**A. Personal information**

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**B. General information about the book and the writer**

1. a The title of the book I have read is: Oliver Twist

b The title fits the book.

c The title fits the book, because the protagonist of the book is called by the name: Oliver Twist. This name was given by a parochial beadle called: Mr. Bumble.

1. a The writer of the book Oliver Twist is Charles Dickens.

b Charles Dickens lived from 1812 to 1870. He had his first success with his first novel: The Pickwick Papers. In an extraordinarily full life he wrote, campaigned and spoke a huge range of issues, and was involved in many of the key aspects of Victorian life, by turns cajoling, moving and irritating. He completed fourteen full-length novels and volume after volume journalism. Oliver Twist was his second novel and champions the cause of London’s orphans within a narrative both irresistibly sinister and often deeply ironic.

3. a The book was first published in 1837, so in the 19th century.

B I think the book is significant for the time it was written in, because the book and writer were very popular in that time.

4. a The genre of this book is: coming of age story.

b The book starts when Oliver was not even born yet. It describes Oliver’s birth and how he grew up in the parish’s house until he was ten years of age. Then the book describes how Oliver grows up until he is about twelve years old. So that is why I think the genre of this book is coming of age story.

5. a The main theme of the book is: the constant battle of good vs evil.

b The book has other themes too; Society and class, criminality, and poverty.

c I think the battle of good vs evil is the main theme of the novel, because Oliver, who is a good-hearted boy, almost constantly accompanies bad people, and that is what the whole story is about. I think society and class is another theme of the novel, because the writer shows how superficial class structures really are in the novel Oliver Twist. Criminality was a huge problem in the time the book was written. Fagin’s gang with whom Oliver stays with in the book are pickpockets and a certain man in that gang named Bill Sikes, murders someone later in the book. So that is why I think criminality is a theme in this book. Poverty is another theme of this novel, because with the workhouses, filthy quarters and despair, Dickens is showing just how miserable the lower classes really were in the 19th century.

6. a The major action of Oliver Twist moves back and forth between two worlds: The filthy slums of London and the clean, comfortable house of Brownlow and the Maylies. The first world is real and frightening.  While the other is idealized, almost dreamlike, in its safety and beauty. The world of London is a world of crime.  Things happen there at night, in dark alleys and in abandoned, dark buildings.

b In chapter XV Oliver is kidnapped and in chapter XXVI Fagin meets Monks. Suchs darkness in these events suggests that evil dominates this world.

7. a The narrator of Oliver Twist tends to be pretty hands-off. In general, we only get to see what’s going on in the heads of a very few characters (including Oliver, obviously). Particularly with the members of Fagin’s gang and the descriptions of London, Dickens backs off and is more objective. The effect is that these scenes seem almost journalistic, it’s like we’re reading a newspaper exposé on criminals in London, instead of a novel. But every now and then, the narrator launches into a lengthy discussion of how the plot is working, or what he’s planning on doing in this particular chapter. These digressions, or breaks in the story, remind the reader that this is in fact a novel, and not real life.

b Chapter XXIII: Such was the aspect of out-of-doors affairs, when Mrs. Corney, the matron of the workhouse to which our readers have already been introduced. This is an example of that kind of digressions, because the writer here reminds the reader that the story is in fact a novel and not just a newspaper article or something like that, although the main style of writing may suggest that.

8. a Oliver was born in a workhouse in the fictional town of Mudfog, 70 miles (110km) away from London. His mother died just after she gave birth to him and his father is absent as well in the story, so Oliver’s been orphan since just after his birth. The only thing his mother left to Oliver was a gold name locket, but that was stolen by the nurse who helped the women give birth to Oliver. Oliver was meagrely provided for under the terms of the poor law and spends the first nine years of his life at a baby farm in the ‘care’ of Mrs. Mann. When Oliver got nine years old, Mr. Bumble, the parish beadle, removes Oliver from the workhouse and puts him to work in the main workhouse. But then Oliver asks for more, because he’s almost starving just like the other children of the workhouse. Then the boy gets offered to anyone who wants Oliver as an apprentice. Oliver eventually goes to live with mr. Sowerberry, an undertaker employed by the parish. Mr. Sowerberry takes Oliver into his service as a mourner at children’s funerals. But when a boy named Noah Claypole, who lives with mr. Sowerberry too, says bad things about Oliver’s mother, Oliver and Noah get into a fight and Oliver gets punished for that. Then Oliver decides to leave the Sowerberry household and runs away. He walks the 70 miles way to London, and there he runs up to a man named Jack Dawkins, also known by the nickname: the artful dodger. He brings Oliver to the residence of an infamous jewish criminal known as Fagin. Oliver then lives with Fagin and his gang of pickpockets and once went outside with two other boys, but he was scared and was then taken in custody for pickpocketing while Oliver has not even done that. A witness knows that and comes to the police station were Oliver was held in custody. It is the wealthy mr. Brownlow. Oliver gets a fever in prison and is very near death. Mr. Brownlow feels sorry for the state Oliver is in and takes him home. After Oliver is recovered from his fever at mr. Brownlows great residence, mr. Brownlow asks him to pay for some books in the city but then he gets kidnapped by a prostitute named Nancy from Fagin’s gang of thieves. Then Oliver is sent on a expedition by Fagin with an abusive robber named Bill Sikes, during that expedition, Oliver gets shot and is left by Mr. Sikes at the doorstep of the Maylie’s family. Oliver gets the care he need there and the rest of the story is about Mr. Maylie, Mr. Brownlow and Miss Maylie researching Oliver’s past.

b I did not use any online sources.

**C. Your own interpretation of the book**

9. a I think the writer wants to let us know how miserable the life of paupers or orphans is in the time the book was written, mainly for the people who lived in that time. Because perhaps they could do something about it and make a pauper’s life a bit less unfortunate. Just like the Maylie family and Mr. Brownlow did.

b In the book is mentions how terrible Oliver’s life is, Oliver is an orphan but he is very kind-hearted, and the book shows that it is good to give a better residence to someone like Oliver, just like Rose Maylie and Mr. Brownlow did.

10. a Oliver Twist, Fagin ( the jew ), Nancy, Rose Maylie, Mr. Brownlow, Monks, Bill Sikes, Mr. Bumble, Agnes Fleming, Mr. Leeford, Mr. Losberne, Noah Claypole, Mrs Corney, Mrs. Bedwin, Mrs. Sowerberry

b  The novel’s protagonist, Oliver is an orphan born in a workhouse, and Dickens uses his situation to criticize public policy toward the poor in 1830s England. Oliver is between nine and twelve years old when the main action of the novel occurs. Though treated with cruelty and surrounded by coarseness for most of his life, he is a pious, innocent child, and his charms draw the attention of several wealthy benefactors. His true identity is the central mystery of the novel.

Fagin is a conniving career criminal. Fagin takes in homeless children and trains them to pick pockets for him. He is also a buyer of other people’s stolen goods. He rarely commits crimes himself, preferring to employ others to commit them, and often suffer legal retribution, in his place. Dickens’s portrait of Fagin displays the influence of anti-Semitic stereotypes. A young prostitute and one of Fagin’s former child pickpockets. Nancy is also Bill Sikes’s lover. Her love for Sikes and her sense of moral decency come into conflict when Sikes abuses Oliver. Despite her criminal lifestyle, she is among the noblest characters in the novel. In effect, she gives her life for Oliver when Sikes murders her for revealing Monks’s plots.

11.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of**  **protagonist 1:** | **Nancy** | **Name of**  **protagonist 2:** | **Noah Claypole** |
| Positive:  Nancy eventually gives her life to Oliver, that’s a good thing of her | Negative:  Nancy was Bill Sikes’ lover and also was a thieve. Those things are really bad | Positive:  Noah does exactly what Fagin asks him to do. That can be good because he listens and obeys his master. | Negative:  Noah doing exactly what Fagin asks him to do, can also be a negative thing, because it is illegal what he is doing. |
|  |  |  |  |

12. a+b I think the most important event of the book was that Oliver went on the expedition with Sikes and then stays with the Maylies. I do so, because all the themes of the book appear in this event. Battle vs good and evil appears almost literally, because when Oliver is left with the Maylies, the Maylies sent people to search for Sikes and his gang. Sikes and his gang are evil and the Maylies are good, so that is almost literally a battle of good vs evil. Society and class is appearing here as the diffence between society and class, because mr. Sikes his gang and Oliver are poor and belong to the lower class. While the Maylies and the practitioner who is helping them in this event belong to the higher / upper class. Criminality is another theme appearing in this event, because Sikes and the people who were with him on this expedition were breaking into the house of the Maylies and breaking into a house is a crime. Poverty is the last theme of the story appearing in this event of the book. In this event is shown how Oliver was left alone by Sikes while having a nasty shot wound in his limb, that is a true example of poverty in this event.

13. a The book ends with Oliver having a good residence, mr. Brownlow explaining Oliver’s past to Monks, Fagin and Noah taken in custody and Sikes being killed.

b The end is sad, but not bothering to me, because Oliver is very likely to continue his life much better than it used to be for him. The truth about his past is in the end discovered and it turns out that he does have family and people that care about him, something he always wished for. So I would not change the end, but maybe make it a bit more detailed, because the other chapters of the novel were much more detailed, and I think that the end is very important so I would have made it more detailed.

14. a+b I really liked reading this book, because I really like books written by Charles Dickens and books that are written in the 19th century. I like how this novel was somehow sad but not bothering and I really liked the style Dickens used while writing this story. I also liked the way things were all connected, for example that Rose Maylie and Oliver appeared to be related, and that Mr. Brownlow, who had been so good to Oliver was related as well. I also liked the last chapter because almost the whole city united to help catch Bill Sikes, because that shows that a pickpocket (Toby Crackit) can also be kind-hearted, because he offered his own life to get Sikes killed, because he had killed Nancy. Nancy had helped some people with researching about Oliver’s past, and with that she betrayed Sikes, but Noah Claypole spyed on Nancy as she did it, so Sikes found out and killed her, so actually Nancy as bad as she was, *did* help some people and risked her life for it. So actually she did something good just before getting killed. And so her life ended. And I think that’s sad but also kind of good. And that is what I think of many events in the story and that’s what I like about this novel.