

# Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens

Chapter One.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/extract/5078/Oliver-Twist-Oxford-Childrens-Classics-by-Charles-Dickens.html>

# Quick Start

1. What is the name of the main character in the story?
2. Where was the main character born?
3. What happened to his mother shortly after he was born?
4. Who was present at the main character's birth?
5. What did the nurse do during and after the birth?
6. What did the Doctor suggest he should be given if he is trouble?

# Vocabulary Check

- consolatory - *to make someone who is sad or disappointed feel better*
- inestimable merit - *too large or great to measure*
- inevitably and indubitably - *certain to happen without doubt*
- the item of mortality - *the subject of a person's death and ability to die*

# Vocabulary Check

- pauper - *a very poor person*
- parish surgeon - *a local doctor qualified to practise surgery.*



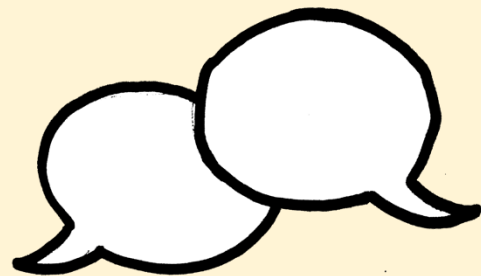
- prudent - *careful judgment that allows someone to avoid future danger*

# Vocabulary Check

- ushered - *to show someone to a place*
- workhouse - *a place provide work and shelter for poor people who could not look after themselves. Often terrible conditions.*



## Partnered Talk



*‘for some time he lay gasping on a little flock mattress, rather unequally poised between this world and the next: the balance being decidedly in favour of the latter.’*

Look at the extract above.

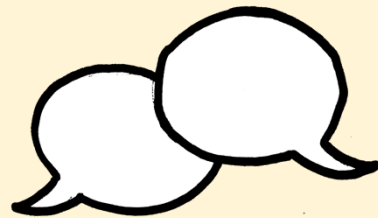
What does the author mean when he talks about Oliver being ‘unequally pointed between this world and the next’?

## Individual Thinking



Taking into account everything you read on page 2, what is the author hinting about Oliver's future personality?

## Partnered Talk



Look at page 3 and 4.

Discuss with your partner what you believe the woman is doing with the green bottle.

What does this imply about her attitude to Oliver, his mother and her role as a nurse?

Is her attitude similar or different to that of the Doctor's?



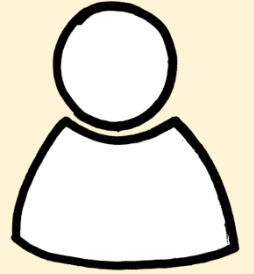
# Individual Thinking



*‘Oliver cried lustily. If he could have known that he was an orphan, left to the tender mercies of churchwardens and overseers, perhaps he would have cried the louder.’*

Why do you think the author chose to include these two lines?

## Solo Work



Based on what you have read in Chapter One:

1. Choose one word that you believe would adequately summarise what you believe Oliver's future in the workhouse will be like.
2. Write an explanation to justify your choice of word. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.