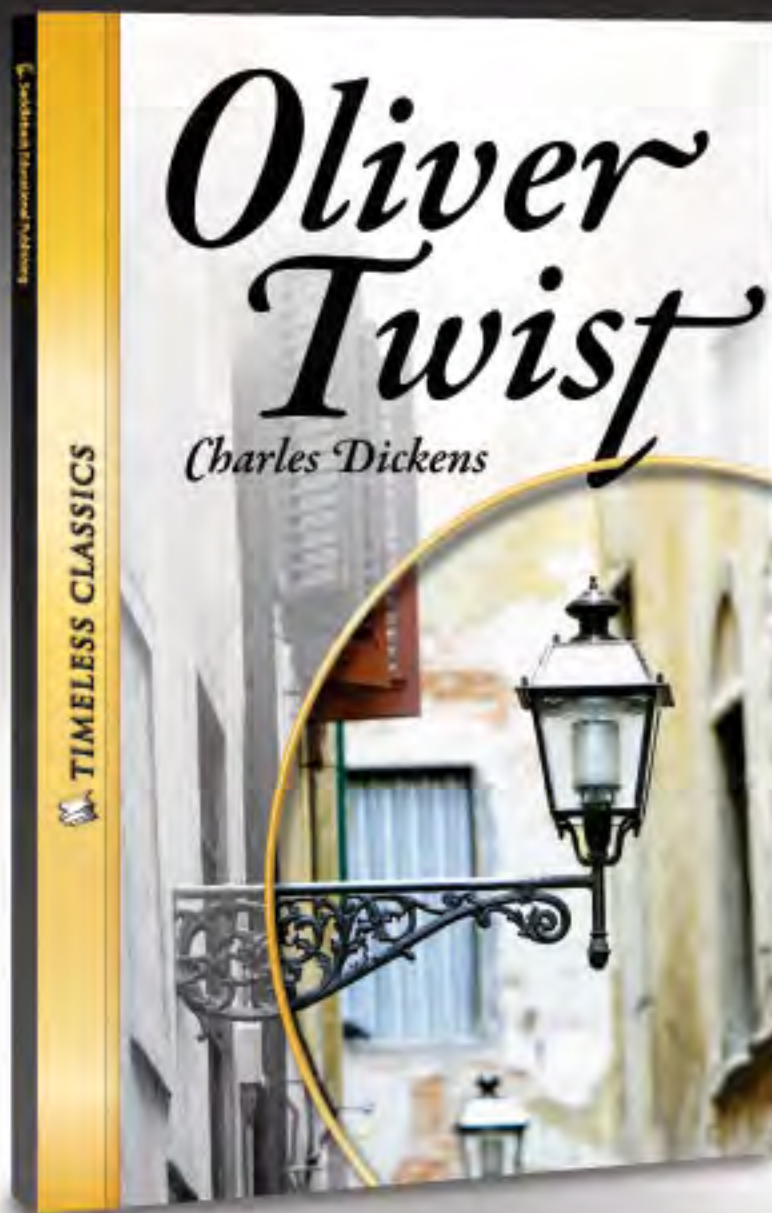


# TIMELESS CLASSICS STUDY GUIDE



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## TIMELESS CLASSICS

### NOTES TO THE TEACHER

#### THE NOVELS

*Timeless Classics* were expressly designed to help struggling readers gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each novel has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later investigations of the original works, *Timeless Classics* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of struggling readers: airy, uncomplicated page design; shortened sentences; easy-reading type style; elimination of archaic words and spellings; shortened total book length; and handsome illustrations.

To further engage struggling readers, some of our *Timeless Classics* titles are available in a new and exciting graphic format, which can bridge literacies and build complex reading skills—a perfect opportunity for differentiation.

#### THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Classics Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and eight "universal" exercises that may be used for any *Timeless Classic* or *Saddleback Illustrated Classic*.

In addition to the universal exercises, 26 title-specific activities are included to review, test, or enrich the student's grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. These reproducible worksheets are designed to be used chapter-by-chapter as the student's reading of the novel proceeds. At least two exercises are provided for each book chapter. One of the two always focuses on key vocabulary. The other may be a simple comprehension check or present an important literary concept.

Research shows that the most effective way to improve comprehension is to teach students strategies. The foundation of any comprehension strategy requires knowledge of the skills found in these activities including: main idea, noting details, drawing conclusions, finding the sequence, cause and effect, making inferences, and more. A two-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Classics Study Guide*.

#### USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure your students each have a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. By organizing the reading process in this way, you will be able to set a purpose for reading and activate prior knowledge. The *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing or research projects you may wish to assign. To further preview the novel, you may wish to review the *Facts About the Characters*. Students will also need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions and role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity. Oral language activities, such as paraphrasing or summarizing a part of the story, provide an intervention opportunity to strengthen oral language skills and, in turn, strengthen reading skills.

## CHARLES DICKENS

(1812–1870)

### EARLY LIFE

Born in Portsmouth, England, Charles Dickens endured a difficult, unhappy childhood—much like the children in his novels. When his father, a clerk, was thrown into debtor’s prison, young Charles was sent to work in a shoe polish factory. In later years he was to say that his parents’ failure to educate him was his greatest disappointment. After the age of 14, he never returned to school.

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

A lifelong hard worker, Dickens held jobs as an office boy and then as a newspaper reporter of debates in Parliament. Under the pen name *Boz*, he wrote humorous satires on daily life for a magazine. This series immediately became popular, encouraging Dickens to write his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*—which was published when he was 24 years old. With the great success of this novel, Dickens’ literary career was launched.

In *Oliver Twist*, his next novel, Dickens began his lifelong crusade against social conditions that grossly abuse the poor, especially children. While on a reading tour in the United States, he also spoke out for the abolition of slavery.

The publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 met with sensational success. As the father of 10 children, Dickens freely admitted that he wrote the book in order to

generate income. But he received an even greater reward: He said that he laughed and cried over *A Christmas Carol* as he did no other story.

### OTHER WORKS

Among the best known of his 20 novels are *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist*, *Hard Times*, and *Great Expectations*.

Charles Dickens is considered by many to be the greatest English novelist. Although his work is sometimes criticized as sentimental, his stature as a great humorist and creator of characters is unparalleled. His imaginative use of detail, odd gestures, expressions, speech patterns, and physical characteristics has brought his characters to life for millions of readers. As a social critic, he attacked hypocrisy, injustice, and cruelty as few other novelists have had the skill to do.

The Victorian era, when Dickens wrote, is sometimes called “the age of Dickens” because his characters and ideas so well exemplify life at this time.

### LATER LIFE

At the age of 58, Dickens died in England while working on his novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.



## OLIVER TWIST

### FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

**In 1812, when Charles Dickens was born . . .**

Napoleon marched on Moscow...James Madison was elected president of the United States...the first billiards parlor opened in England...the United States declared war on Britain...Beethoven wrote his Seventh and Eighth Symphonies.

**Between 1837 and 1839, when *Oliver Twist* was published (in serial form in a magazine) . . .**

Queen Victoria was crowned...Nathaniel Hawthorne's best-seller *Twice-told Tales* was published...Michigan became a

state...Sitting Bull was born...Abner Doubleday conducted the first baseball game ever played.

**In 1870, when Charles Dickens died . . .**

John D. Rockefeller founded the Standard Oil Company...Jules Verne published *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*...Robert E. Lee died...Lenin was born...P.T. Barnum was preparing to open "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn.

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## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

### FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

#### **OLIVER TWIST**

An orphan boy living in mid-19th-century England

#### **SALLY**

An old woman in the workhouse who assists at Oliver's birth

#### **AGNES FLEMING**

Oliver's young mother, who dies in childbirth

#### **MR. BUMBLE**

The parish beadle, who serves on the workhouse board

#### **MR. SOWERBERRY**

An undertaker who is paid five pounds to take Oliver from the workhouse

#### **NOAH CLAYPOLE**

A charity boy who works for Mr. Sowerberry

#### **CHARLOTTE**

The Sowerberrys' maid

#### **THE ARTFUL DODGER**

A young pickpocket who takes Oliver to Fagin's place in London

#### **FAGIN**

An old thief who teaches young boys to steal

#### **NANCY**

A young woman who works for Fagin; she befriends Oliver

#### **CHARLEY BATES**

One of the young thieves who live in Fagin's house

#### **MR. BROWNLOW**

A kindly old gentleman who rescues Oliver from the streets

**MRS. BEDWIN**

Mr. Brownlow's housekeeper

**BILL SIKES**

An evil thief associated with Fagin; he kills his girlfriend Nancy

**TOBY CRACKIT**

A member of Fagin's gang

**MRS. CORNEY**

The cold and greedy matron at the workhouse

**MONKS**

A "gentleman criminal" who plots against Oliver, his half-brother; his real name is Edward Leeford

**ROSE**

An orphan who is later revealed to be the younger sister of Oliver's mother, Agnes Fleming

**MRS. MAYLIE**

Kind old woman who raised Rose

**HARRY MAYLIE**

Young man who abandons his high ambitions to marry Rose and become pastor of a country church

**DR. LOSBERNE**

Physician who cares for Rose and Oliver

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**CHAPTER SUMMARIES****CHAPTER 1**

Oliver Twist is orphaned a few minutes after his birth in a workhouse. The identity of his young unmarried mother is not known. The motherless child is sent to a grim baby farm and then back to the workhouse when he is nine years old. After being shut up in a dark room and whipped because he asked for more food, Oliver is "sold" to an undertaker for five pounds. In the home of the Sowerberrys, he is tormented by Noah Claypole, another poor apprentice.

**CHAPTER 2**

After a fight with Noah Claypole, Oliver is beaten by everyone in the house. In despair, he runs away to London, nearly starving on the 70-mile walk. Along the way he meets

the Artful Dodger, a young pickpocket who offers him free lodging there with a "jolly old gentleman." Fagin turns out to be a thief who houses young boys and trains them as pickpockets. While living at Fagin's, Oliver meets Nancy, a cheerful young woman who is also a member of Fagin's gang.

**CHAPTER 3**

Out on the streets, Oliver is blamed for a theft of the Artful Dodger's. When the judge releases him, the kindly victim of the crime, Mr. Brownlow, sees that Oliver is sick and takes him home. As Oliver regains his health, Fagin and Bill Sikes, another member of his gang, worry that Oliver will report them to the

## TIMELESS CLASSICS

### LITERARY GLOSSARY

**action** what happens in a story; the acts or events that take place

The war story was full of battle action.

**author** the writer of a book, story, article, etc.

Ernest Hemingway was an American author.

**author's purpose** the author's specific goal or reason for writing a certain book

In that novel, the author's purpose was to make readers laugh.

**character** a fictional person who plays a part in a story or novel

Long John Silver is an important character in *Treasure Island*.

**classic** excellent artwork, novel, painting, symphony, etc. that remains popular over many years

Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* has become an American classic

**climax** the outcome of the novel's main conflict

The capture of the criminal was the climax of the detective story.

**conclusion** the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing the story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

**conflict** The struggle between characters or forces at the center of the story

The conflict was resolved when the suspect confessed.

**description** the parts of a story or novel that tell about the appearance of the setting or characters

His description of the Alps was breathtaking.

**dialogue** words spoken by the characters in a novel, story, or play

The dialogue in that comedy is very witty and amusing.

**effect** in literature, an impression created by the writer

Murder mysteries often create a suspenseful, chilling effect.

**event** a specific occurrence; something that happens

A plane crash is the first event in that adventure novel.

**fiction** a literary work in which the plot and characters are the products of the author's imagination

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a popular work of fiction.

**figurative language** colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

**imagery** figures of speech that help the reader to visualize the characters or setting; pictures in words

In Stephen Crane's imagery, the color of blood suggests courage.

**introduction** a short reading that presents and explains a novel; sometimes the first part of a novel that sets the scene

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

**mood** the overall feeling or atmosphere the author creates in a story or novel

The author's skillful use of language created a dismal, hopeless mood.

**moral** the instructive point of a story or novel; the lesson to be drawn by the reader

The moral of the story is to choose your friends carefully.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

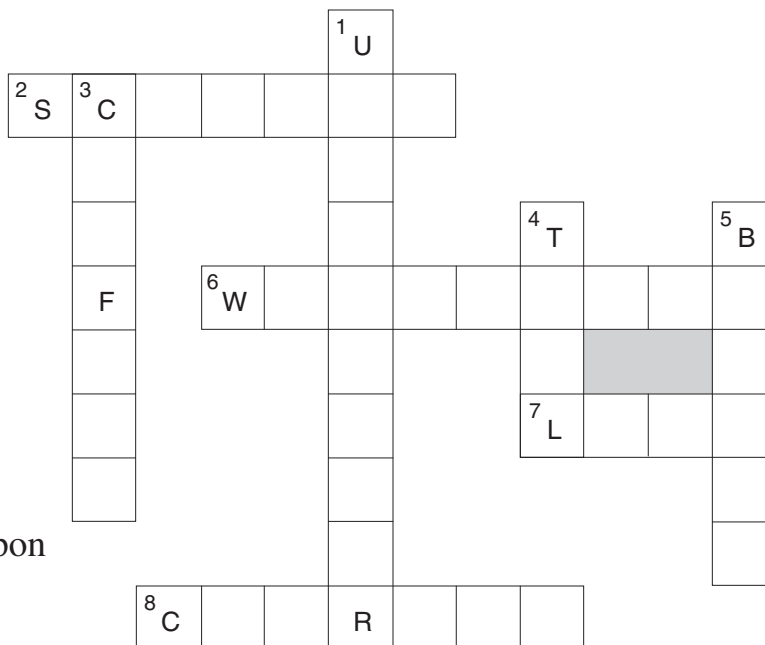
- A.** Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

**ACROSS**

2. Mrs. Sowerberry was a short, \_\_\_\_ woman.
6. Mr. Bumble took Oliver to live in the \_\_\_\_.
7. The same qualities can be found in both a \_\_\_\_ and a charity boy.
8. Noah Claypole was called “\_\_\_\_” and looked down upon by the other boys.

**DOWN**

1. Mr. Sowerberry worked as an \_\_\_\_.
3. Oliver slept in a room where \_\_\_\_ were made.
4. In a workhouse, people \_\_\_\_ without pay.
5. Mr. Bumble was the parish \_\_\_\_.



- B.** Use words from the puzzle to complete the sentences.

1. In England, a \_\_\_\_\_ is a high-ranking gentleman such as a baron or an earl.
2. A person who is much too thin might be described as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Painfully hard work is sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a low-ranking church official.
5. Poor children do not have to pay to attend a \_\_\_\_\_ school.
6. People who have died are buried in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Someone who runs a funeral home might be called an \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Long ago, people were sent to a \_\_\_\_\_ if they had no money to support themselves.



**CHARACTER STUDY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** First unscramble the characters' names. Then circle two words that describe each character.

1. **REV OIL SWITT** \_\_\_\_\_

unlucky      proud      cruel      vulnerable

2. **LYLAS** \_\_\_\_\_

elderly      vain      alcoholic      sickly

3. **MR. MUBLEB** \_\_\_\_\_

courageous      overweight      selfish      holy

4. **HONA PEALCLOY** \_\_\_\_\_

compassionate      jealous      nasty      respectable

5. **MR. REBROWSERY** \_\_\_\_\_

slender      timid      exceptional      exhausted

6. **TOTLARCHE** \_\_\_\_\_

refined      obedient      heartless      generous

**B.** Use a character's name to complete each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ gave Oliver some meat that the dog hadn't eaten.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ said the young woman who died was found lying in the street.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a greedy man convinced of his own importance.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ was sent by his mother to a charity school.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ didn't like going to funerals.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ was given five pounds for taking Oliver from the workhouse.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- A.** Circle the hidden words. They may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

\_\_\_ **SIGNAL**    \_\_\_ **LODGINGS**  
\_\_\_ **GRUB**    \_\_\_ **TORMENT**  
\_\_\_ **MATE**    \_\_\_ **RESPECTABLE**  
\_\_\_ **MISER**    \_\_\_ **SHRIVELED**  
\_\_\_ **FISTS**    \_\_\_ **BOWLEGGED**  
\_\_\_ **ODORS**    \_\_\_ **MANNER**

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

- B.** Write puzzle words next to their *synonyms* (words that have the same meaning).

1. food _____	4. wrinkled _____
2. buddy _____	5. upright _____
3. smells _____	6. tightwad _____

- C.** Use puzzle words to complete the sentences.

- Mrs. Sowerberry scratched Oliver's face, and Charlotte beat him with her \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Artful Dodger whistled a \_\_\_\_\_ to Fagin.
- To pass the time, Noah decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Oliver.
- The Artful Dodger was a short, \_\_\_\_\_ boy who wore a man's big coat.
- Fagin offered free \_\_\_\_\_ to homeless boys.
- Fagin's angry \_\_\_\_\_ changed completely when he thought he had frightened Oliver.