The workhouse

A long time ago every town in England had a workhouse. This was a house for very poor people. Oliver Twist was born in a workhouse. His mother was a young woman. She was very ill when she came to the workhouse. A doctor and a woman were with her. After Oliver Twist was born his mother said, "I want to see my baby and then die"

"You are too young to die," said the woman.

The doctor put the little baby in his mother's arms. She kissed the baby and died.

"She's dead," said the doctor

"Poor dear! She came here last night. No one knows where she's from," said the woman.

The old woman began to dress the baby with very old clothes. Oliver was alone in the world. He was an orphan. No one loved him.

When Oliver was small he lived in an orphanage with other orphans. He and the other children had very little food and very little love. Many of the children died because they were cold or hungry. Oliver survived but he was small and thin. His face was very white.

On his ninth birthday Oliver left the children's home. He was sad to leave his only friends. He went to live in a workhouse. He worked long hours for the workhouse. They gave him only one bowl of porridge three times a day and an onion twice a week. On Sundays he had a small piece of bread. Oliver and his companions were very hungry and very unhappy.

They never asked for a second bowl of porridge. They were afraid. But after three months they became terribly hungry. One day Oliver took his empty bowl to the master.

"Please sir," he said, "I want some more porridge."

The master looked at Oliver. He was surprised.

"What?" he said.

"Please sir," he said, "I want some more porridge."

The master hit Oliver with his big spoon. Then he called Mr. Bumble. He was an important officer of the town.

"What!" cried Mr. Bumble. He took Oliver to the directors of the workhouse and said, "Oliver Twist asked for more porridge!"

"For more porridge!" they cried. They looked at each other. They were surprised. He must leave the workhouse!"

Mr. Bumble put Oliver in a cold, dark room for one week. Every morning Mr. Bumble beat Oliver with a Stick in front of his friends. Oliver cried all day and he did not sleep at night.

One day Mr. Bumble met his friend Mr. Sowerberry. Mr. Sowerberry was a tall, thin man. He made coffins for dead bodies. Many of the dead bodies came from the workhouse.

Mr. Bumble asked, "Do you want a boy to work in your shop? You will pay nothing and we will give you five pounds."

Mr. Bumble was happy. In the evening he took Oliver to Mr. Sowerberry's shop. Oliver looked at Mr. Bumble and started crying. "I want to be a good boy. I am a very little boy, sir. And it is so … lonely. So very lonely!" Oliver's thin face was covered with tears.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Seminario San Fidel **Second Grade**

Reading Comprehension Test

Name: **Personal Score:** **Mark:**

Read and answer these questions. GIVE COMPLETE ANSWERS.

1. Where was Oliver Twist born?
2. How was the health state of Oliver's mother?
3. Where did Oliver live when he was small?
4. Give a description of Oliver when he was a child
5. What happened when Oliver was nine years old?
6. What did Oliver eat in the workhouse?
7. Who was Mr. Bumble?
8. Where did Mr. Bumble put Oliver for one week?
9. Who was Mr Sowerberry?
10. Where did Mr Bumble take Oliver?

Answer TRUE or FALSE. Justify false statements

1. Long ago there were no workhouses in England _____
2. Oliver's mother was very ill _____
3. In the orphanage the children had a new family _____
4. In the workhouse Oliver worked all day _____
5. One day he asked for a second bowl of porridge _____
6. Mr Bumble gave him more food _____
7. Mr Bumble and Mr Sowerberry were friends _____
8. Mr Sowerberry worked in the workhouse _____
9. He needed a boy to work for him _____
10. Oliver started to cry because no one loved him _____

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III. Select the correct alternative

1. Oliver's mother was

a) a young lady b) a rich young lady c) an ill young lady

2. Mr. Bumble

a) put Oliver in a dark room b) gave him food c) kissed oliver

3. Mr Sowerberry

a) made coffins b) was the directot of the workhouse c) lived in the workhouse

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