

LITERATURE – 1B

Oliver is a poor **orphan**. He's about ten years old and lives with other poor boys in a workhouse.

START THINKING ...

1 Work in pairs. Tell your partner how often you do these things:

- eat out in restaurants
- cook your own food
- feel really hungry



OLIVER TWIST (1838) Charles Dickens

The boys ate in a large hall. There was a table at one end with a big **saucepan** on it. One of the masters, dressed in an **apron**, served the **soup** at mealtimes. Each boy had one **bowl** of thin soup and no more – except on very special days when he also had a small piece of bread.

- 5 They never washed the bowls because the boys cleaned them with their **spoons** until there was nothing left. The boys ate their soup very quickly and then sat and looked at the saucepan. The boys usually wanted more to eat but they were afraid to ask. Oliver Twist and his friends were sad and hungry for three months until, one day, they decided that they couldn't continue.
- 10 They had a meeting to choose a boy to ask the master for more food; they chose Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived and the boys went to the hall for **supper**. The master, in his cook's uniform, stood near the big saucepan. The boys ate the soup and then they told Oliver to go. Oliver stood up and walked to the master with his bowl and spoon in his hand. He said: 'Please, sir, I want some more.'

- 15 The master looked at the small boy for a few seconds. The boys were too afraid to move.

'What!' said the master finally.

'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some more.'

The master hit Oliver on the head and held him. He shouted for Mr Bumble*.

[...]

- 20 Mr Bumble ran into the meeting of the **directors** of the **orphanage**.

'Excuse me, gentlemen! Oliver Twist has asked for more!'

There was quiet.

'For more!' said one of the directors. 'Do I understand that he ate his soup and then he asked for more?'

'He did, sir,' replied Mr Bumble.

- 25 After a while, the directors put Oliver into a small, dark room all alone. The next morning, they put a notice on the gate: '**Apprentice** available. Price £5.' They didn't want Oliver at the orphanage any more.

* A church official at the workhouse



Glossary

orphan	a child whose parents are dead	spoon	something you use to eat things like soup, ice cream and yoghurt
saucepan	a big round pan used for cooking things like soup	supper	a meal eaten in the evening
apron	something you wear when you are cooking	director	someone in charge of a company or organization
soup	a hot liquid food made from meat or vegetables	orphanage	a building where orphans live
bowl	a round container you can put ice cream, soup, etc. in to eat	apprentice	someone who works for low pay in return for learning skills

2 **1B.1** Read the text and listen.

3 Read the text again. Circle the correct answer.

- The boys sometimes had *soup / bread* at mealtimes.
- They ate soup with their *bowls / spoons*.
- They boys *rarely / always* had enough to eat.
- The boys *told / helped* Oliver to speak to the master.
- Mr Bumble / The master* hurt Oliver.
- That night, Oliver slept in a dark room *with other boys / on his own*.

4 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Circle the sentence that cannot be true.

- Oliver hasn't got any relatives.
- Oliver's parents died last month.
- Oliver leaves the orphanage.

5 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the words in the list.

supper | orphanages | soup | saucepan
aprons | director

- Gazpacho is a type of _____ that people eat in Spain.
- The _____ of the charity spoke on TV last night.
- Why don't you come to my house for _____ tonight?
- Chefs in professional kitchens usually wear _____ at work.
- There aren't any _____ in the UK now.
- You can use a _____ to cook pasta on top of a cooker.

6 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. Student A is Oliver, Student B is Sam, a new boy at the orphanage. Complete the dialogue with the words in the list. Then act it out.

talk | ask | vegetables | supper | spoon

OLIVER You're new! What's your name?

SAM Sam. Sam Todd. It's my first day.

OLIVER I'm Oliver. Don't be scared. It's
1 _____ time. Bring your bowl and
2 _____ with you.

SAM What do we eat? Is there meat and
3 _____?

OLIVER Shhhhhh! Don't 4 _____ so loudly.
We eat soup.

SAM Every day?

OLIVER Yes. Eat it all and never 5 _____ for
more. The master is very strict and you
don't want him to call for Mr Bumble ...

7 **LISTENING** **1B.2** Listen to the next part of the story. Tick (✓) the words you hear.

school	<input type="checkbox"/>	afraid	<input type="checkbox"/>
socks	<input type="checkbox"/>	hungry	<input type="checkbox"/>
bread	<input type="checkbox"/>	alone	<input type="checkbox"/>
coat	<input type="checkbox"/>	journey	<input type="checkbox"/>

8 **LISTENING** **1B.2** Listen again. Circle the correct answer.

- London was *17 / 70* miles away.
- Oliver went to London to find *work / things*.
- He slept in a *field / shop*.
- A *man / woman* gave him some cheese.
- The boy lived *near / in* London.

WRITING Character analysis9 **WRITING** Write a character analysis of Oliver in no more than 75 words.

- Think about the character's personality. How does he speak, move, feel and think?
- What do the other characters think of him?
- Is your character a main character? Why is he important in the text?
- Try to include short quotes to illustrate your ideas. Include a wide range of adjectives.
- When you have finished your character analysis read it again. Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation. Swap your character analysis with a partner.

DID YOU KNOW?

Charles Dickens is famous for his characters – some good and some bad. He liked to make people laugh or cry so many of his characters are comic (funny) or tragic (very sad). He used a lot of details and strong adjectives to create his characters. He also described the places where they lived or worked to make them seem more real.



Charles Dickens
1812–1870