

☆ Quicklook at "Oliver Twist"

This is a character card game with a difference. There are no cards with information about Oliver. You can designate up to six pupils as Oliver. They have to listen in to the other characters and find information about themselves. At the end they can get together, find out what they know and what they still need to know. Then they can take turns to ask the other characters questions.



Instructions for pupils

Nearly everyone in the class takes or is given a character card. Everyone should read the information on the card two or three times. You do not have to remember the card word for word, but have a good idea about the information on it.

Put the card in your pocket or out of sight and then find someone else in the room with the same coloured card as you. Pretend to be the character and introduce yourself to your new partner.

Your partner should do the same to you. Remember! if either of you get stuck, you can take out your card and look at it. But only if you are stuck. Listen carefully to each other. If you know any more about your character, you can mention this too.

Now go to find another two people with the same colour card as you. Now you are four, you have to introduce your partner to the others, and they have to introduce each other to you.

Some of you will get an Oliver card. You can join any pair or group. You may not talk. You have to listen and try to find out as much as you can about yourself.

Jack Dawkins
You are known as the Artful Dodger. You are a very skilful pickpocket and sneak thief. Fagin instructs you to tempt Oliver and teach him to steal handkerchieves (swipes). Oliver gets caught and is taken to Mr Fang the magistrate.

Nancy
You work with Fagin's gang and live with Bill Sikes. He treats you harshly, but you love him. You take Oliver from Mr Brownlow. You listen to Monks and Fagin talking about Oliver. You then go to Rose Fleming to tell her a secret. Fagin suspects you, and you are murdered.

Noah Claypole
You are very tall and thin. You came from the workhouse and work for Mr Sowerberry the undertaker. You bully Oliver when he becomes an apprentice, so that he runs away to London. Later you run away with the undertaker's money and Charlotte, the housemaid, and become a thief.



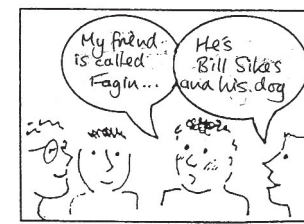
Fagin
You are the leader of a group of street robbers and house burglars. You are an expert at tempting young people into a life of crime. A man called Monks has paid you well to make sure that Oliver becomes a criminal.

Mr Bumble
You are the beadle in a town seventy miles north of London. You are mean, grasping and a bully. You work for the board of overseers at the workhouse. You are responsible for finding someone to take Oliver into work, so that the town does not have to pay for him.

Monks
Your real name is Edward Leeford. Oliver is your half brother, but only you know that. He should have inherited the money that you have. But he has to remain honest. You try very hard with the help of Fagin to turn him into a criminal.

Rose Fleming
You are Mrs Maylie's niece. You help Oliver recover after he is shot in the burglary. You very nearly die of a fever shortly afterwards. Henry Maylie is in love with you, but you are not sure. All ends happily and romantically.

Mr Fang
You are a police magistrate in Clerkenwell in London. You believe that the poor are wicked and that everyone brought to you is guilty. You usually make sure they are hung or transported to Australia. Oliver has a lucky escape to get away from you.



Bill Sikes
You are a robber and burglar working for Fagin. You have a faithful dog and a girlfriend called Nancy. You and Toby Crackit take Oliver to Shepperton to burgle Mr Maylie's house. The robbery goes wrong. Oliver is shot, but survives.

Mrs Carney
You are the overseer of the workhouse. You know secrets about Oliver. Monks pays you well to keep quiet, so you throw a ring and locket in the river. These things prove truths about Oliver's parentage and history. You marry Mr Bumble and make his life hell.

Agnes Fleming
You are Oliver's mother. You die in childbirth in the workhouse. Just before you die, you tell secrets and give a ring and locket to the person who looks after you. These are destroyed. You are buried by Mr Sowerberry in an unmarked grave.

Mr Brownlow
Oliver is accused of stealing your handkerchief. You believe he is innocent and you save him from Fang and transportation. His face reminds you of a dear friend. At the end of the story you adopt Oliver as a son.

Mrs Mann
The parish pays you to bring up orphan babies by hand. They get so little to eat that many die. Mr Bumble is supposed to make sure you look after them well. He always gives you plenty of warning when he is coming to eat your tea and cake.