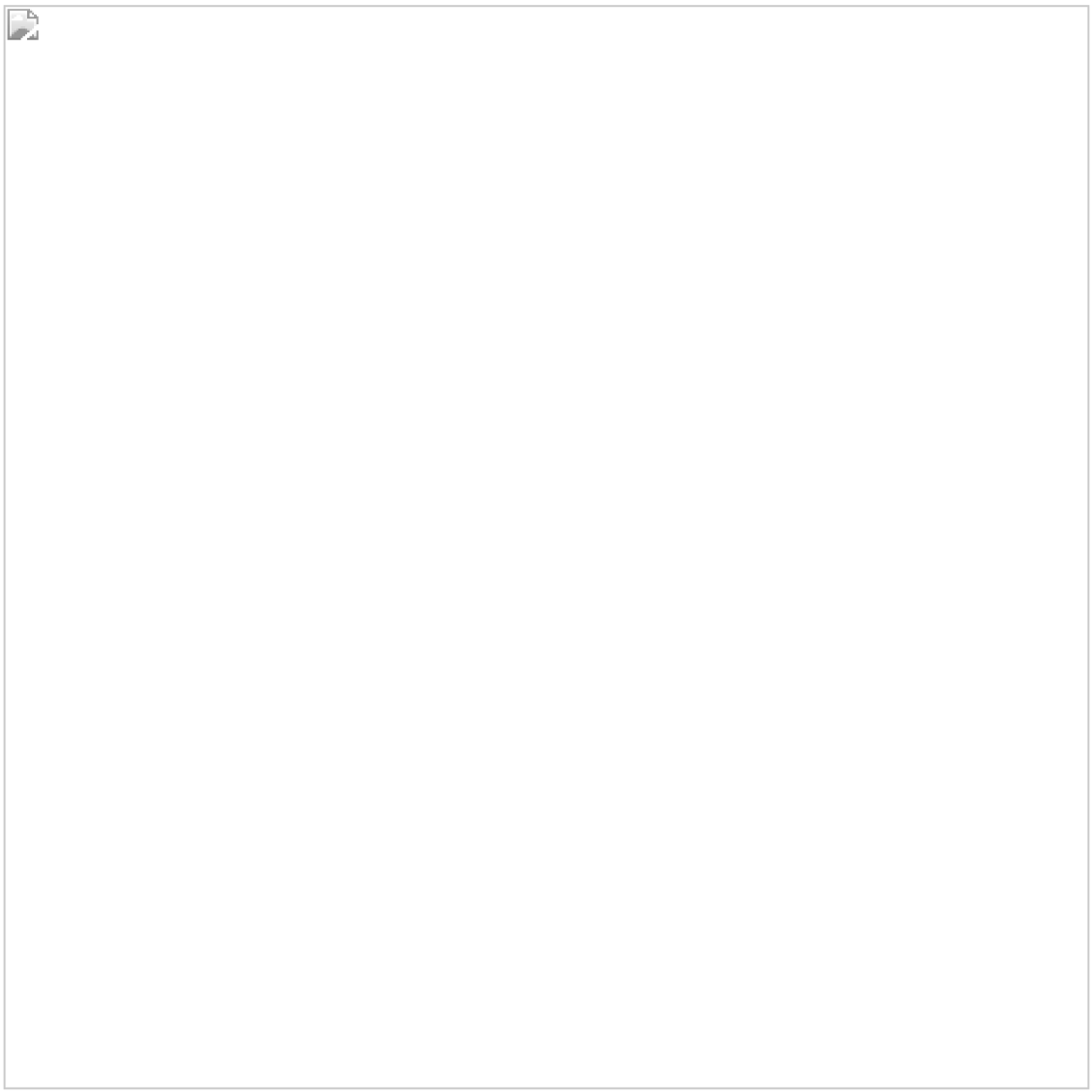
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Oliver Twist

The Parish Boy's Progress



Long ago in England, a baby boy was born in a workhouse, a place for people who were very poor. His mother was a young woman nobody knew, who had been found in the street.

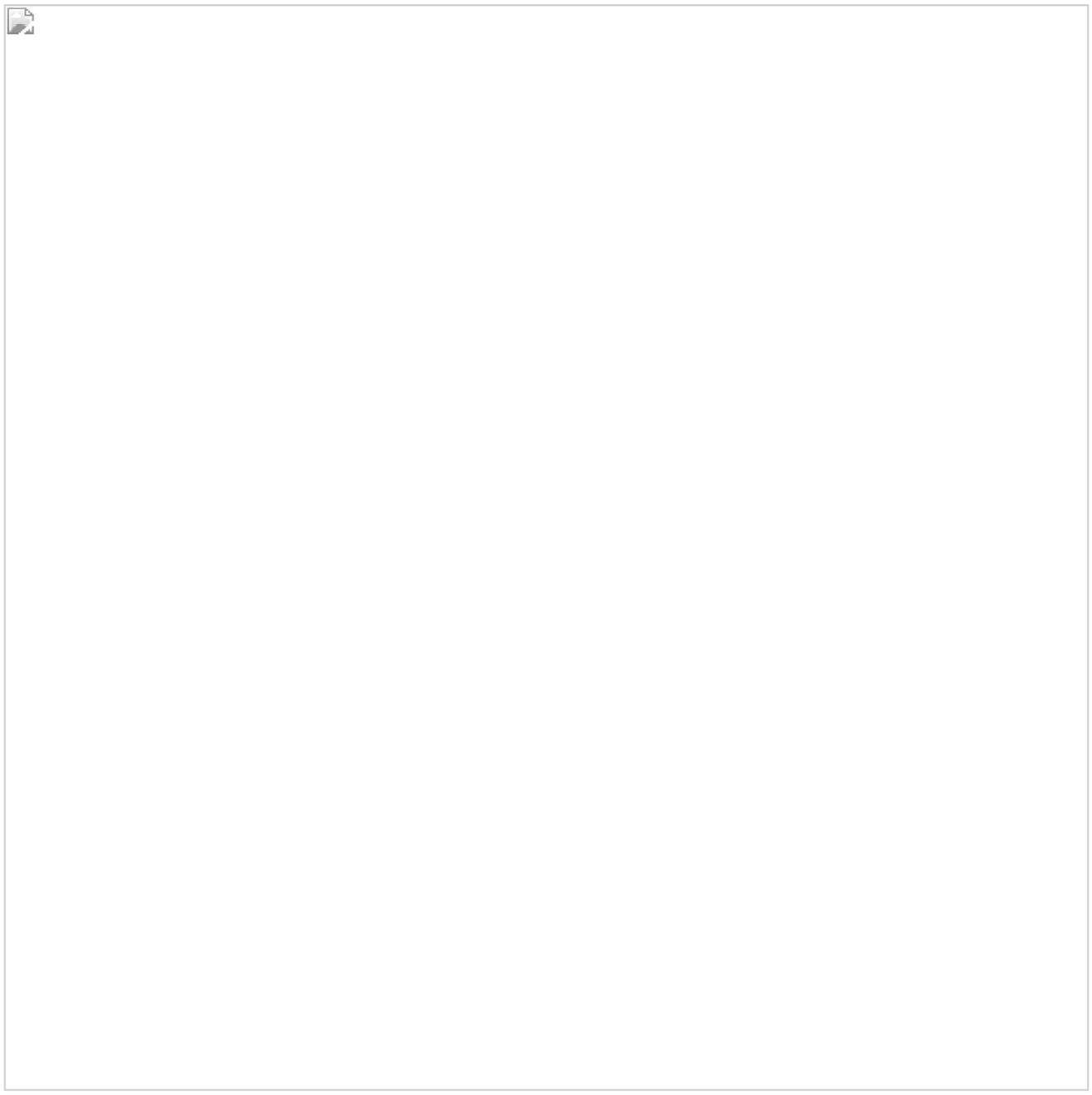
“Let me see the child, and die.” The nurse put the baby in her arms. She kissed his forehead, and she died. That was how Oliver's life began.

TALK ABOUT IT

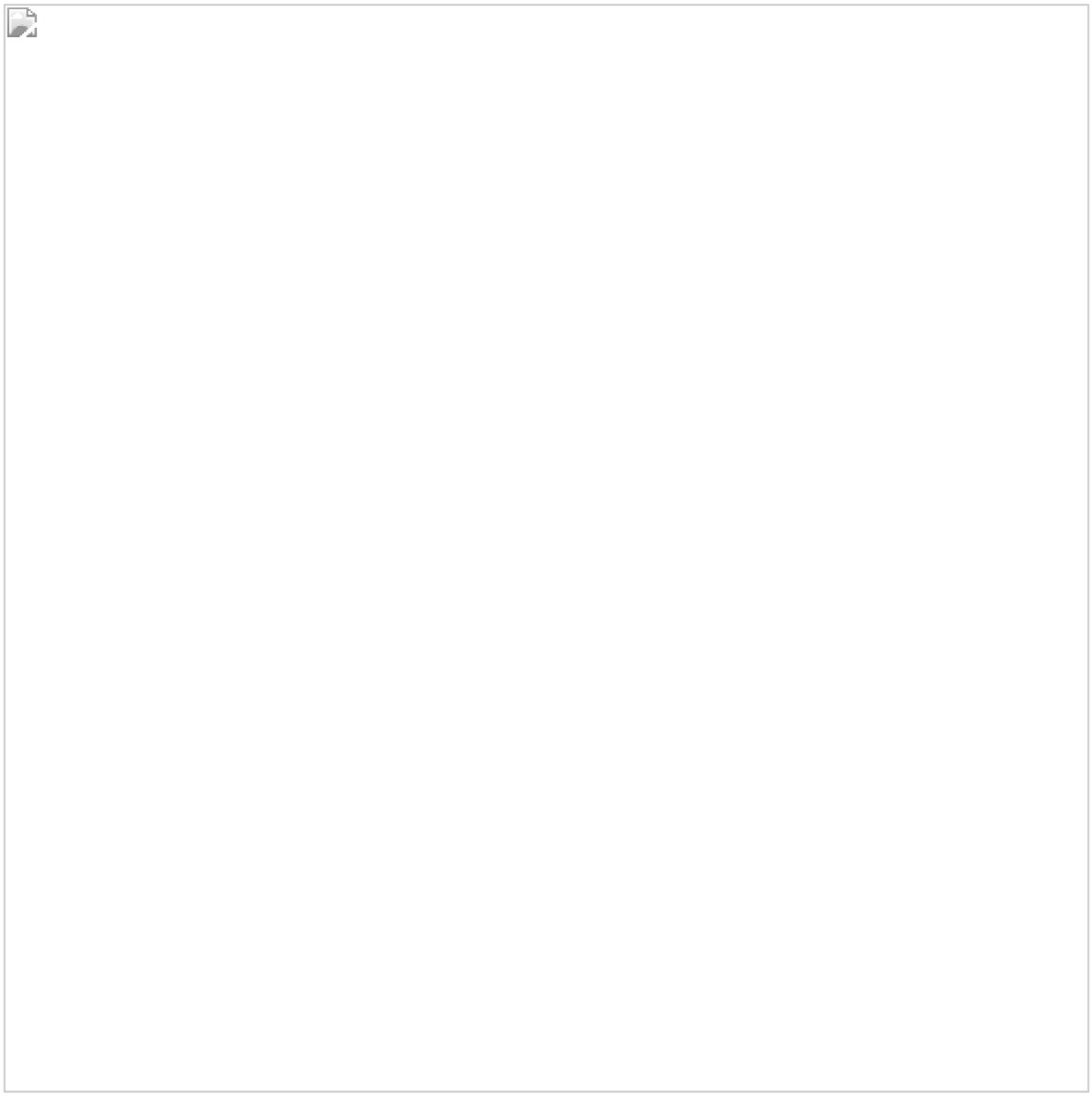
Oliver had no family at all on the day he was born. What do you think a child needs most?

This book belongs to _____

Oliver Twist · another picture



A Boy Named Twist



Nobody knew the baby's name, so Mr. Bumble, the beadle, who was in charge of the poor children, made one up. He gave names in alphabetical order. The last boy had been Swubble. This one was Twist.

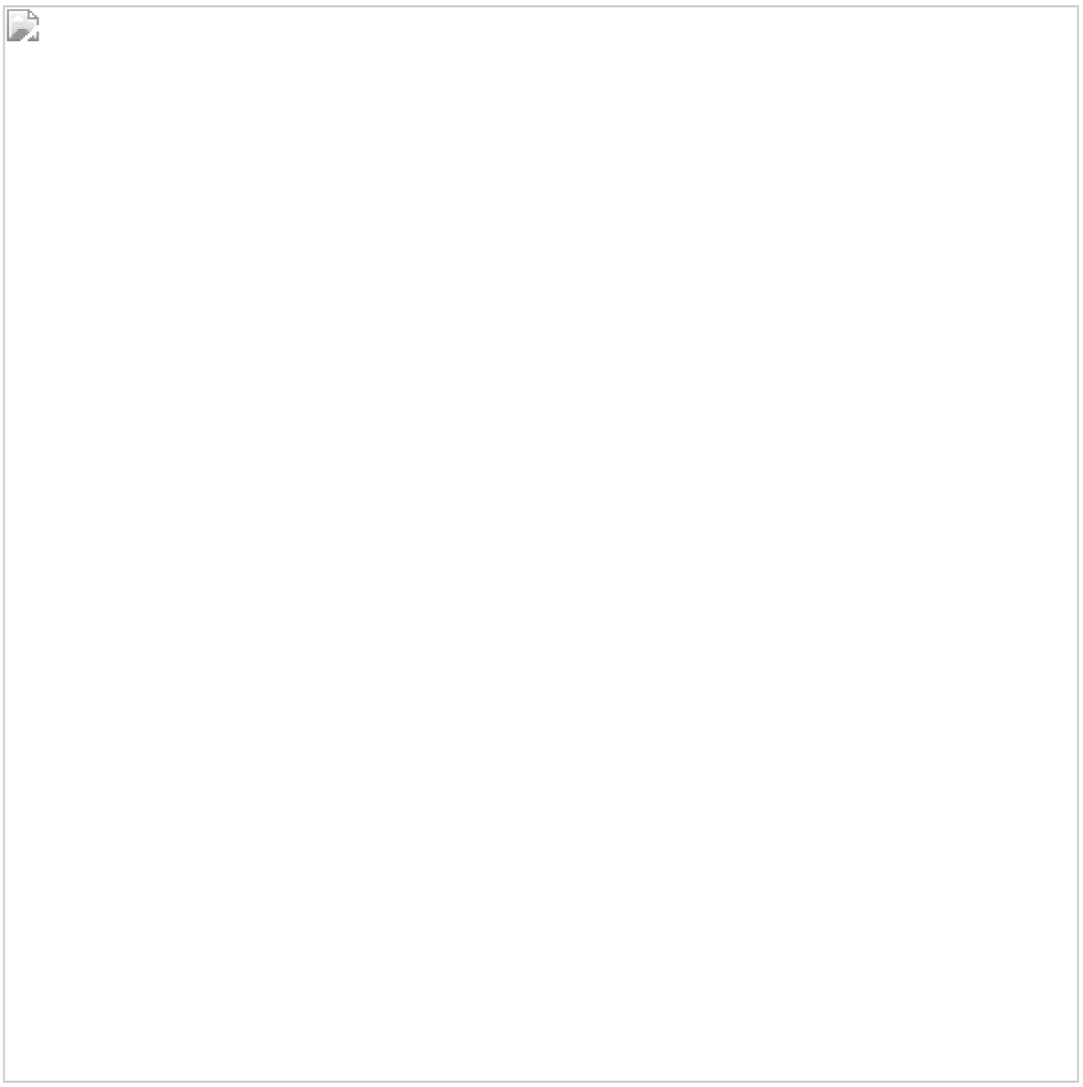
Oliver was sent to a woman called Mrs. Mann, who was paid to look after small orphans. She spent the money on herself, and the children went hungry.

When Oliver was nine, he was taken to the workhouse itself. The boys there worked all day and got one small bowl of thin porridge, three times a day. It was never enough.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think a hungry boy might feel as the bowls were passed around?

A Boy Named Twist · another picture



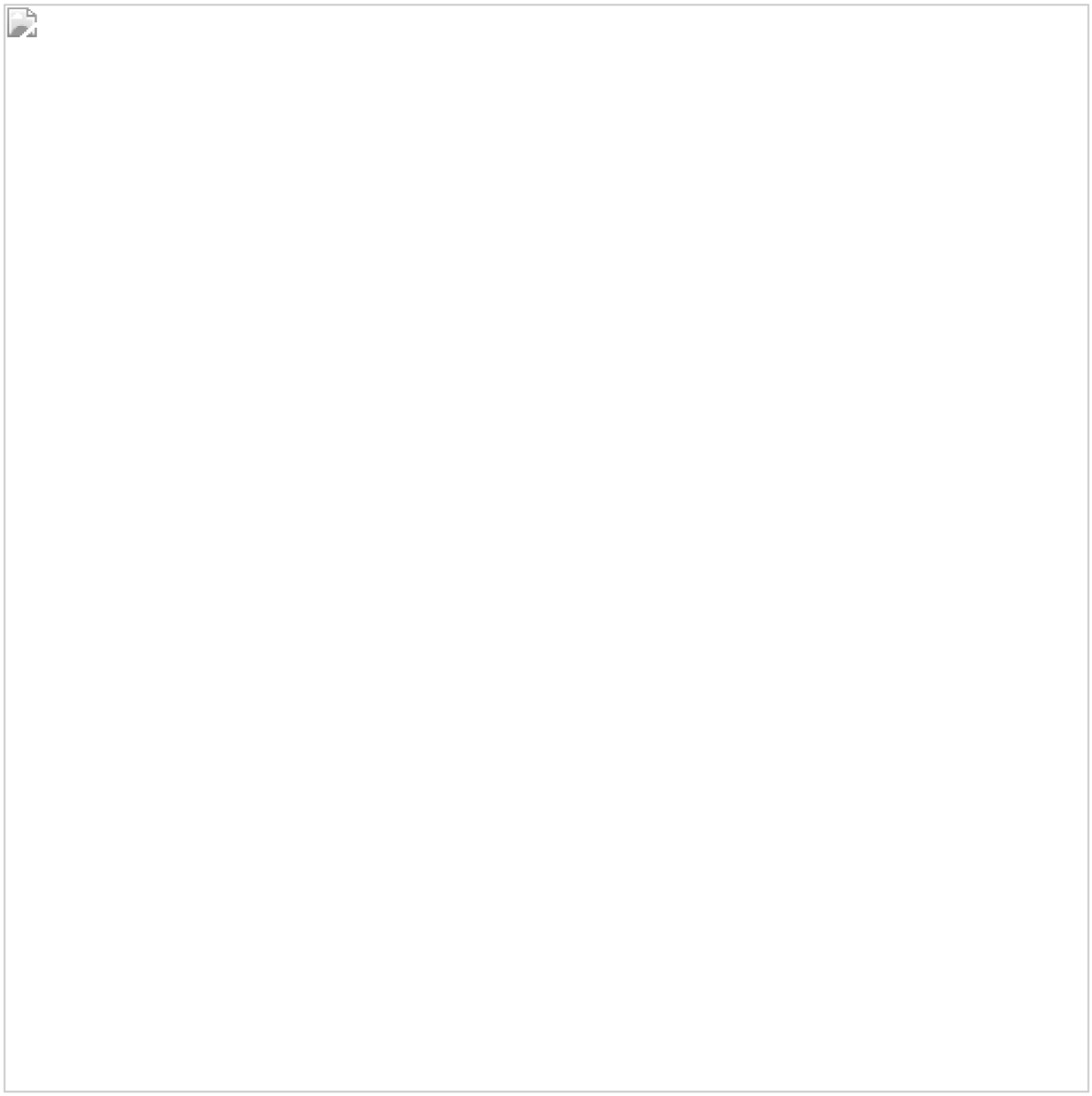
Think about it

1. Who gave Oliver the name Twist?

- ○ His mother
- ○ Mr. Bumble
- ○ Mrs. Mann

2. Oliver was hungry nearly every day. What would you want to do for a hungry child?

Please, Sir, I Want Some More



One night the hungry boys drew lots to see who must ask for more. The lot fell to Oliver. After supper he stood up with his bowl and spoon, and said, a little frightened:

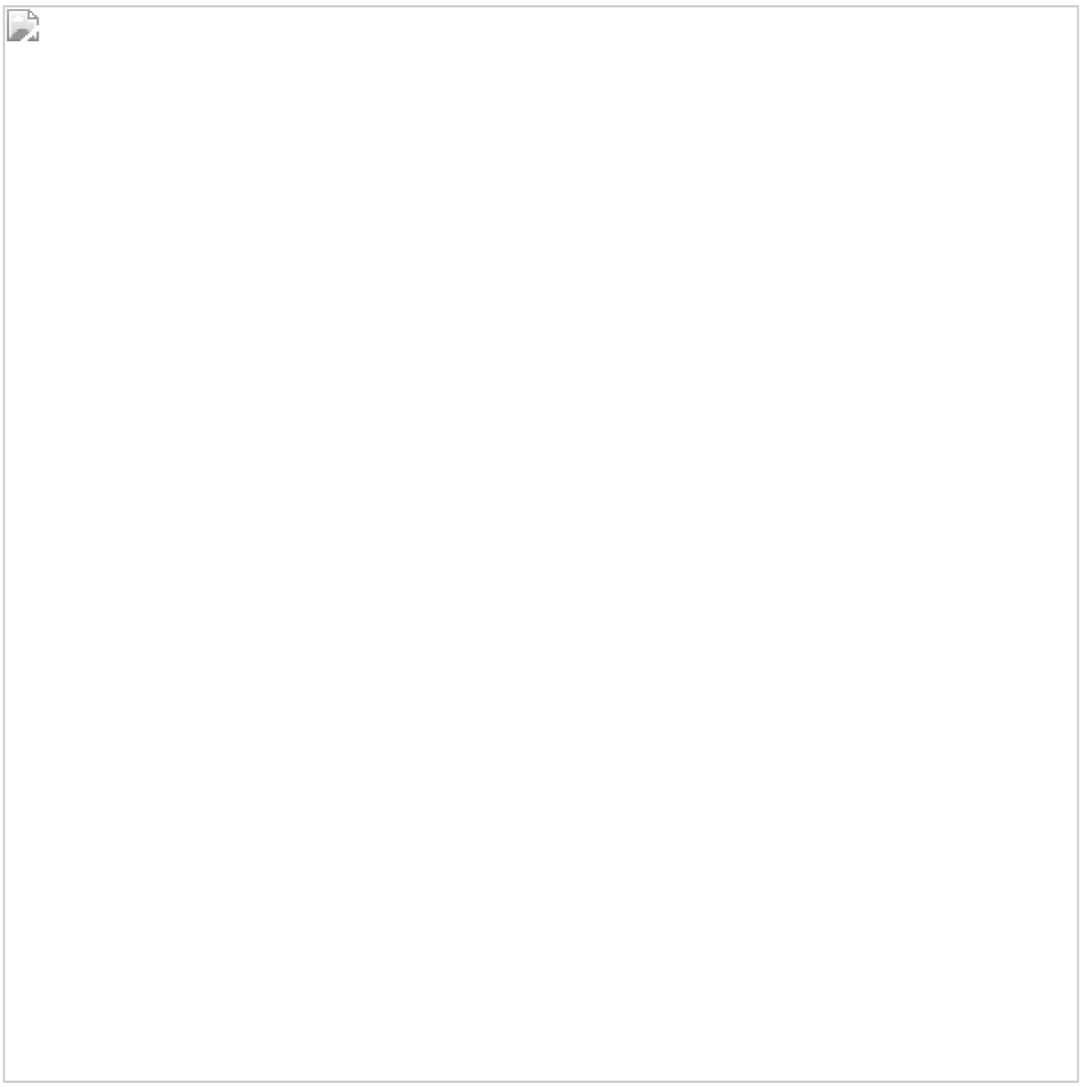
“Please, sir, I want some more.”

The master turned pale. He called for Mr. Bumble, and the gentlemen who ran the workhouse were shocked. Oliver was shut in a dark room by himself. A notice went up on the gate: five pounds to anyone who would take Oliver Twist away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver only asked for a little more food. Why do you think the grown-ups were so angry?

Please, Sir, I Want Some More · another picture



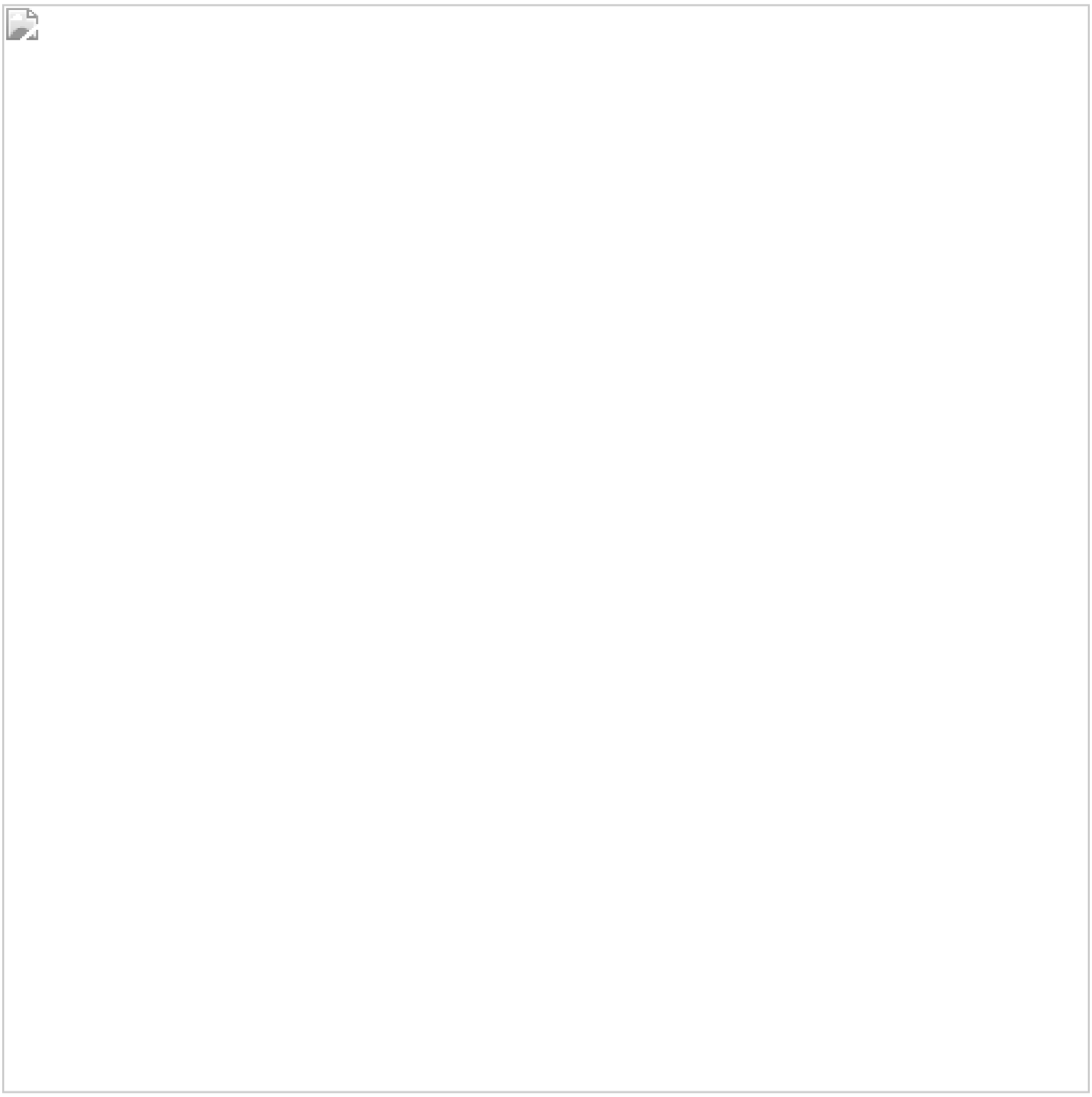
Think about it

1. What did Oliver ask for?

- ○ More food
- ○ A new coat
- ○ To go outside

2. Who could have helped Oliver, if they had noticed him?

The Coffin-Maker's Boy



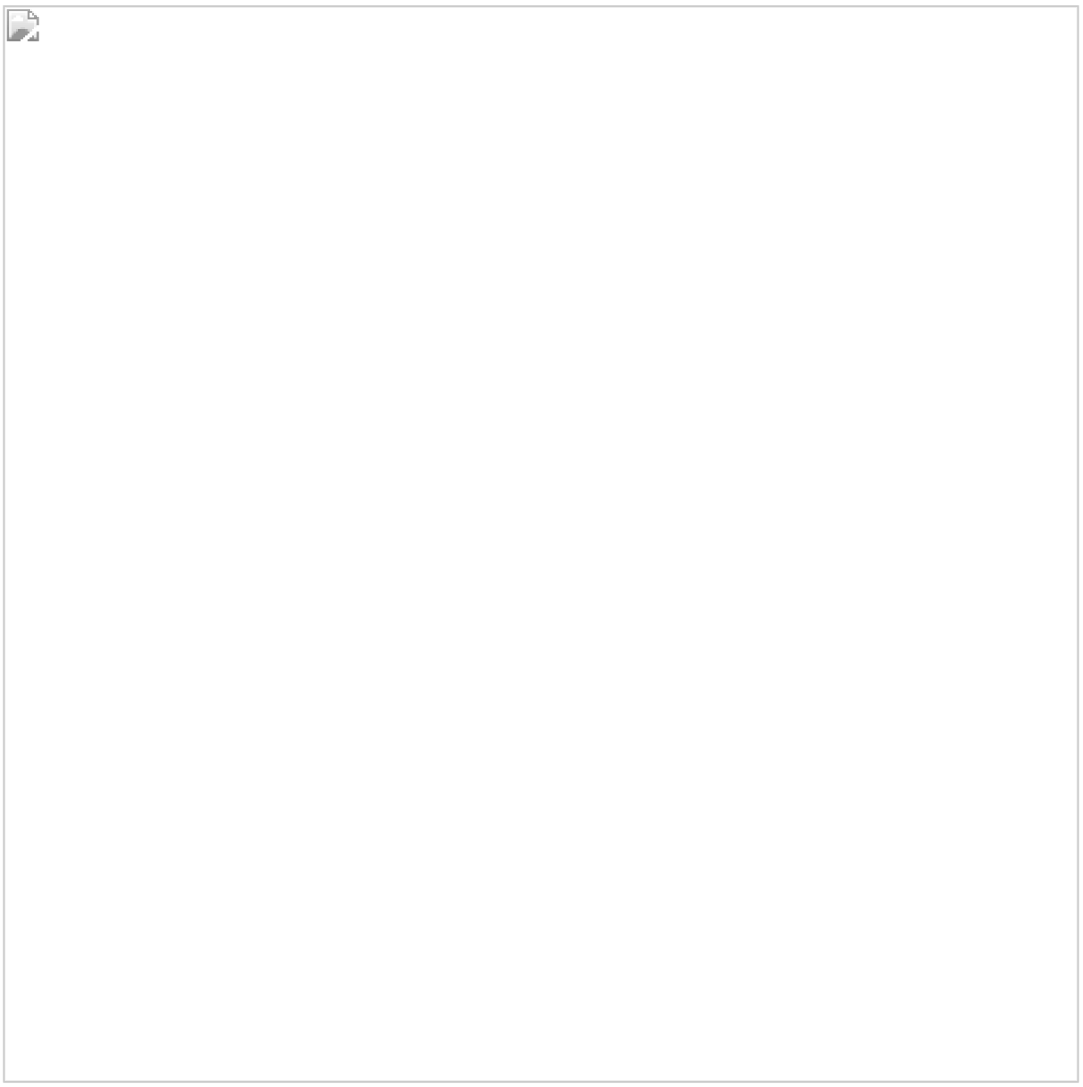
A chimney sweep wanted Oliver as his apprentice. Oliver begged not to go, and the magistrates saw how afraid he was. “Take the boy back to the workhouse, and treat him kindly. He seems to want it.”

Next, Oliver was sent to Mr. Sowerberry, who made coffins. A bigger boy there, Noah Claypole, was cruel to him and said wicked things about Oliver's dead mother.

Oliver had put up with everything else. This he could not. He knocked Noah down, and he was locked up and beaten. That night he cried alone, and at first light he ran away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver didn't fight when people were unkind to him, only when they spoke about his mother. Why do you think that was?



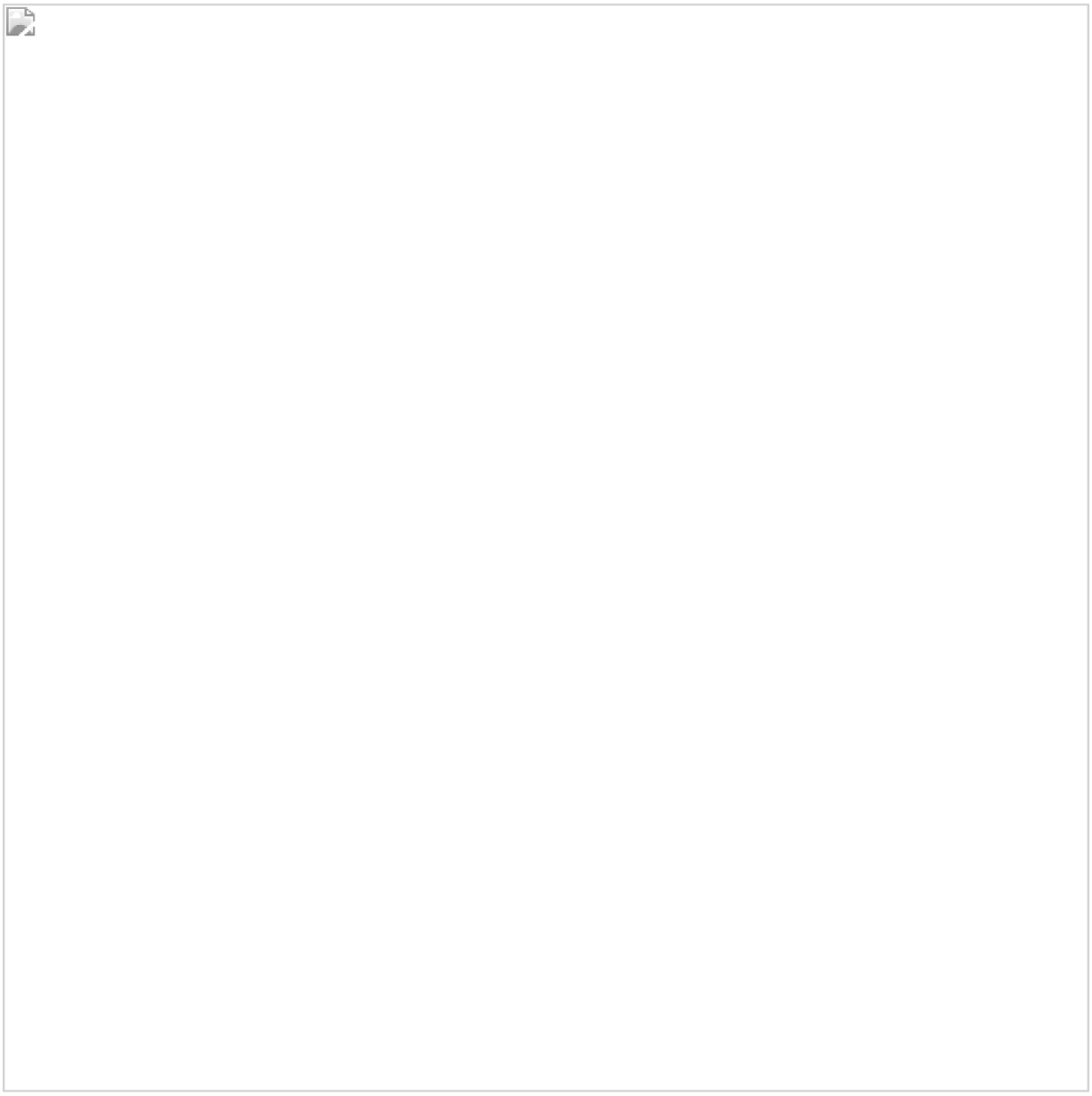
Think about it

1. Who made coffins?

- ○ Mr. Sowerberry
- ○ Mr. Bumble
- ○ Noah Claypole

2. What would you do if someone said unkind things about someone you love?

Goodbye, Dick



Before he left, Oliver went to say goodbye to one friend. Little Dick was a sick, thin boy at the workhouse, and the only one who had been kind to him.

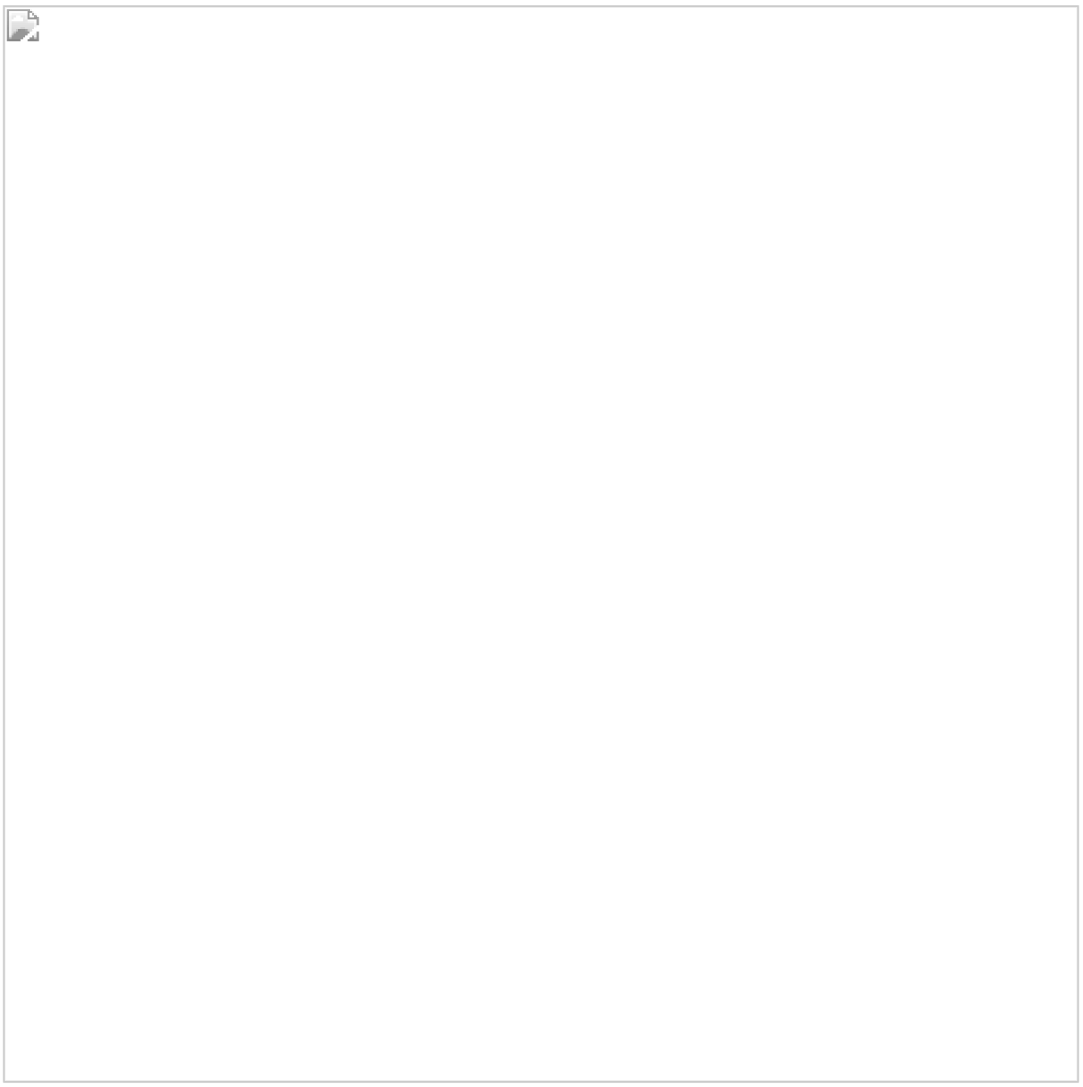
Dick threw his arms around Oliver's neck. “Good-b’ye, dear! God bless you!” It was the first time anybody had ever asked God to bless Oliver.

Then Oliver walked toward London, for seven days. He slept in fields and barns, begged for bread, and had almost nothing to eat. At last, tired and hungry, he sat down on a step.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick gave Oliver the only gift he had. What do you think a blessing is?

Goodbye, Dick · another picture



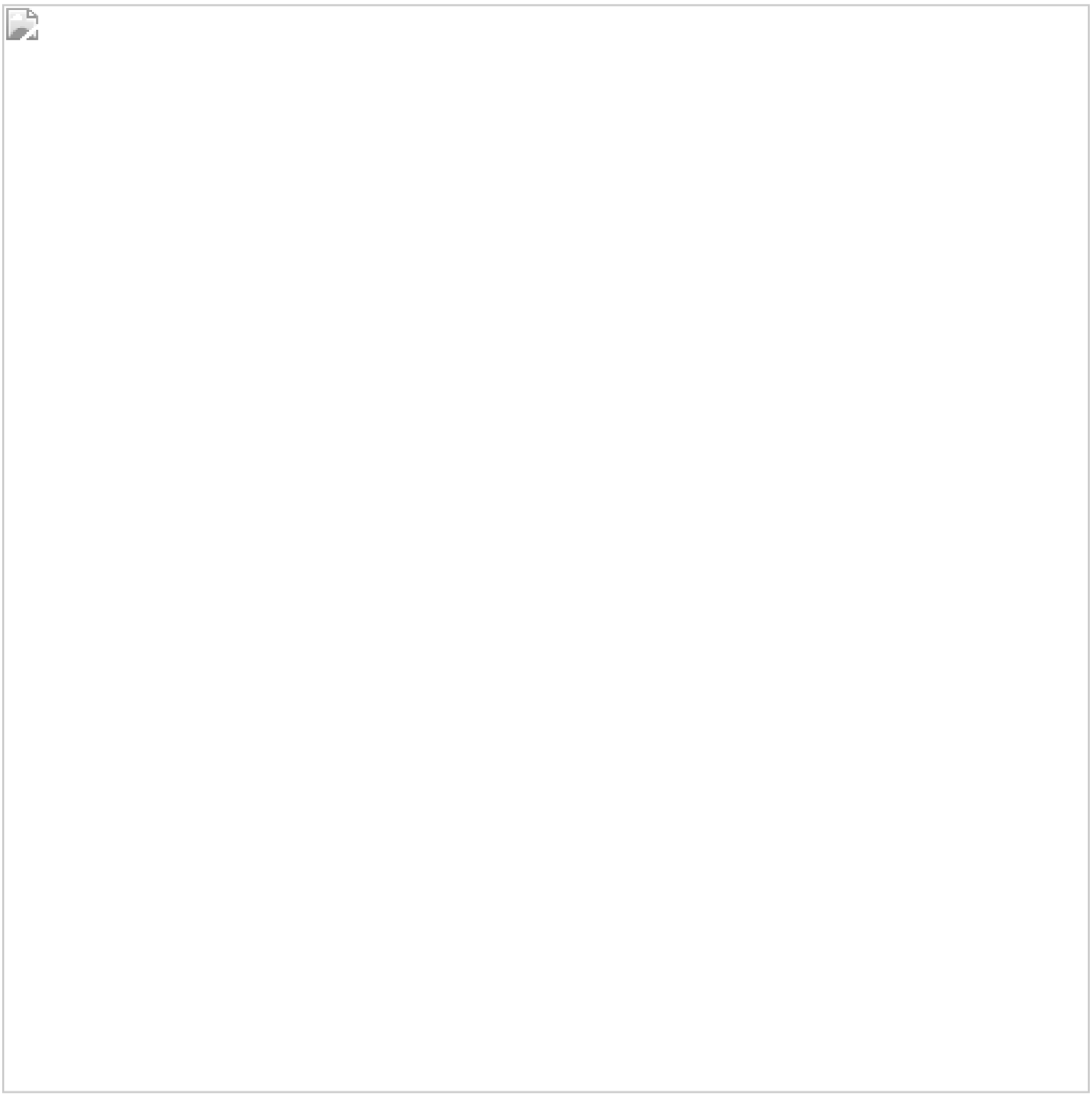
Think about it

1. How many days did Oliver walk?

- ○ One
- ○ Seven
- ○ Twenty

2. Who is someone who has said a kind word to you when you needed it?

A New Friend and a Dark House



A boy in a man's hat and coat stopped to look at Oliver: the Artful Dodger. He bought Oliver food and said he knew a gentleman in London who would give him a bed.

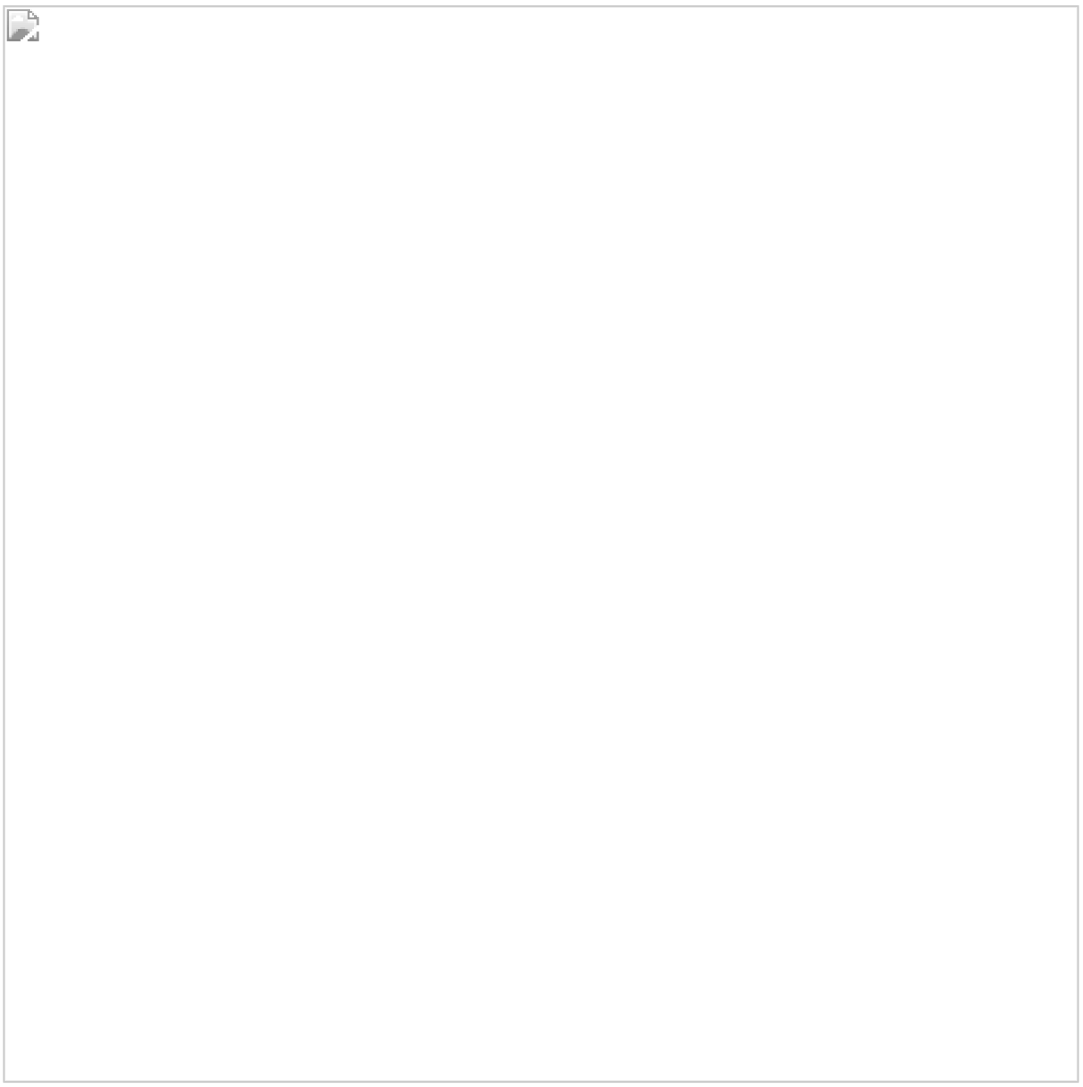
The gentleman was Fagin, who lived in a dark old house full of silk handkerchiefs hung up to dry. Fagin was glad to see Oliver, and so were the Dodger and another boy, Charley Bates.

Oliver didn't understand what they did all day. Fagin taught boys to steal handkerchiefs and watches from people's pockets. Oliver was only glad of a warm place and a supper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver was hungry and tired, and these people gave him food and a bed. Why might it be hard to see who is not a safe friend?

A New Friend and a Dark House · another picture



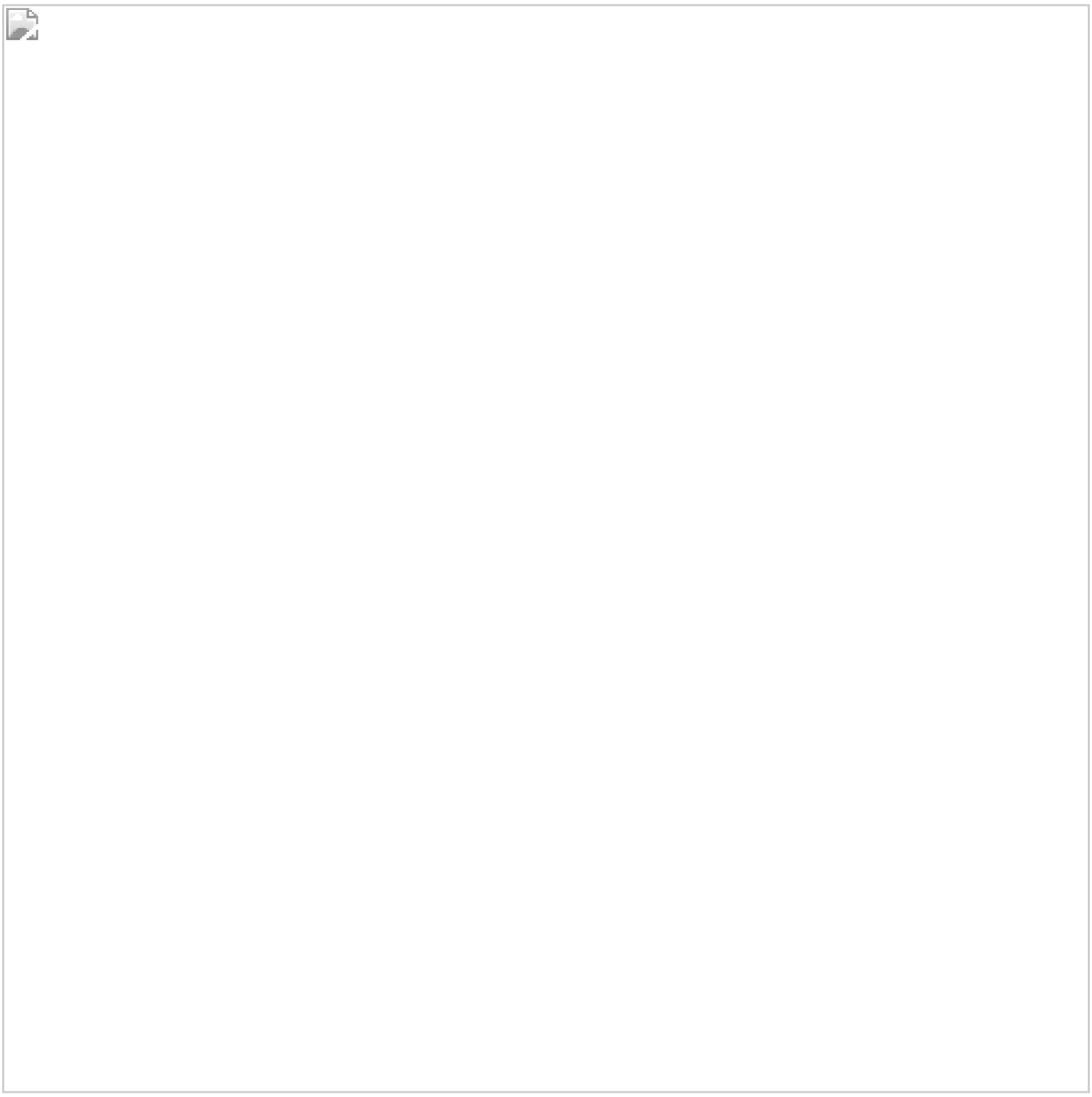
Think about it

1. Who first met Oliver on the road to London?

- ○ Fagin
- ○ The Artful Dodger
- ○ Mr. Brownlow

2. How could you tell if a person is really being kind to you?

Mr. Brownlow



One day Oliver went out with the Dodger and Charley. They took a handkerchief from an old gentleman at a bookstall and ran. Oliver ran too, frightened, and the crowd caught him.

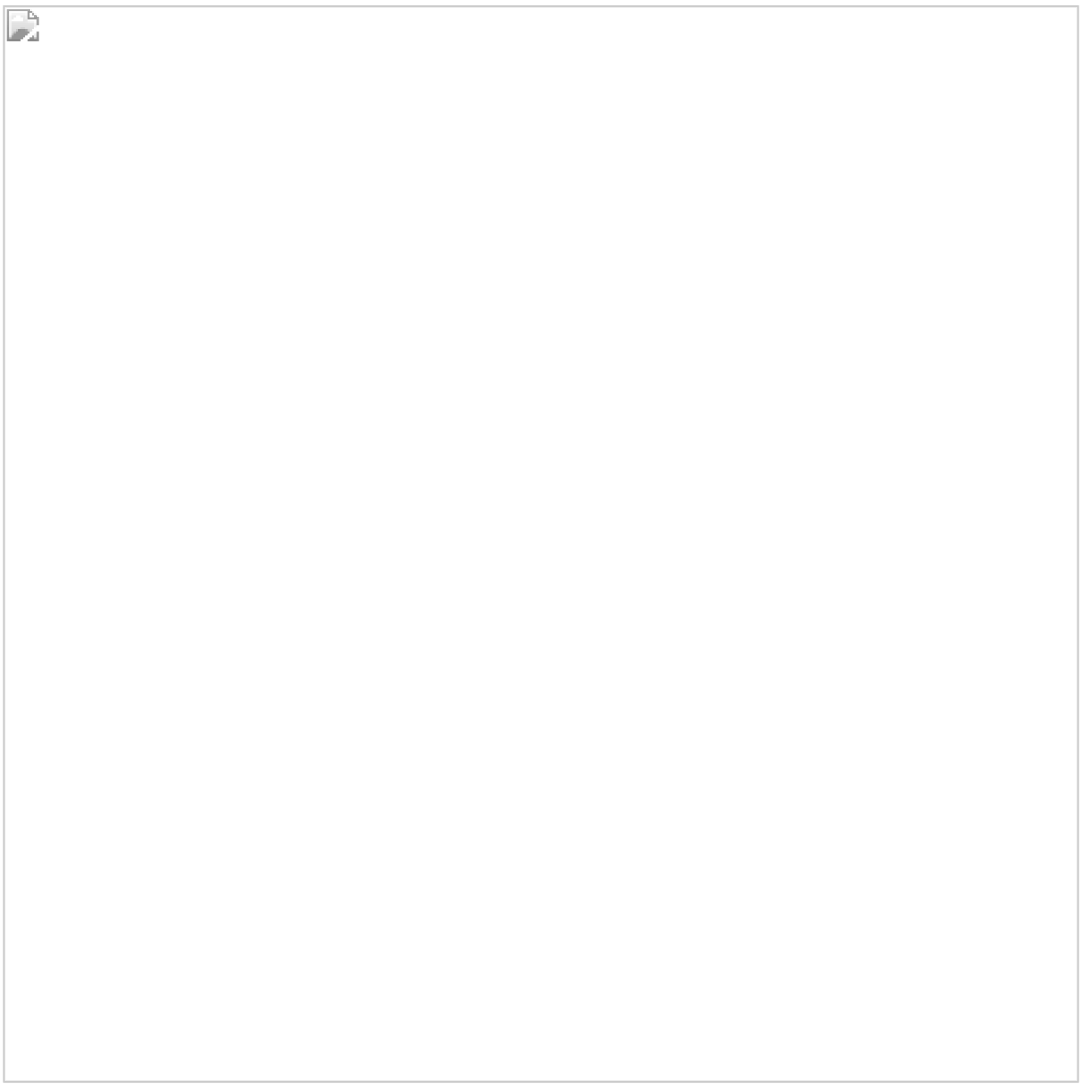
The gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, saw that Oliver was only a scared boy. A cross magistrate was about to send Oliver to prison, but a bookseller who had seen it all said he had done nothing wrong.

Mr. Brownlow took Oliver home. Oliver was ill for days, and kind Mrs. Bedwin, the housekeeper, nursed him. On the wall hung a picture of a lady who looked a great deal like Oliver.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mr. Brownlow didn't know Oliver, and still he took him home. What do you think made him do that?

Mr. Brownlow · another picture



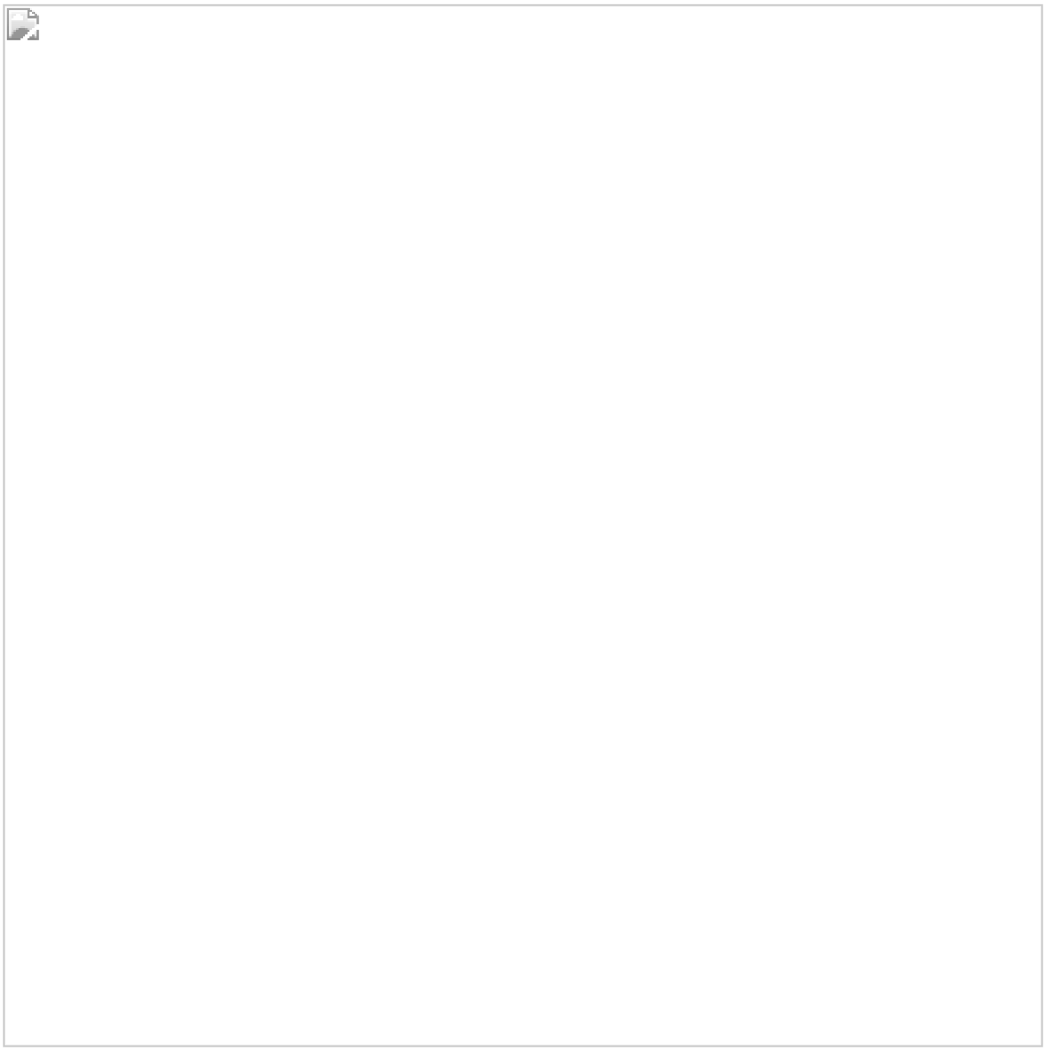
Think about it

1. Who looked after Oliver when he was ill?

- ○ Mrs. Bedwin
- ○ Mrs. Mann
- ○ Fagin

2. Oliver had never been looked after like this before. What do you think that was like for him?

Taken Back



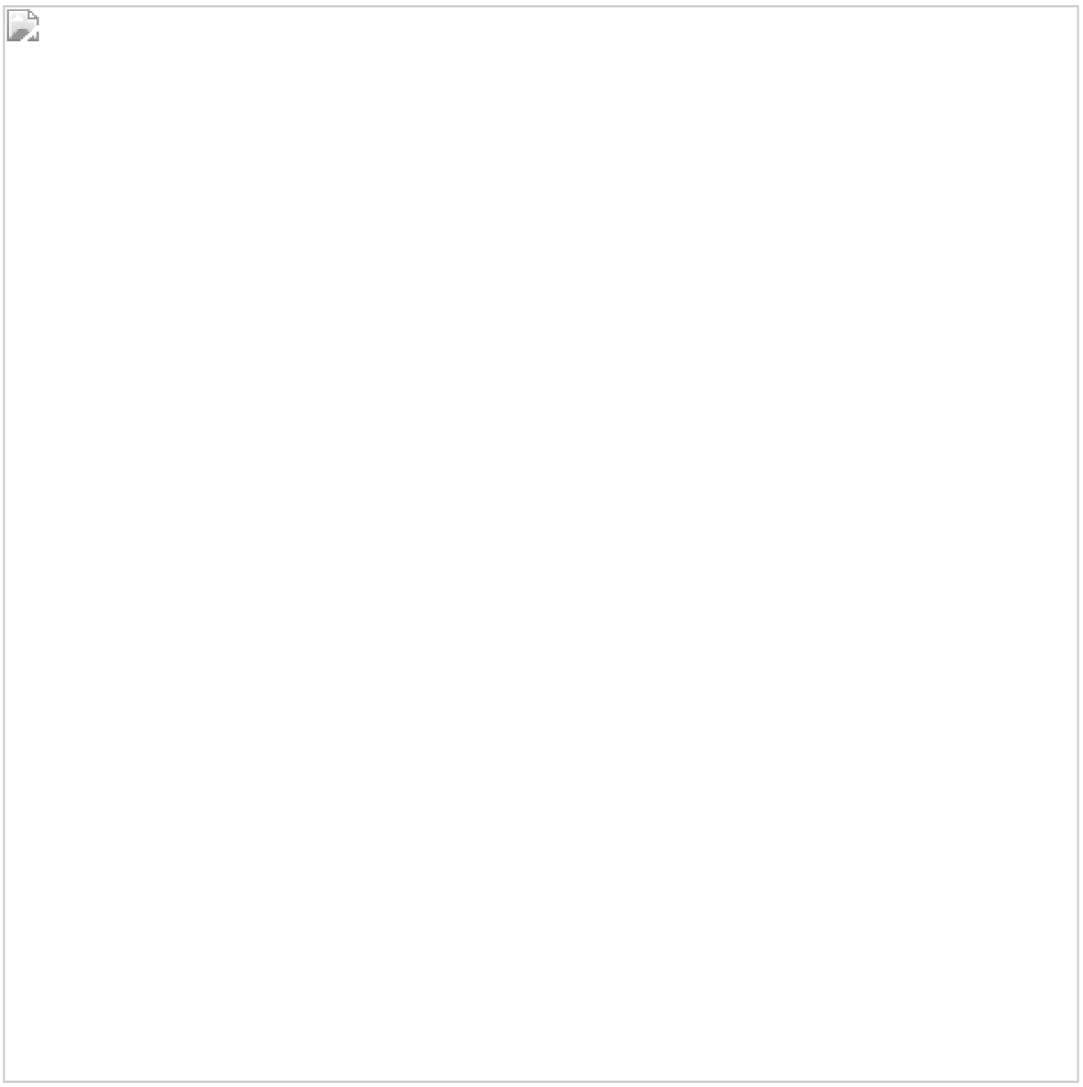
When Oliver was well, Mr. Brownlow trusted him with some books to return to the bookseller, and some money to pay for them. Another gentleman, Mr. Grimwig, said Oliver would run off with it.

On the way, a young woman threw her arms around Oliver and cried out that he was her dear brother. She was Nancy, who belonged to Fagin's gang. A rough man named Bill Sikes was with her, and the two of them dragged Oliver back to Fagin's house.

Fagin took the money, the books, and Oliver's new clothes. Mr. Brownlow waited and waited for Oliver to come home. He did not know what had happened.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mr. Brownlow trusted Oliver, and Oliver wanted to come back. What do you think Mr. Brownlow thought, when he didn't?



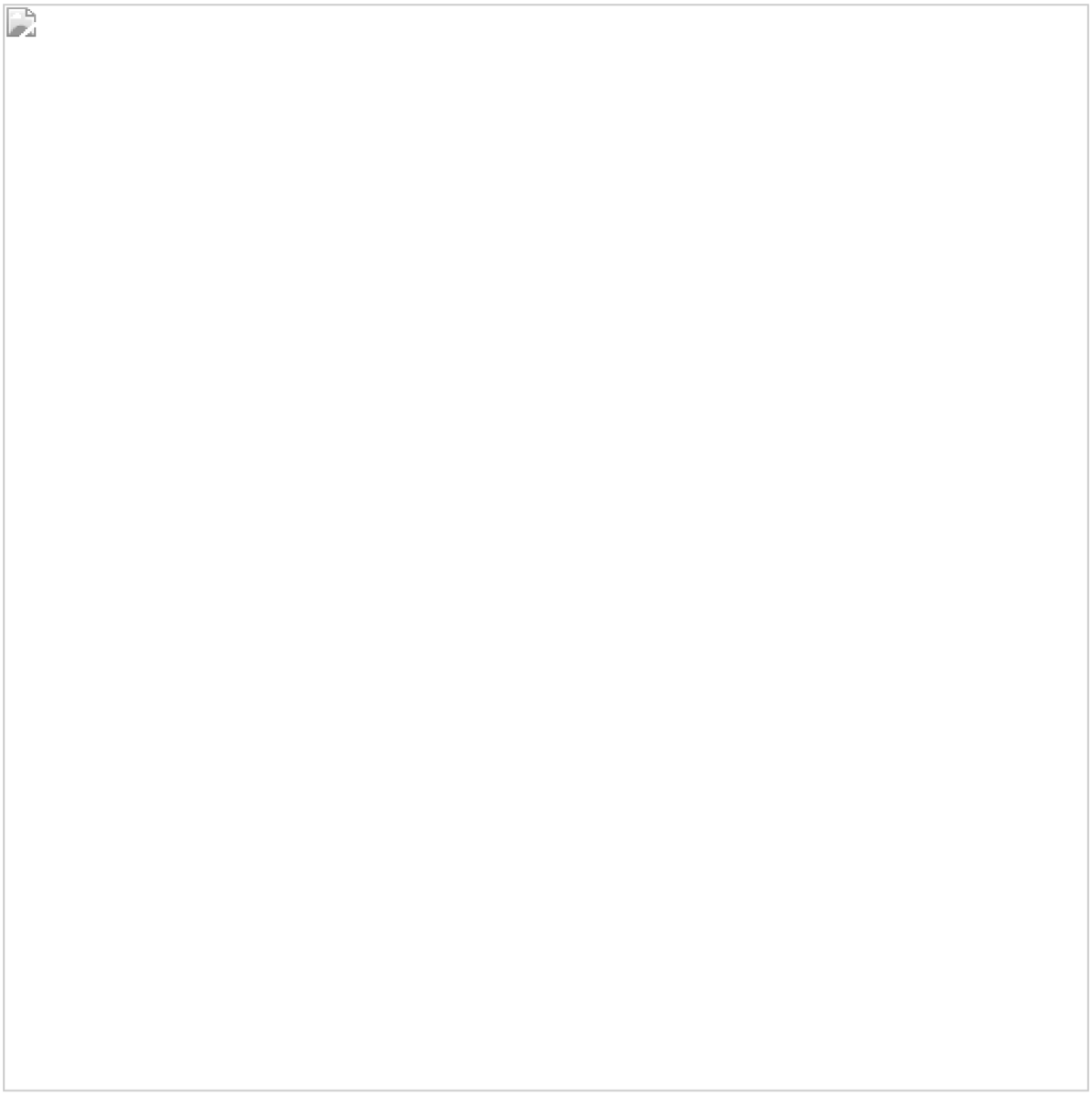
Think about it

1. Who stopped Oliver in the street?

- ○ Nancy
- ○ Mrs. Bedwin
- ○ Rose

2. How do you think Oliver felt, being taken back?

The Night at Chertsey



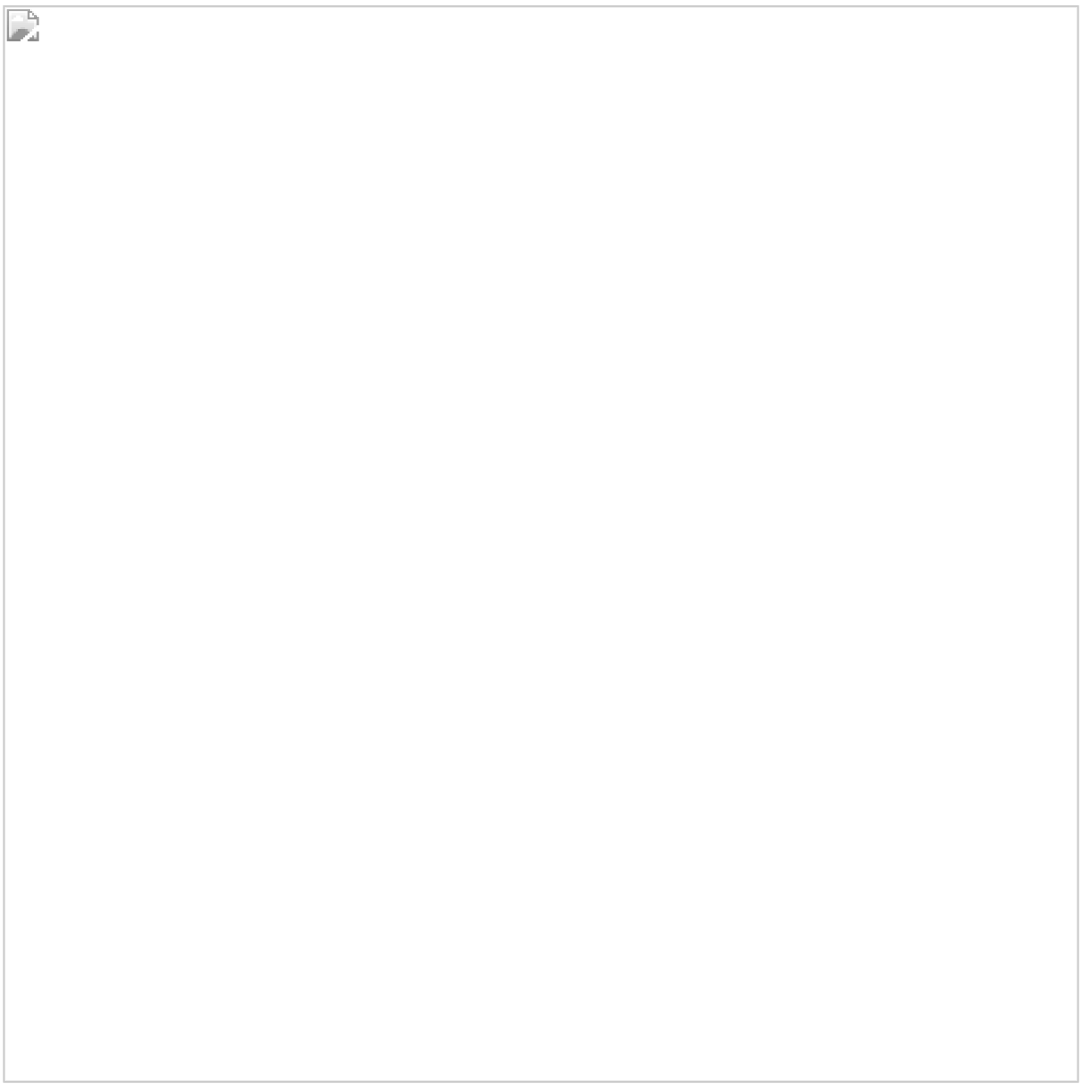
Bill Sikes was a rough, angry man. He took Oliver one night to a house in the country, to break in. Oliver was small enough to be pushed through a little window.

Oliver made up his mind that, once inside, he would wake the family. But before he could, somebody in the house fired a gun, and Oliver was shot in the arm.

Sikes dragged him away, and then left him lying in a ditch in the dark and cold, hurt and alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver had decided to do the right thing even though he was scared. What do you think gave him that courage?



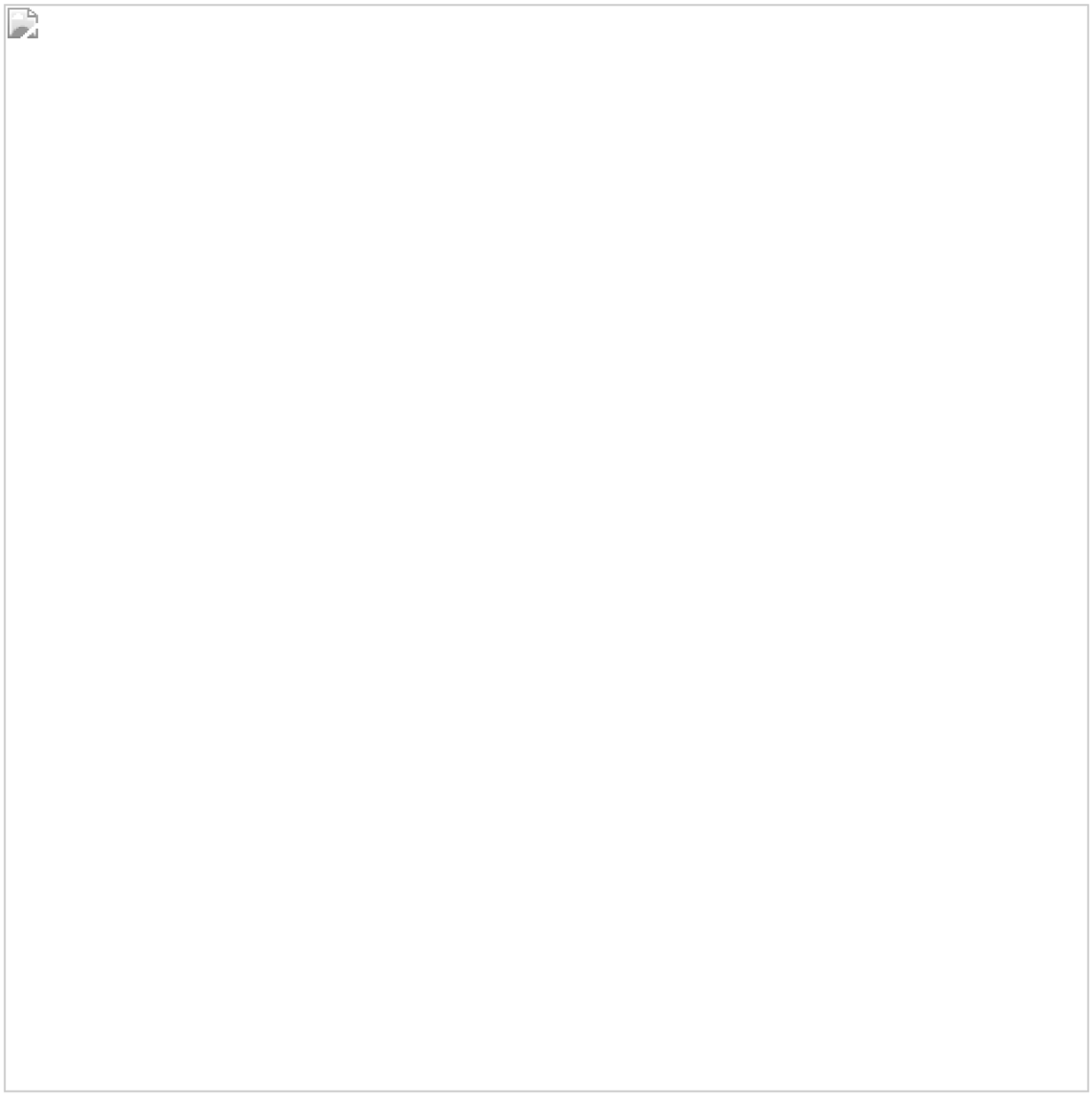
Think about it

1. Where did Sikes leave Oliver?

- ○ In a ditch
- ○ At the bookstall
- ○ In a coach

2. Who could Oliver turn to now?

A Home at Last



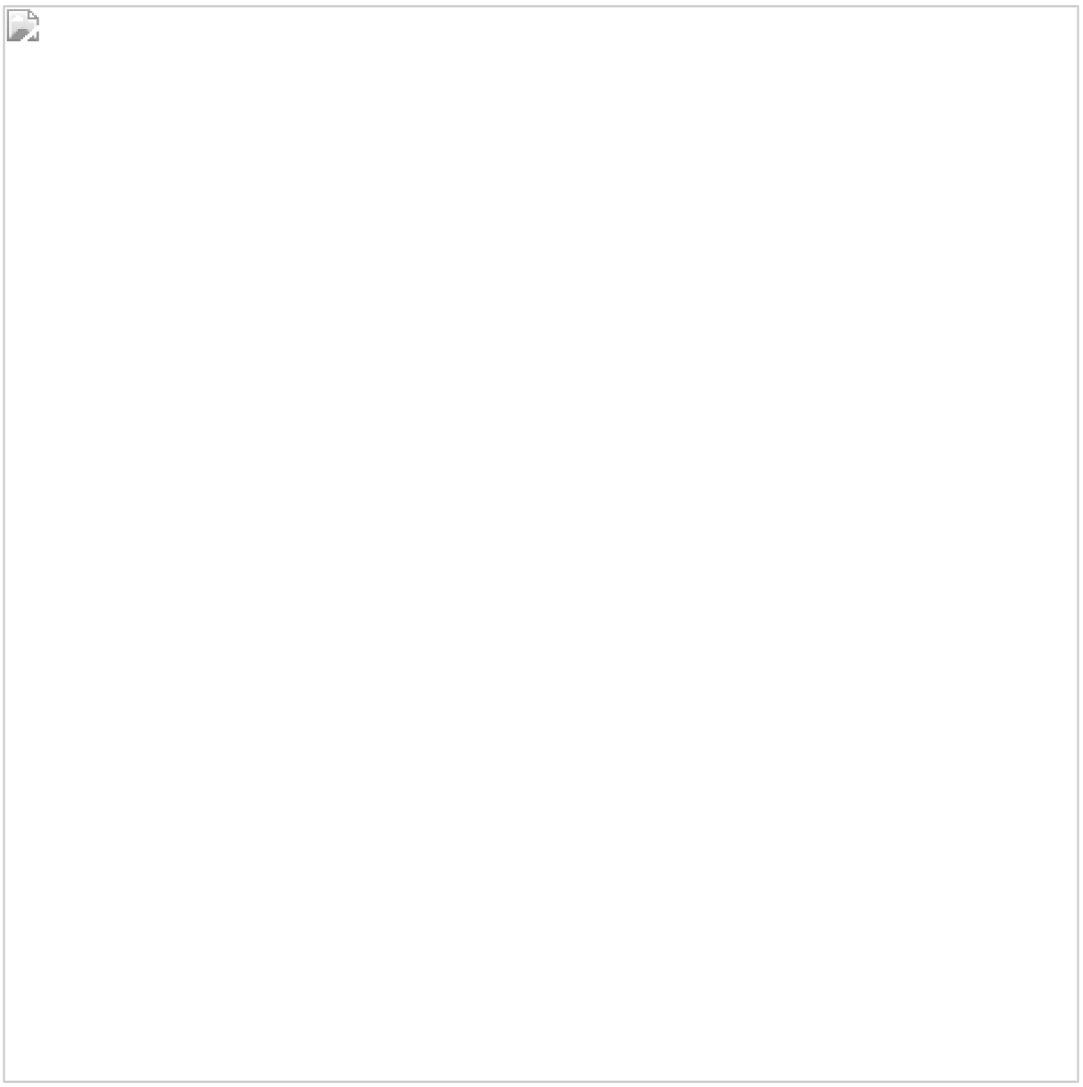
Oliver staggered along till he found a house, the very house the burglars had tried to enter. He knocked at the door and fell down.

Inside lived a kind old lady, Mrs. Maylie, and her young niece, Rose. Rose begged that the poor hurt child not be sent away. They put Oliver to bed, and Mr. Losberne, the doctor, mended his arm and believed his story.

Oliver stayed, happier than ever before. He learned to read and write, and in the evenings he walked in the fields with Rose and Mrs. Maylie. Once Rose fell dangerously ill, and Oliver was afraid for her. She got well.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver knocked at the door of the house he had been sent to rob. Why do you think they took him in?



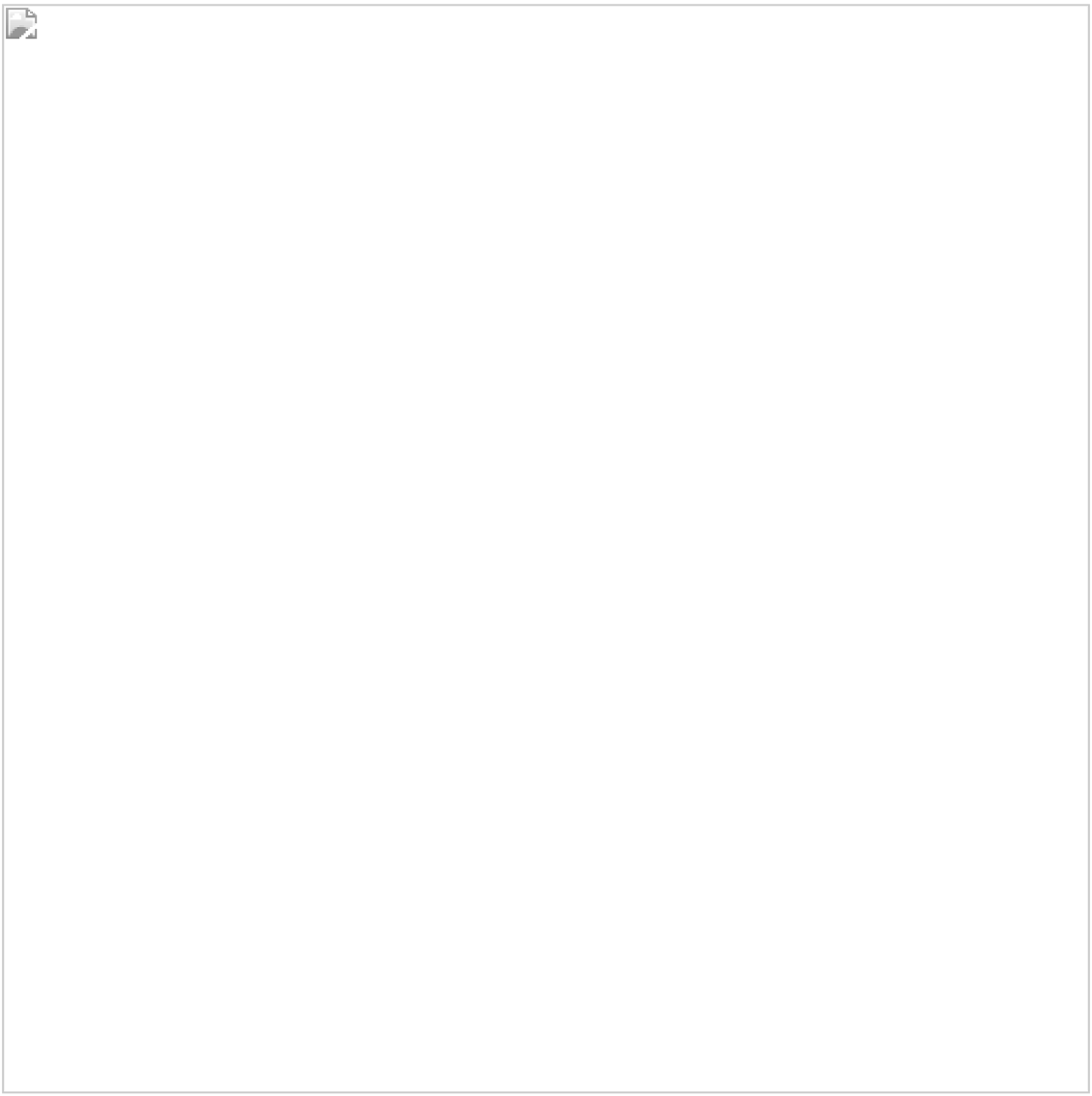
Think about it

1. Who begged that Oliver should be kept and looked after?

- ○ Rose
- ○ Noah
- ○ Sikes

2. What does it feel like to be welcomed into a home? Tell about a time someone made room for you.

What Nancy Heard



A cruel man called Monks hated Oliver and wanted him to be a thief for life. He met with Fagin in secret to plan it. Once Oliver saw them both at the window of Rose's house.

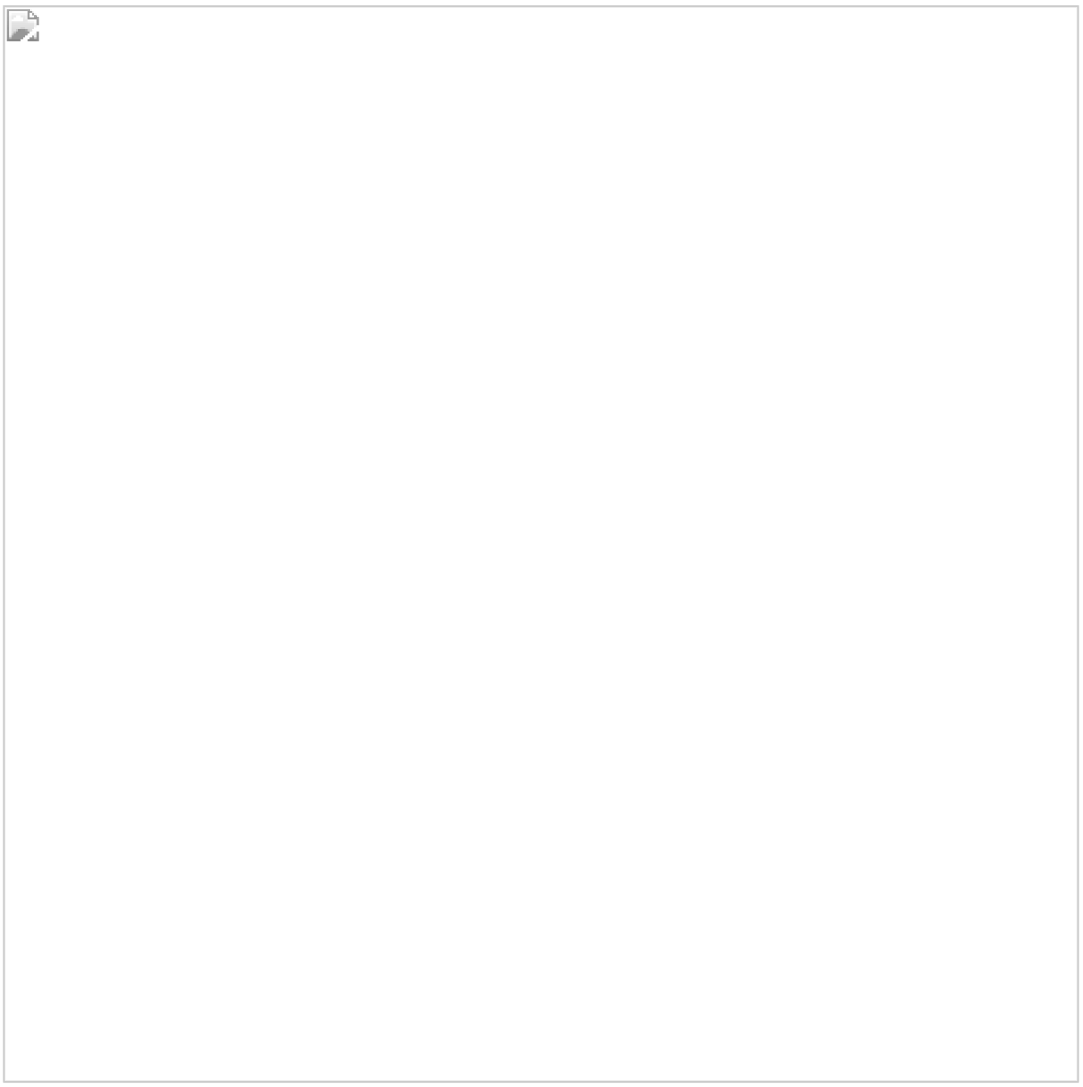
Mr. Bumble had married the workhouse matron. She had a gold locket and ring that an old nurse stole from Oliver's mother when she died, and she sold them to Monks, who threw them into a river.

Nancy heard Monks and Fagin talking about Oliver. She had lived among thieves since she was little, but she cared about Oliver, and she went to Rose and told her everything.

TALK ABOUT IT

Nancy could have kept quiet and stayed safe. Why do you think she told Rose?

What Nancy Heard · another picture



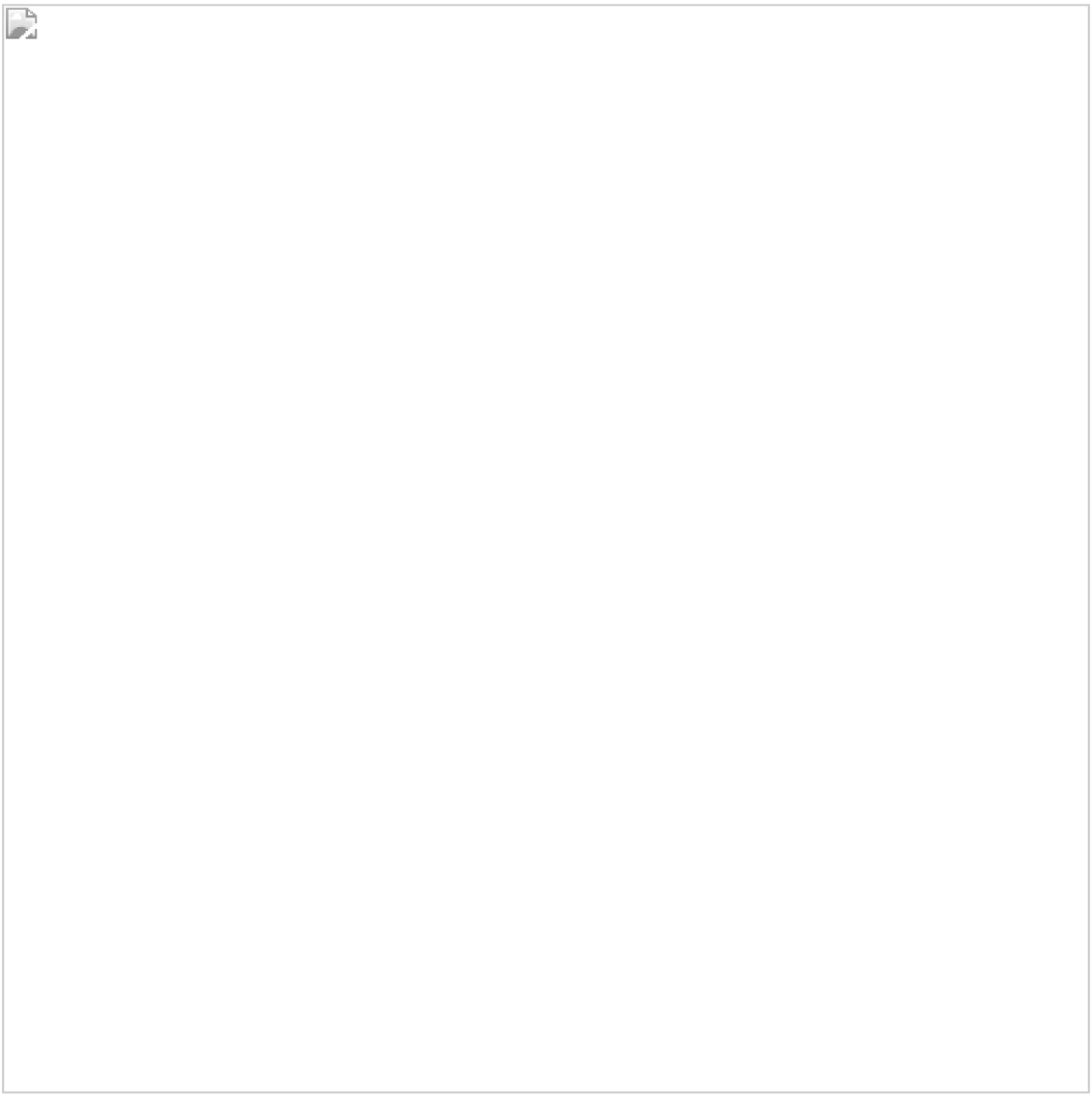
Think about it

1. Who went to tell Rose what she had heard?

- ○ Nancy
- ○ Charley Bates
- ○ Mrs. Bedwin

2. Nancy took a chance to do a good thing. When might it be hard to do the right thing?

The Meeting on the Bridge



In London, Oliver saw Mr. Brownlow in the street, and Rose took Oliver to see him. Rose and Mr. Brownlow agreed to meet Nancy to learn more about Monks.

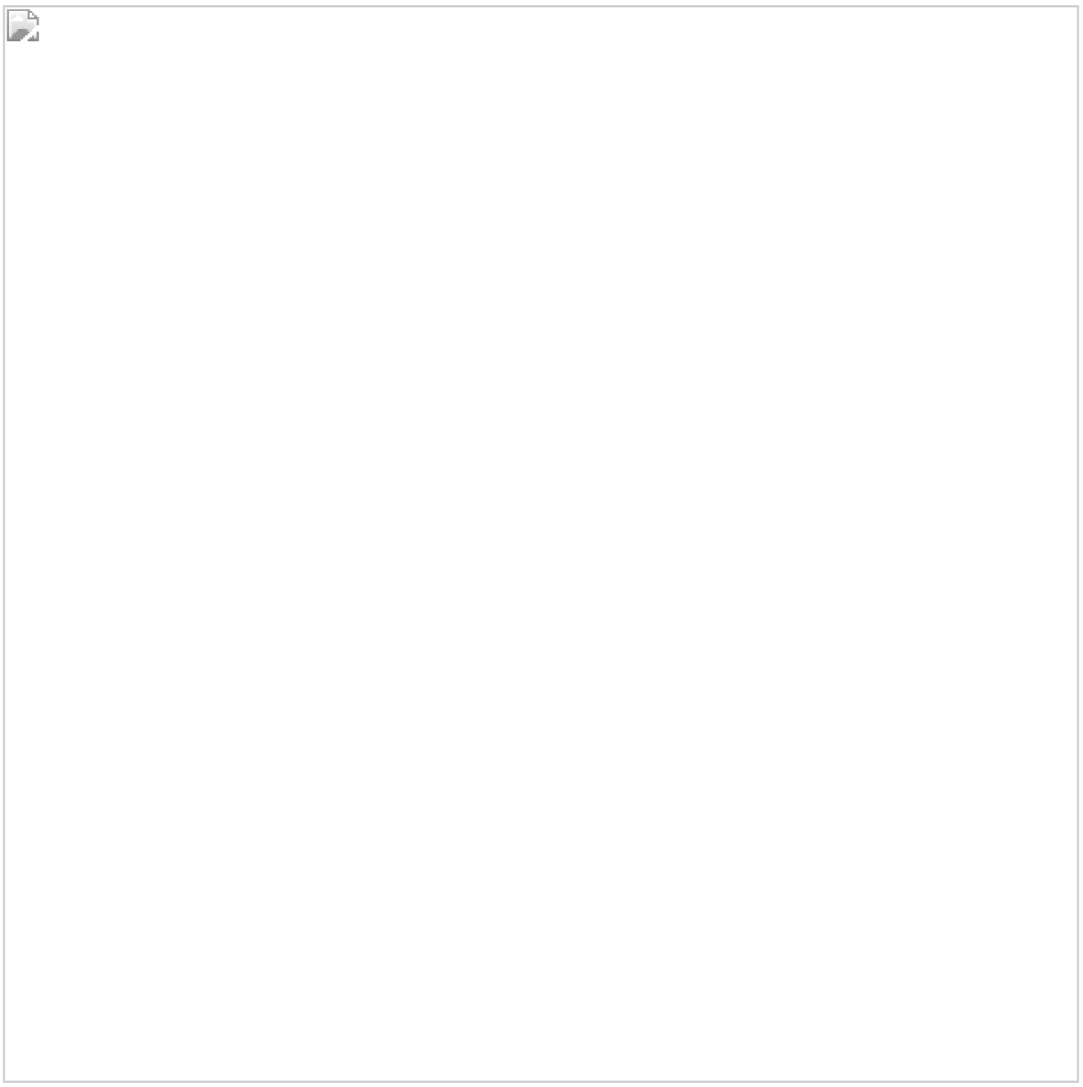
They met on London Bridge at midnight. Nancy would not turn Fagin over to the law. Rose offered her a safe home far away, but she said, “I am chained to my old life.”

Nancy told them how to know Monks, and asked for something Rose had worn. Rose gave her a white handkerchief. But Noah Claypole, the cruel boy from the coffin-maker's, now worked for Fagin. He had hidden and listened, and he ran to tell.

TALK ABOUT IT

Nancy had a safe place to go, and she did not take it. Why do you think she stayed?

The Meeting on the Bridge · another picture



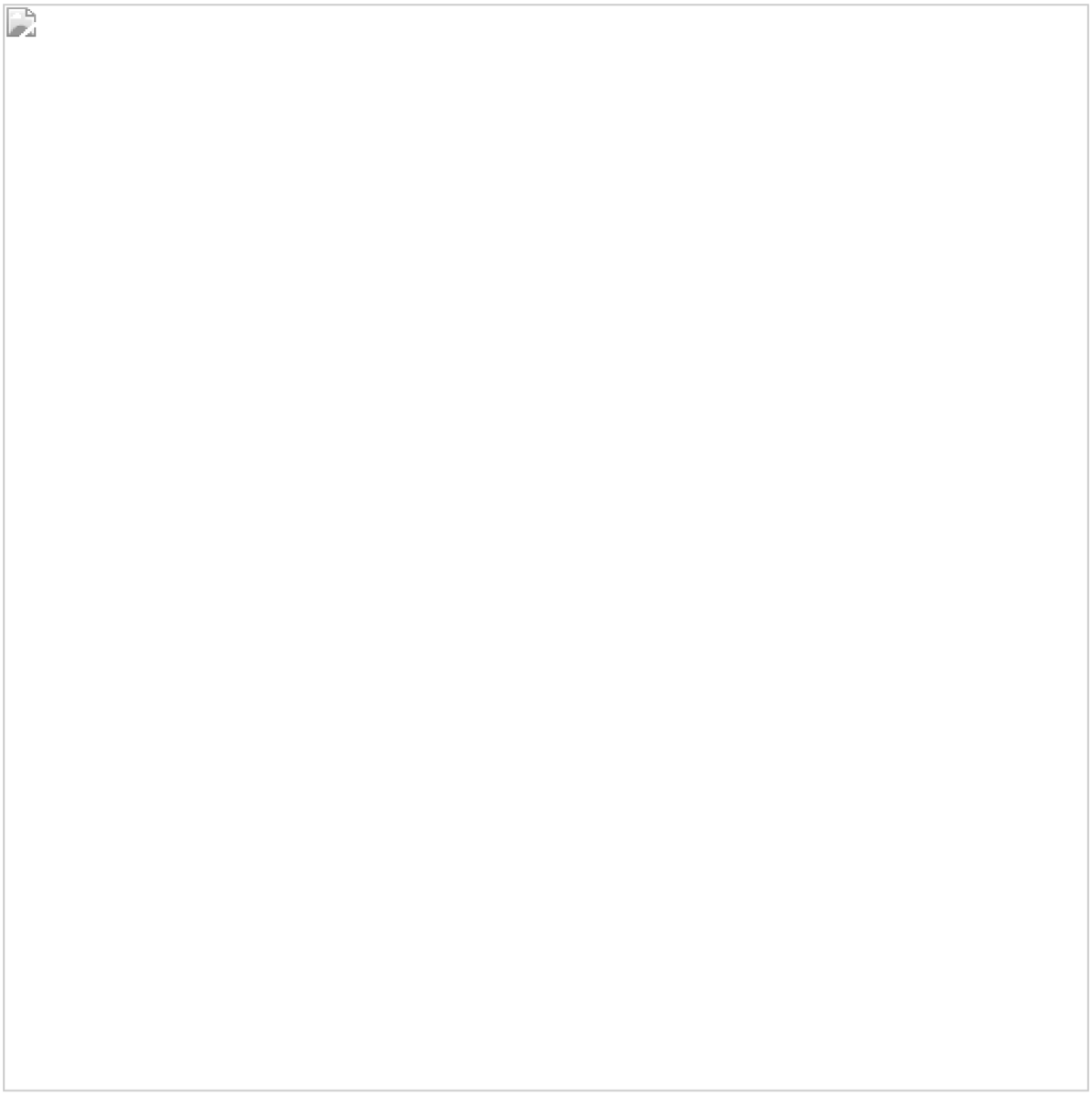
Think about it

1. Where did they meet Nancy?

- ○ London Bridge
- ○ The workhouse
- ○ The bookstall

2. Who in your life would you keep a promise to, even when it's hard?

Nancy's Last Prayer



Fagin told Bill Sikes that Nancy had been telling secrets. Sikes ran home in a terrible rage.

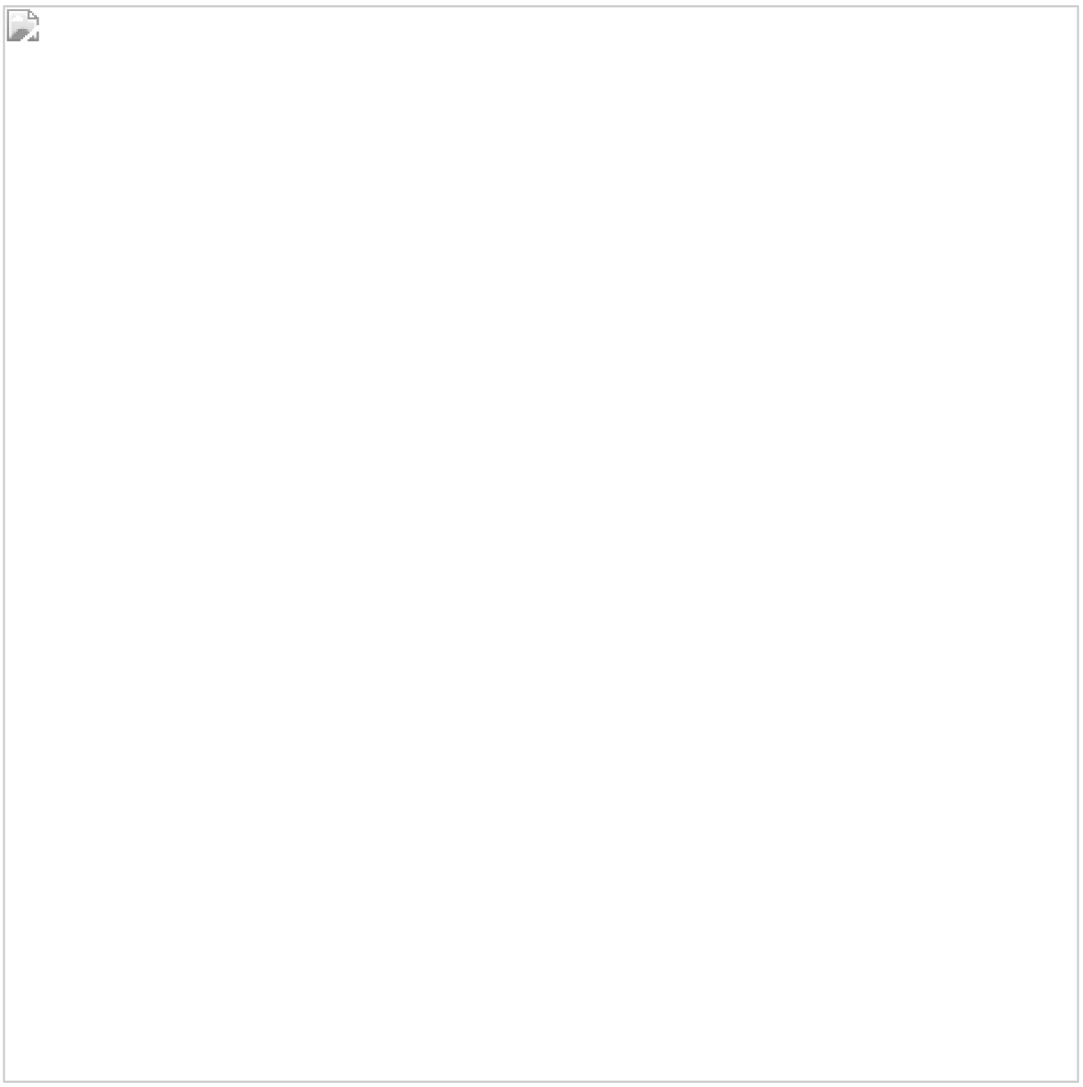
Nancy begged him not to hurt her. She said to him, “It is never too late to repent.” Then she knelt down. She took out Rose's white handkerchief and held it up in her folded hands, and prayed to God for mercy.

Sikes hurt Nancy so badly that she died. This is the hardest part of the story. Nancy had been brave and good for Oliver, and she died because of it.

TALK ABOUT IT

Nancy prayed at the very end. What do you think a prayer might mean to someone in that moment?

Nancy's Last Prayer · another picture



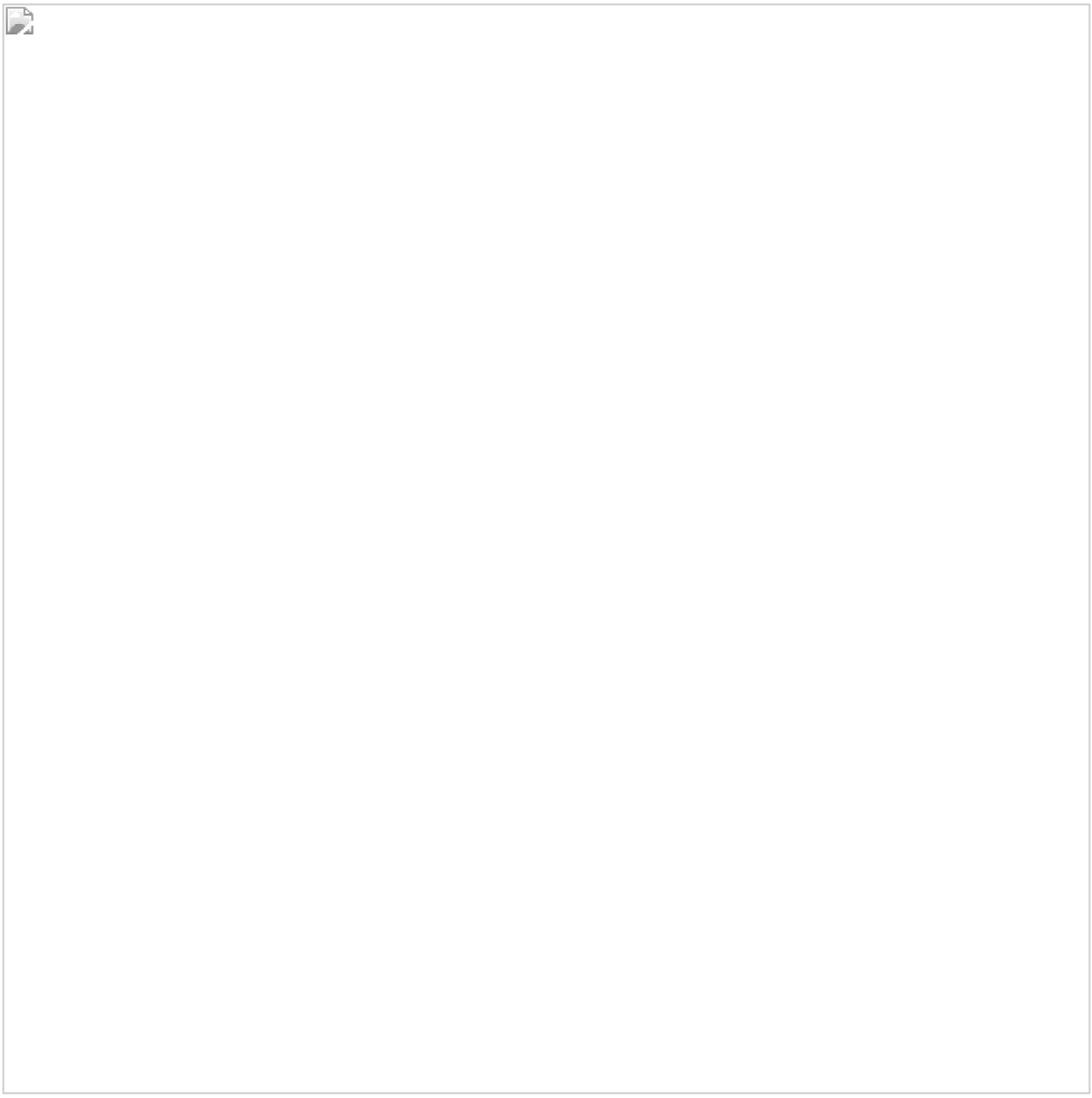
Think about it

1. What did Nancy hold up when she prayed?

- ○ A candle
- ○ A white handkerchief
- ○ A book

2. It is all right to feel sad when something sad happens in a story. Who could you talk to about it?

Sikes Runs



Sikes ran out of London, but he could not get away from what he had done. Everywhere he went, he saw Nancy's eyes. His dog followed him.

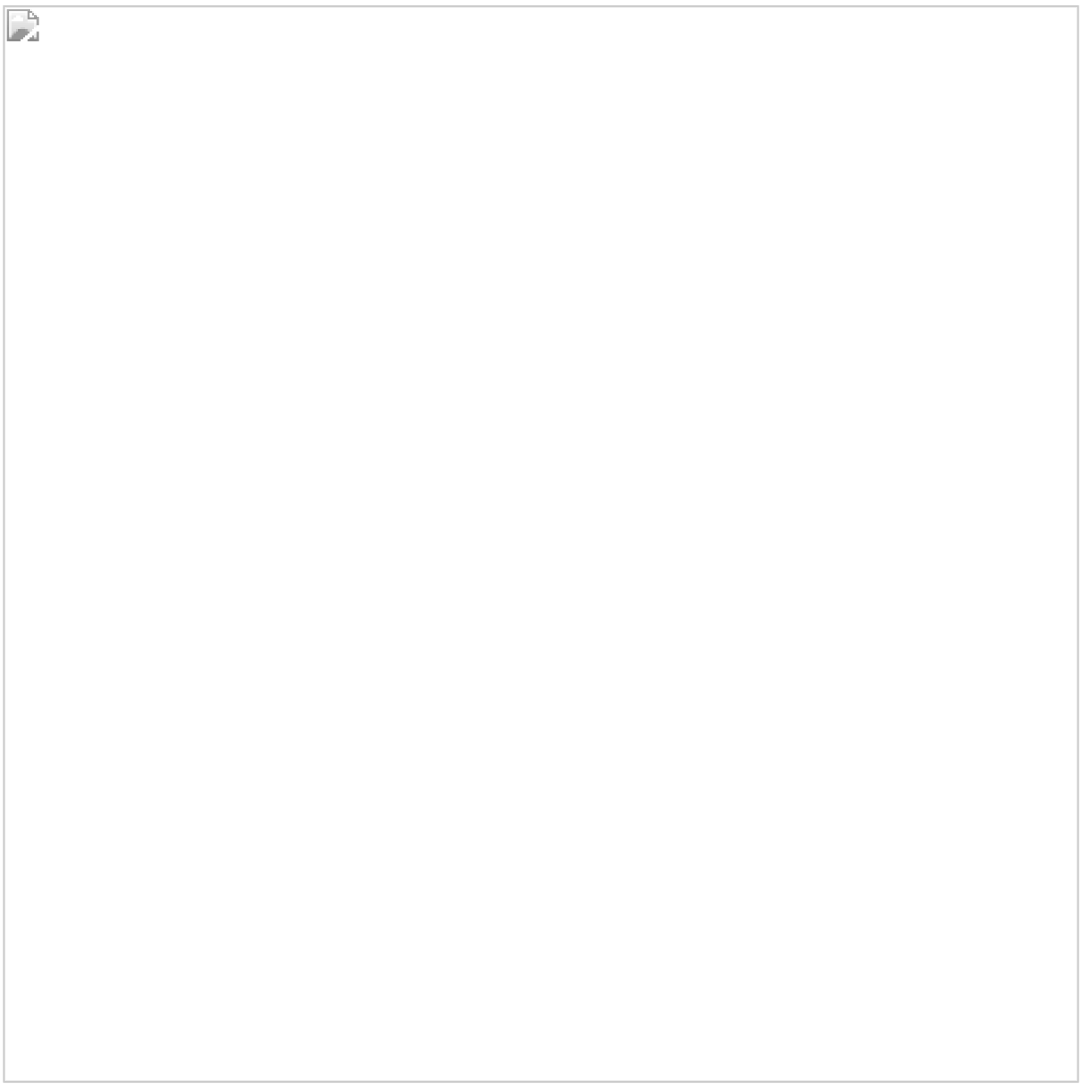
Meanwhile Mr. Brownlow found Monks. He told Monks that he knew his secrets, and that he could either tell the truth in front of witnesses, or be taken to the law. Monks agreed to tell.

Many people were looking for Sikes, and a reward was offered for catching him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sikes ran, but he couldn't run from his own thoughts. What do you think he was feeling?

Sikes Runs · another picture



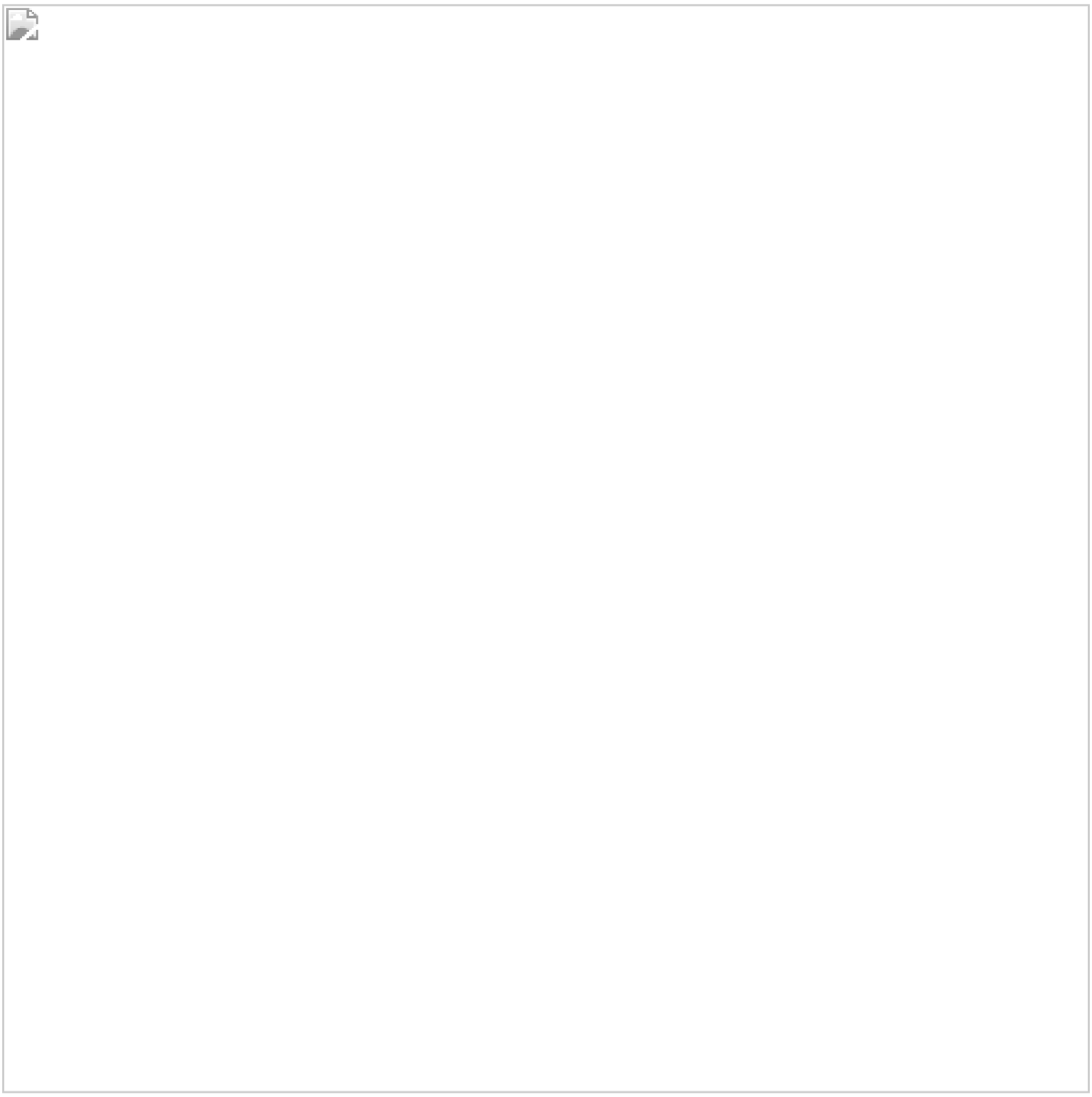
Think about it

1. Who did Mr. Brownlow find and speak to?

- ○ Monks
- ○ Mr. Giles
- ○ Noah

2. Why do you think it is better to tell the truth, even when it is hard?

The End of Sikes



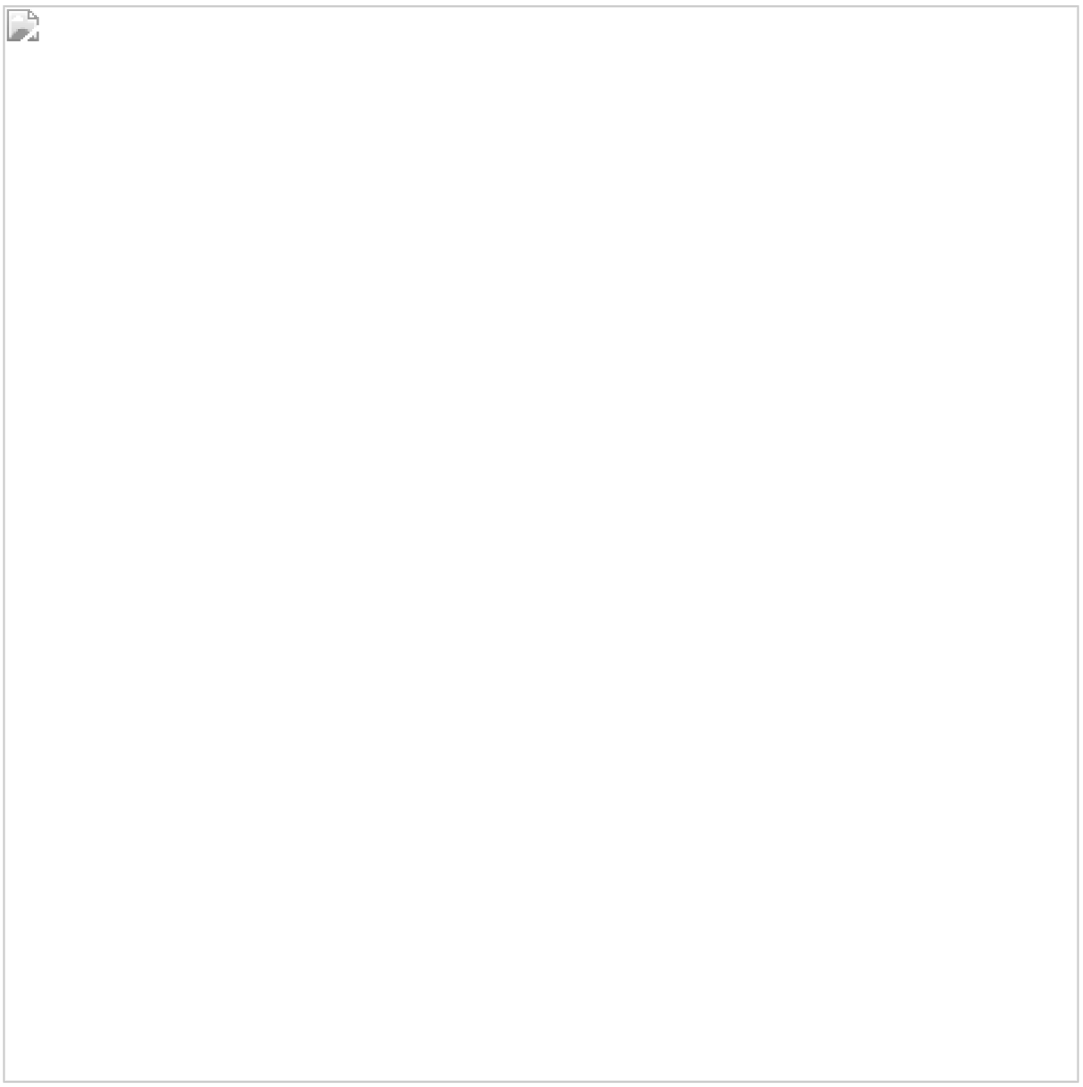
Sikes hid in an old house on an island in the river, with some of his friends. Fagin had already been caught by the police. Crowds came with torches and surrounded the house.

Charley Bates, who used to be one of Fagin's boys, came into the room where Sikes was hiding. He looked at Sikes in horror and cried out, “You monster!” He said he would give Sikes up to the law.

Sikes climbed onto the roof and tried to lower himself down with a rope. He saw Nancy's eyes again. “The eyes again!” he cried. He lost his balance, the rope caught him round the neck, and he died.

TALK ABOUT IT

Charley Bates had been Sikes's friend, and then he turned against him. What do you think changed?



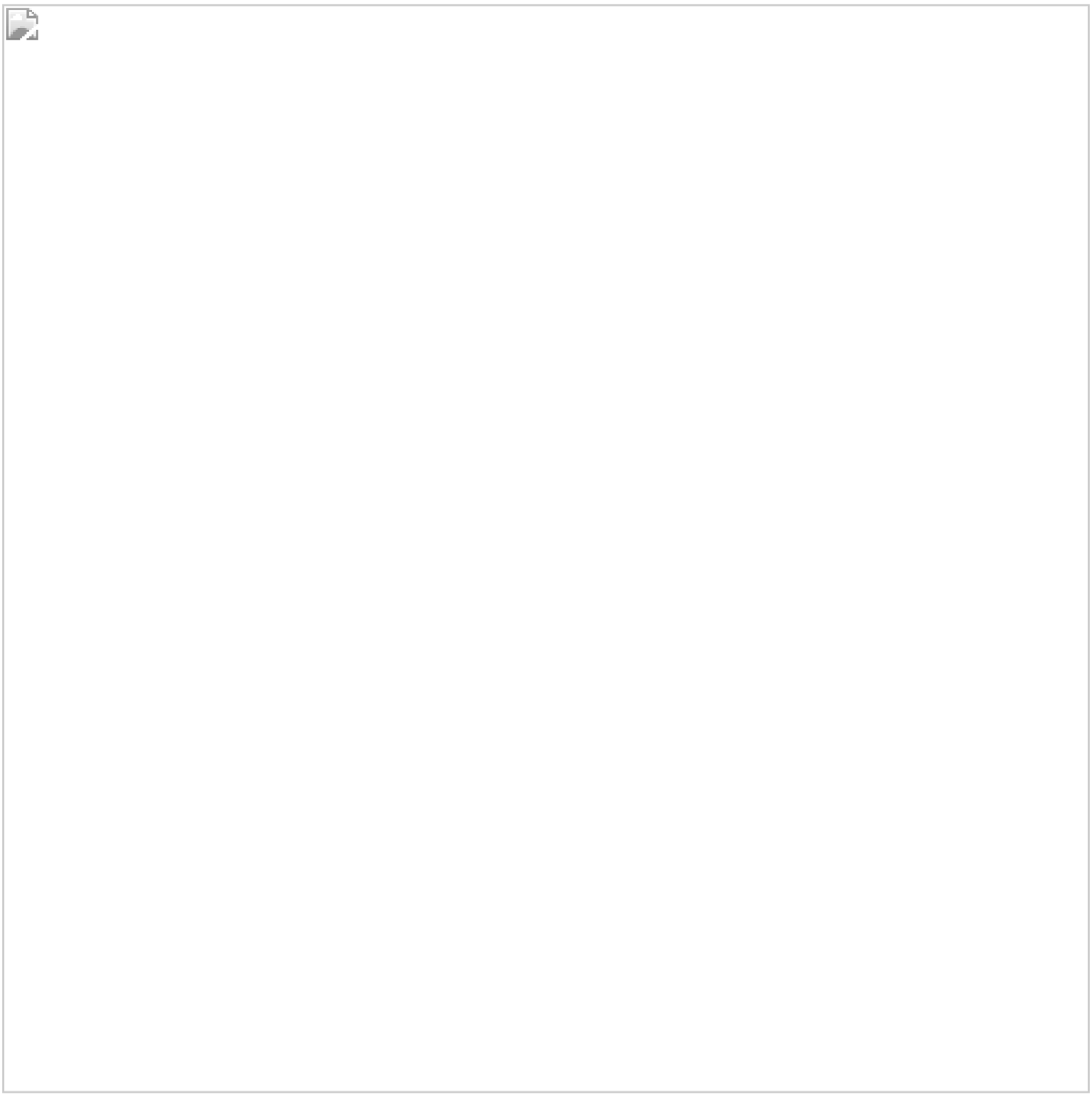
Think about it

1. What did Charley Bates call out to Sikes?

- ○ You monster!
- ○ Good evening!
- ○ Come in!

2. Who in the story is still left to be found out?

Who Oliver Was



Mr. Brownlow took Oliver and Rose back to Oliver's home town, where Monks told the whole truth. He was Oliver's half-brother. Their father was Edwin Leeford, and Oliver's mother was Agnes Fleming. Monks had hidden the story to keep all their father's money.

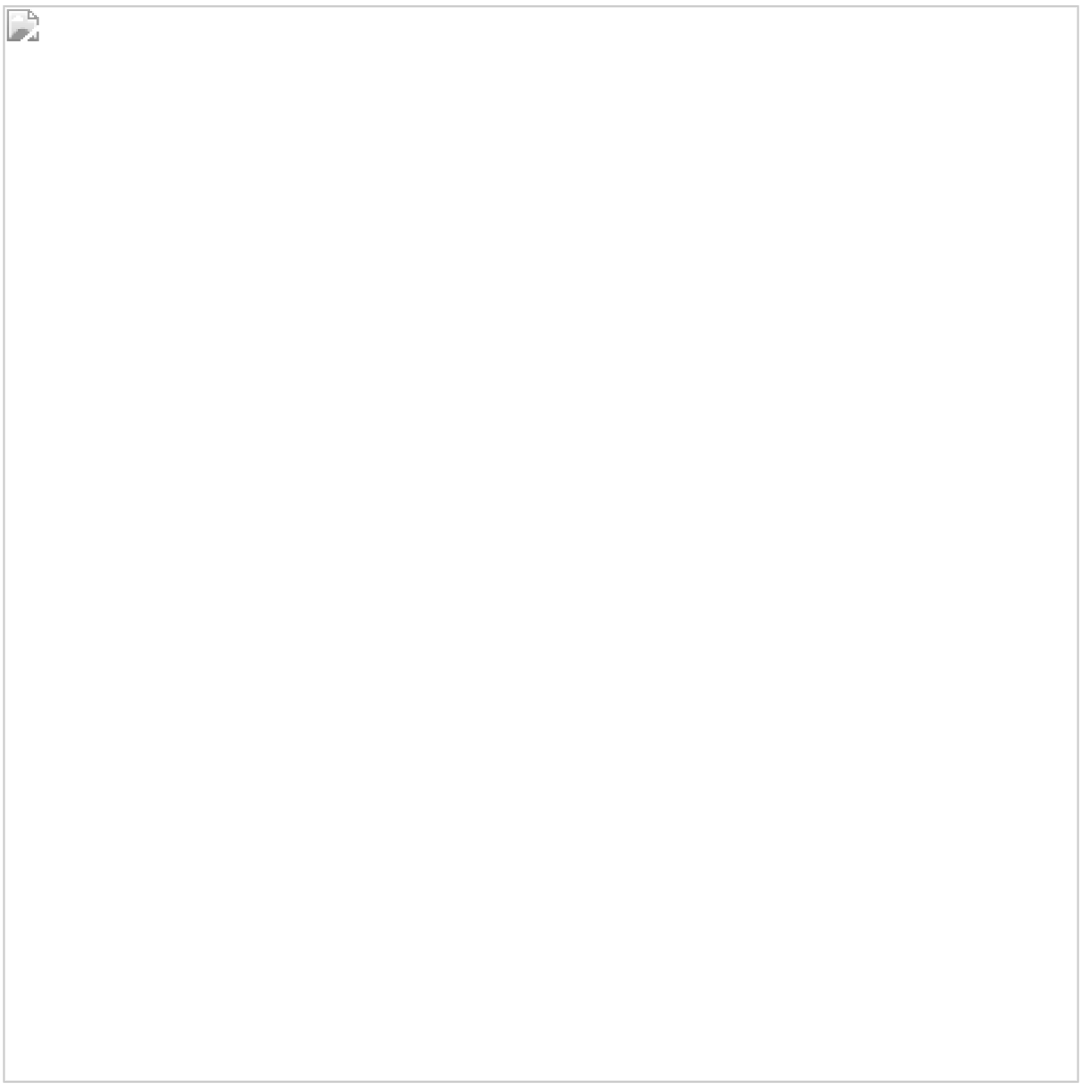
Then they found out something else. Rose was Agnes's younger sister, Oliver's aunt. Oliver threw his arms around her. He would never call her aunt, he said, but “sister, my own dear sister.” A family had been given back to him.

Oliver had one wish left, to take his friend Dick to a quiet country place. But “Poor Dick was dead!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver found a family, and he lost a friend, on the same day. How might he be feeling about both?

Who Oliver Was · another picture



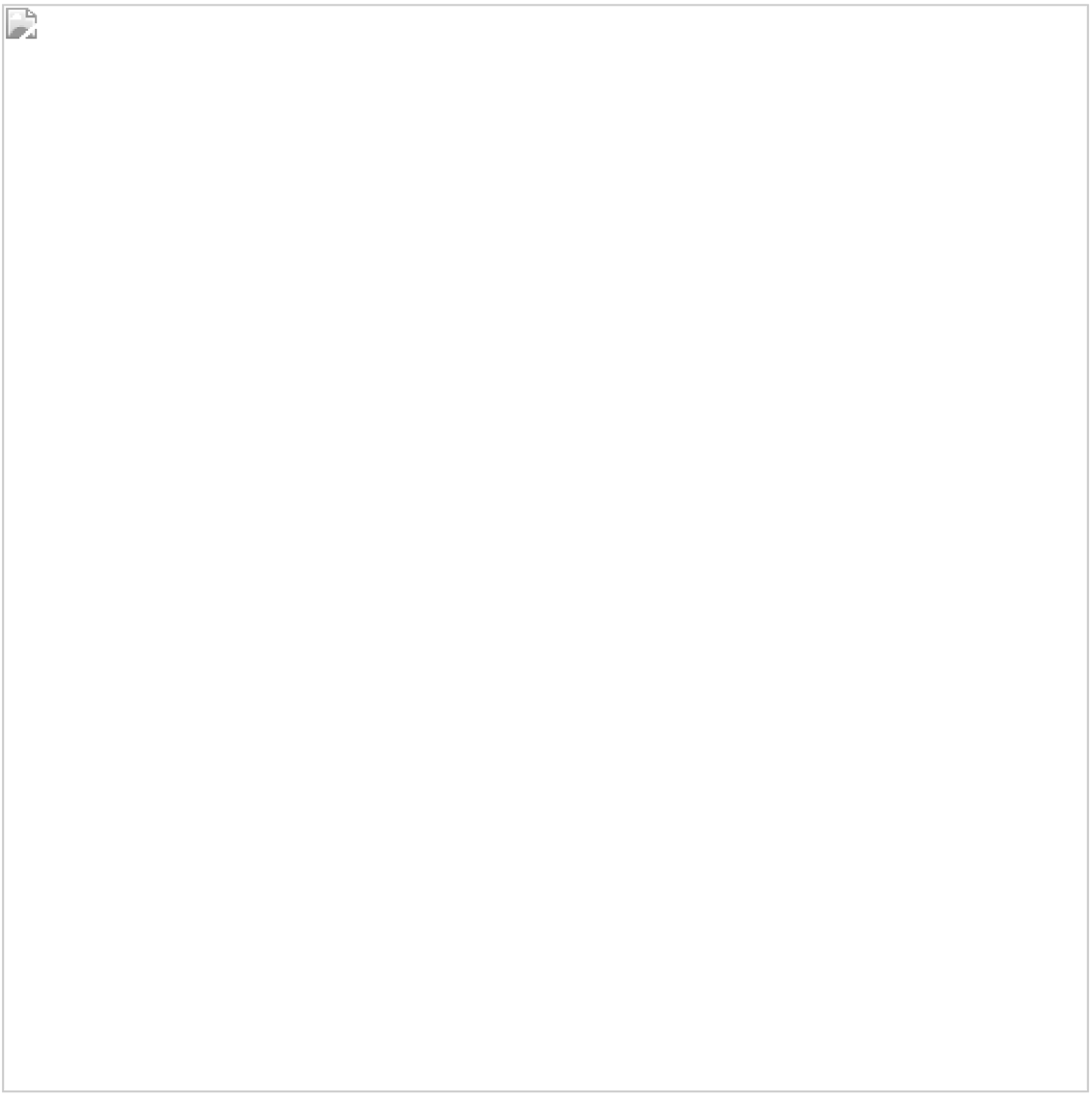
Think about it

1. Who was Rose to Oliver?

- ○ His cousin
- ○ His mother's sister
- ○ His teacher

2. Who in your family or in your life feels like home to you?

Fagin's Last Night



Fagin was tried in court. The jury said he was guilty, and the judge said he must die. He was put in a small, dark cell in the prison, and there he sat, frightened and muttering.

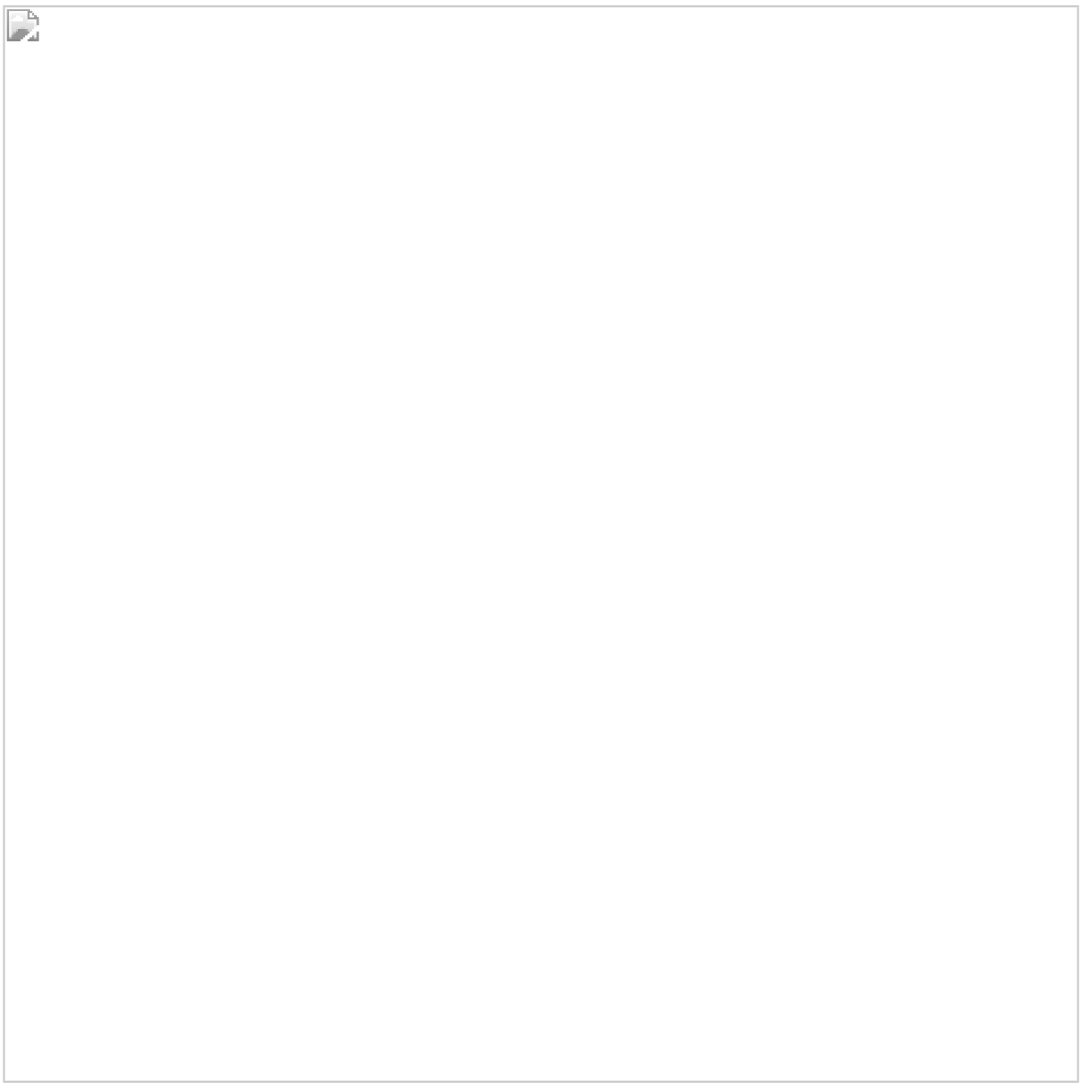
On his last night, Mr. Brownlow brought Oliver to see him, to ask where some important papers were. Fagin was wild and did not seem to know where he was. He told Oliver where the papers were hidden.

Oliver asked Fagin to say a prayer with him. “Oh! God forgive this wretched man!” Oliver cried. At dawn, a great crowd gathered outside the prison. That was the end of Fagin.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver wanted to pray for Fagin, even after everything. Why do you think he did?

Fagin's Last Night · another picture



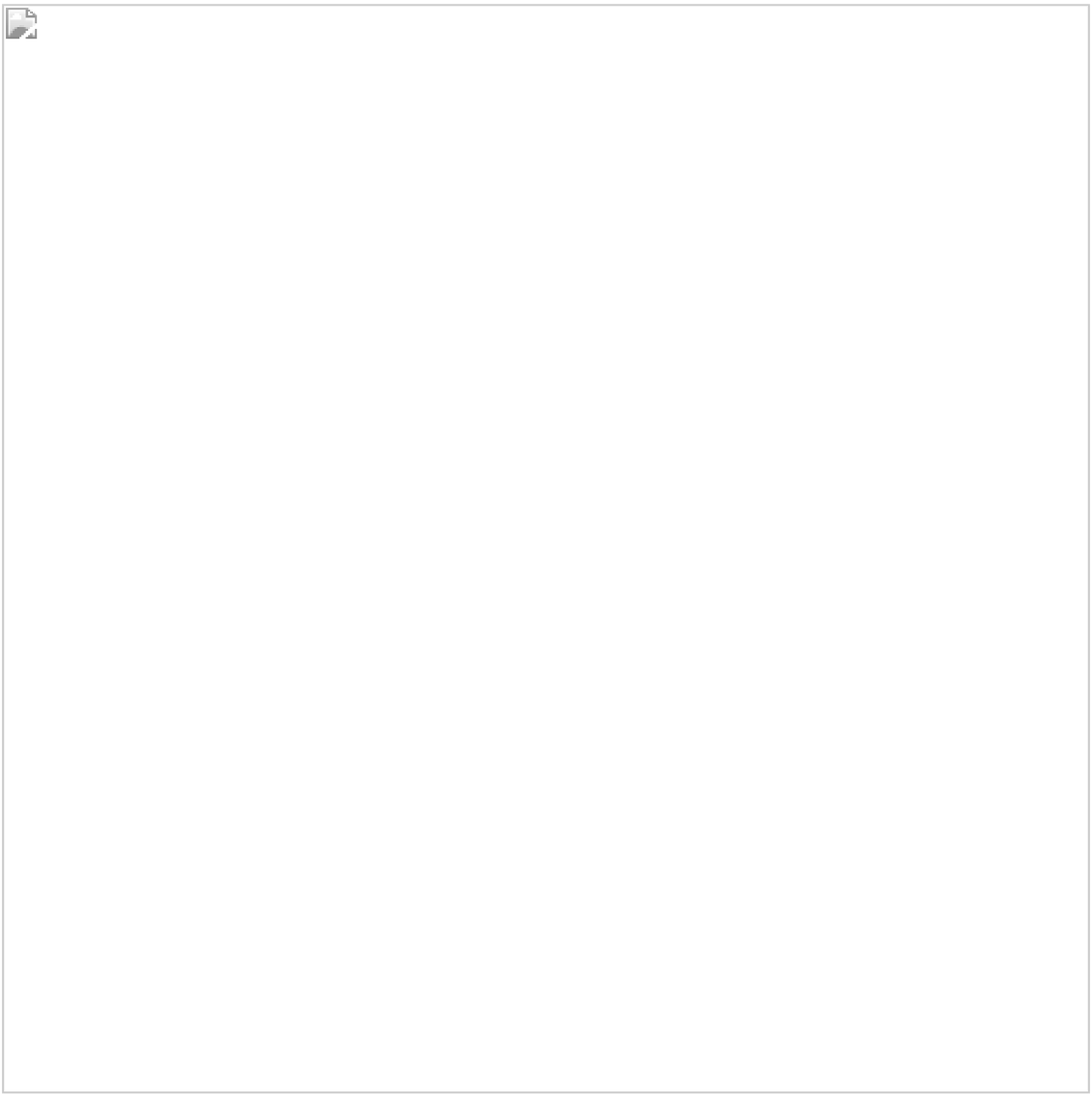
Think about it

1. What did Oliver ask Fagin to do?

- ○ Say a prayer with him
- ○ Run away
- ○ Give back the watches

2. Is it hard or easy to forgive someone? Why?

Home



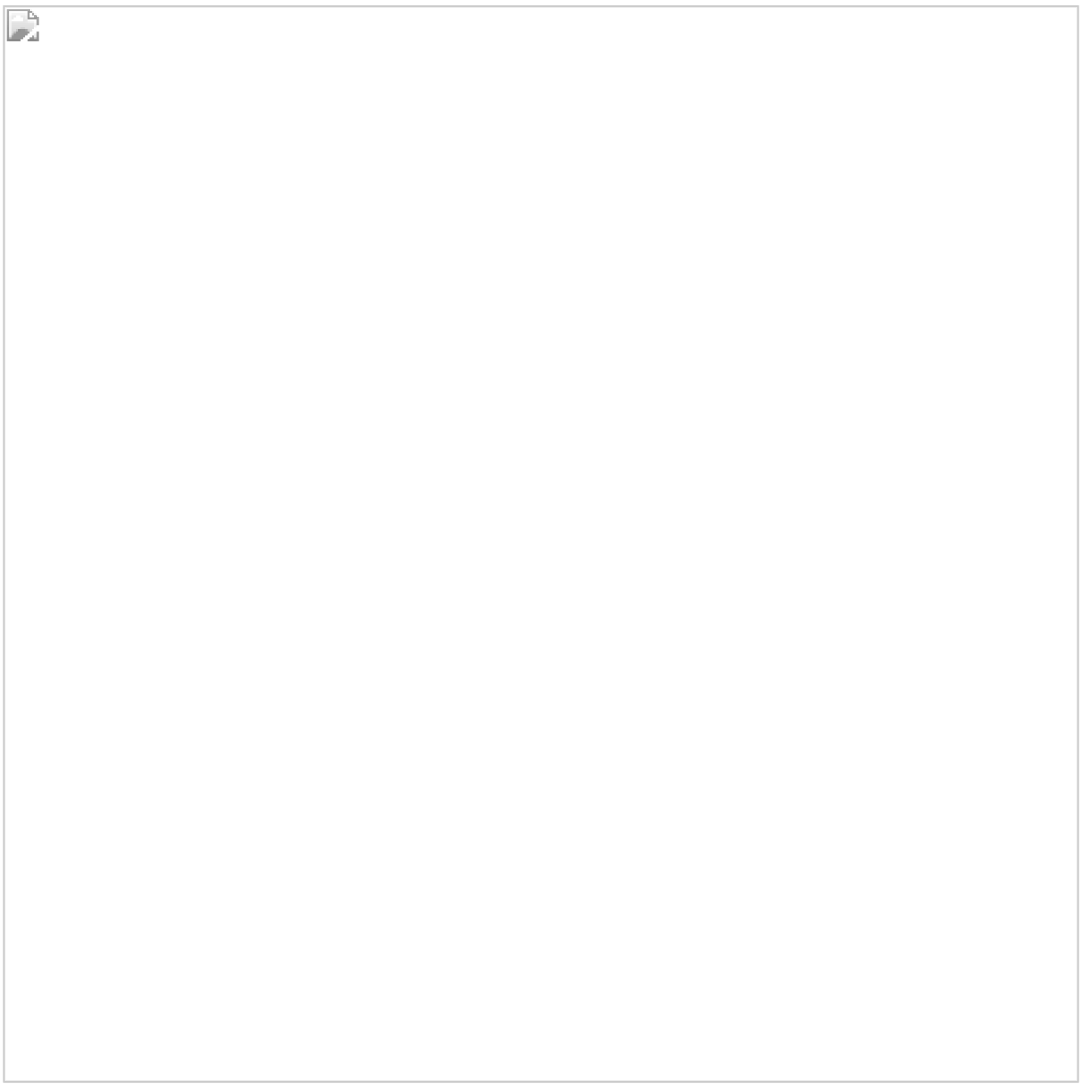
Rose married Harry Maylie, and Mrs. Maylie lived with them. Mr. Brownlow adopted Oliver as his son and lived a mile away, so the orphans and their friends were all near each other.

Monks sailed away, wasted his share, and died in prison. The Bumbles lost their jobs and ended up poor in the very workhouse they had once run. Charley Bates chose an honest life, and was happy.

In the old village church, a white marble tablet bears one word: “AGNES.” There is no coffin under it. Dickens wrote that if the dead ever come back, he believed Agnes sometimes visits that quiet corner, out of love.

TALK ABOUT IT

Oliver finished with a home and people who love him. What makes a place feel like home?



Think about it

1. Who adopted Oliver?

- ○ Mr. Brownlow
- ○ Mr. Bumble
- ○ Mr. Sowerberry

2. Oliver was lost, and then he was found. Who could you help to find a home or a friend?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

Free to read, color, and print in the Book Library

Made with love by Love is a Habit