

CREATING THE WORLD OF **OLIVER TWIST**

CREATED FOR EVERYONE AGED SIX AND OVER

adapted by **Anya Reiss** from the novel by **Charles Dickens**

Oliver Twist is an orphan who has been brought up in the workhouse. His adventures begin when he runs away to London. But, after meeting Fagin and his gang of pickpockets, will Oliver begin a life of crime? Or will the kind Mr Brownlow save him? And what will become of Nancy, who tries to help Oliver escape from Fagin?

MEET SOME IMPORTANT CHARACTERS

There are lots of people in the story of *Oliver Twist*, but here are just a few for you to get to know.

Colour in the costumes using the descriptions below and your imagination!



FAGIN

"(his) villainous-looking and repulsive face was obscured by a quantity of matted red hair. He was dressed in a patchy green coat and had a white face."



NANCY

"Nancy wore a good deal of hair, not very neatly turned up behind, and was rather untidy about the shoes and stockings. Not exactly pretty, perhaps; but she had a great deal of colour in her face, and looked quite stout and hearty."



OLIVER TWIST

"Oliver Twist's eighth birthday found him a pale thin child, somewhat diminutive in stature, and decidedly small in circumference. But nature or inheritance had implanted a good sturdy spirit..."



MR BROWNLOW

"The old gentleman was a very respectable-looking personage, with a powdered head and gold spectacles. He was dressed in a bottle-green coat with a black velvet collar; wore white trousers; and carried a smart bamboo cane under his arm."

Charles Dickens is born

1812

William IV dies and Victoria becomes Queen when she is just 18 years old!

1837

Charles Dickens writes *Oliver Twist*

1838

Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert

1840

The Factory Act: children aged 8-13 cannot work more than 6.5 hours a day (before, they worked a lot more!)

1844

DELIA'S WHOLE OAT CRUNCHIES RECIPE

Oliver Twist is made to eat gruel in the workhouse, a thin porridge made with oats. Instead of making gruel, use some oats to make some delicious biscuits at home with an adult!

Makes 12



"These are the quickest and easiest biscuits I have ever made: they have a nice crunch and a toffee taste. A friend recently reminded me of these, so we tried them again and decided, yes, they absolutely had to be included in Delia's Cakes cookbook." *Delia Smith*

INGREDIENTS

- 50g jumbo oats
- 60g porridge oats
- 75g demerara sugar
- 110g block butter

ADDITIONAL

- Pre-heat the oven to 190', gas mark 3

EQUIPMENT

You will need a Delia Online Oblong Tin or similar 20cm by 26cm, 4cm deep, base and sides lined with a non-stick liner.

METHOD

First weigh out the oats and sugar, place them in a bowl and mix them together as evenly as possible.

Then gently melt the butter in a saucepan – only just melt it, be careful not to let it brown. Next pour the melted butter into the bowl with the oats and sugar and mix until everything is well and truly blended.

Now all you have to do is tip the mixture into the prepared tin and press it out evenly all over with the back of a tablespoon. Bake near the centre of the oven for 15–18 minutes or until a nice pale gold colour.

Then remove the tin from the oven and cut the mixture into 12 portions while it is still warm.

Leave in the tin until cold and crisp before storing the biscuits in an airtight tin.

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TWIST WORDSEARCH

Find the below words, try to remember their meanings as they will be used in the play!

Apprentice - a person who learns from someone who already does the job

Beadle - someone to do with the church who makes sure people stick to the law

Charitable - to look after people who need help

Gruel - porridge; this was often served to people living in the workhouse

Inheritance - money or houses given to children, or other members of the family, when somebody dies

Justice - when the right thing happens, good wins over bad

Magistrate - like a police officer, someone who deals with small crimes

Orphan - a child when both of their parents have died

Pickpocket - a thief who steals things from people's pockets

Workhouse - where poor people who had no job, or home, went to live

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

TO GO AWAY AND DO...

Write a diary entry imagining you are a Victorian child just like Oliver. Things to think about:

- Where are you living?
- What do you have to eat?
- Do you go to school?
- What do you think about how you live your life?
- Do you have a job?
- What does London look and smell like?
- What do you do with your friends?

The first free public library opens; London becomes largest city in Britain with a whopping 2.4 million people living there (8.6 million people live here now)

1851

An outbreak of cholera (a horrible disease from dirty water) leads to better sewers and clean water for cities

1854

Schools opened for 5-10 year olds for the first time

1870

Queen Victoria dies, this is end of the Victorian era

1901

REGENT'S PARK
OPEN AIR
THEATRE