sikes, yet refuses to let Oliver be swallowed by it.

### **Traits:**

- protective, generous, conflicted
- sees the good in Oliver and chooses to act

### **Key moments in our version:**

- defends Oliver when Sikes threatens him
- secretly notifies the Police to save Oliver
- pays the price for her bravery — her choice drives the moral core

### **Arc / Change:**

Her compassion is the hinge of the story: she proves that our choices define who we are.

## **BILL SIKES**

He believes control is the only truth and kindness the fastest way to lose power.

### **Traits:**

- violent, feared, impatient
- trusts only force

### **Key moments in our version:**

- uses Oliver as a tool during the robbery attempt
- turns on Nancy when she shows loyalty elsewhere
- becomes the embodiment of what Oliver must escape

### **Arc / Change:**

A straight line: the story shows how his kind of power finally destroys itself.

## **MR BROWNLOW**

The quiet answer to the city's noise. He believes Oliver, even when evidence says doubt.

### **Traits:**

- calm authority, protective, fair
- offers a second chances
- listens; judges by actions more than labels

### **Key moments in our version:**

- gives Oliver a bad to recover
- searches for the truth of Oliver's past

### **Arc / Change:**

Represents the possibility of belonging built on trust.

# COMPREHENSION GAMES — OLIVER TWIST (Our Stage Adaptation)

Read the prompts and use what you know from the show. Write clearly in English.

## 1) Put the story in order (1–6)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Oliver escapes to London and meets the Artful Dodger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Brownlow asks Oliver about the locket
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oliver refuses to steal during a pickpocketing attempt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nancy tells the truth to Sikes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The workhouse scene: “Please, sir, I want some more.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ The truth is revealed and Oliver finds a family.

## 2) Who says it? Write the name. (Oliver / Artful Dodger / Fagin / Nancy / Bill Sikes / Mr Brownlow)

- a) “Don’t tell me you’ve never been to prison?!” \_\_\_\_\_
- b) “You needn’t be worried about him anymore - he’s dead.” \_\_\_\_\_
- c) “You didn’t think you’d be staying in this luxurious place for free did ya?.” \_\_\_\_\_
- d) “You’re a dead man now.” \_\_\_\_\_

## 3) True or False? If false, correct the sentence.

- a) Oliver asks for more food and is rewarded with extra soup. \_\_\_\_\_ Correction: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Nancy helps Oliver even when it is dangerous for her. \_\_\_\_\_ Correction: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Mr Brownlow keeps Oliver at home because he's a child. \_\_\_\_\_ Correction: \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Fagin introduces Oliver to Bill to keep him safe. \_\_\_\_\_ Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4) Match the motive: A–F with 1–6

A. Oliver	1. Wants control, uses fear.
B. Artful Dodger	2. Wants safety and a real home.
C. Fagin	3. Wants loyalty from the gang because it’s his business.
D. Nancy	4. Wants to help the boy do the right thing.
E. Bill Sikes	5. Wants to win the street game.
F. Mr Brownlow	6. Wants Oliver to be free from the gang.

### 5) Cause → Effect (complete the effect)

Cause: Oliver refuses to steal. → Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause: Nancy talks to Bill. → Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause: Sikes threatens the gang. → Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER GAMES — OLIVER TWIST (Our Stage Adaptation)

Use the show to complete each activity. Write clearly in English.

### 1) Character Compass — Ally / Test / Danger

For each character, tick the box that best describes how this character acts toward Oliver most of the time in our version. Add one piece of evidence (a line, action, or prop).

Character	Ally	Test	Danger	Evidence from the show
Artful Dodger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fagin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Sikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mr Brownlow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mr Bumble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### 2) Quote → Character

Match the quote to the speaker. Write the name and the scene (workhouse / street / Fagin's den / Brownlow's home).

a) "Please, sir..." \_\_\_\_\_

b) "I shall guard it with my life.." \_\_\_\_\_

c) "No doubt stolen from some poor soul!" \_\_\_\_\_

d) "Leave the boy alone." \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) Motive & Goal

Complete the motives and goals below using short phrases.

Character	Motive (Why?)	Goal (What?)
Oliver		
Artful Dodger		
Fagin		
Nancy		
Bill Sikes		
Mr Brownlow		

### 4) Change Tracker — Before → After

Pick TWO characters and explain how each one changes from the beginning to the end of the show.

Character 1:

Before: \_\_\_\_\_

After: \_\_\_\_\_

Character 2:

Before: \_\_\_\_\_

After: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD SEARCH — OLIVER TWIST (Find the hidden words)

Words can go horizontally, vertically or diagonally — forward or backward.

H	B	R	O	W	N	L	O	W	F	L	P	Z	Z	F
N	A	F	X	K	Z	N	Z	S	V	O	I	X	Z	G
H	Y	I	F	Z	W	D	O	I	M	N	C	B	P	A
H	C	G	W	O	L	R	J	K	Z	D	K	H	H	N
A	N	V	G	O	P	M	K	E	I	O	P	C	Y	G
I	A	L	U	H	R	Q	M	S	V	N	O	H	O	R
K	N	A	A	D	I	K	F	S	I	B	C	O	L	D
T	N	N	L	X	Z	K	H	N	T	Q	K	M	I	D
M	S	T	E	E	R	T	S	O	G	I	E	E	V	B
W	N	A	Q	Z	E	R	V	X	U	X	T	X	E	V
G	L	N	C	K	V	K	T	K	V	S	D	X	R	J
E	G	A	R	U	O	C	D	O	D	G	E	R	Q	J
V	N	A	K	M	F	A	M	I	L	Y	W	J	R	E
G	M	N	V	M	F	A	G	I	N	V	X	F	T	S
J	T	S	U	R	T	M	R	A	J	J	G	N	E	D

Find these words:

DEN	GANG
HOME	FAGIN
NANCY	SIKES
TRUST	DODGER
FAMILY	LONDON
MARKET	OLIVER
ORPHAN	STREET
COURAGE	BROWNLOW
WORKHOUSE	PICKPOCKET

## EMOJI STORYBOARD — OLIVER TWIST (Our Stage Adaptation)

Choose a scene and tell it with exactly SIX emojis. Then explain the sequence in 3 short lines. Think of the scene's mood, actions, and objects (bowl, keys, handkerchief, lamp...).

### SCENE A — The Workhouse: "Please, sir, I want some more."

	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--

Line 1:

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Line 2:

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Line 3:

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### SCENE B — Fagin's Den: First night with the gang

	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--

Line 1:

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Line 2:

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Line 3:

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### SCENE C — Street: The pickpocket attempt

	■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■	
--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--

Line 1:

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Line 2:

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Line 3:

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## PROP DETECTIVE — OLIVER TWIST (Our Stage Adaptation)

Spot the important props in our show. For each item: write WHERE you saw it (scene), WHO used it, and WHAT it means (symbol). Add one line of evidence (a word, action, or moment).

Prop	Scene (where?)	Who uses it?	Symbol / Meaning	Evidence
Bowl				
Handkerchief				
Book				
Pocket watch				
Gun				
Locket				

## CHARACTER INSTAGRAM BIO — OLIVER TWIST (Our Stage Adaptation)

Create an Instagram profile for each character. Keep the tone consistent with our show. Use a short, punchy bio (max 100 characters), choose emojis & hashtags, and write 1 sample post.

### OLIVER

@handle (hint: @oliver\_twist / @moreplease):

\_\_\_\_\_

Bio (≤ 100 chars): \_\_\_\_\_

Emojis (3): \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Hashtags (3): # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Post caption (1–2 lines):

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments (choose a character who would comment & write one line):

— \_\_\_\_\_ :

**ARTFUL DODGER**

@handle (hint: @artful.dodger / @rulesdontapply):

\_\_\_\_\_

Bio (≤ 100 chars): \_\_\_\_\_

Emojis (3): \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Hashtags (3): #\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_\_

Post caption (1–2 lines):

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments (choose a character who would comment & write one line):

— \_\_\_\_\_:

**FAGIN**

@handle (hint: @fagin.keys / @familybusiness):

\_\_\_\_\_

Bio (≤ 100 chars): \_\_\_\_\_

Emojis (3): \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Hashtags (3): #\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_\_

Post caption (1–2 lines):

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments (choose a character who would comment & write one line):

— \_\_\_\_\_:

# THANK YOU — SEE YOU AT THE THEATRE!

You've just completed the Oliver Twist learning pack. Great job!

Thanks for playing, reading and thinking with us. These pages are meant to help you follow the story, recognize key choices, and enjoy the show even more. Bring your ideas, your questions and your curiosity — the theatre is alive because of its audience (that's you!).

## Curiosities about our show

- From page to stage: some scenes change location in seconds using sound and light 'bridges' — watch the transitions!
- Props with meaning: a simple bowl or a locket are more than objects — try spotting when they become symbols.
- Street language: Dodger's lines use quick rhythms and short verbs; Brownlow's are calmer and slower on purpose.
- Hidden echoes: listen for tiny musical 'motifs' (short themes) when Nancy, Fagin or Sikes enter a scene.
- Teamwork: actors often switch from crowd to character in one beat. Notice posture/voice changes when that happens.
- Then vs now: Oliver's world talks about poverty, found family and choice — themes that still matter today.

## After the show — 3 quick reflections

– Which moment surprised you most? Why?

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– Who changes the most, in your opinion? What proves it?

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– What object or sound will you remember next week?

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# AT THE THEATRE

## GOOD PRACTICES

	<b>DO NOT EAT</b>
	<b>GO TO THE TOILET BEFORE THE SHOW</b>
	<b>RESPECT THE ACTORS</b> Actors are not on TV. They are on stage, live, with real emotions.
	<b>SET YOUR PHONE TO SILENT MODE</b>
	<b>PREPARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE AFTER-SHOW</b> The person who asks the most interesting question will win a tour T-shirt.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

INFO: [WWW.ERASMUSTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.ERASMUSTHEATRE.COM)

*See you at the theatre*