

Stories and Secrets in Oliver Twist

Activity 2: Answer the following questions based on the content of chapter 11

1. How would you describe Rose and Mrs. Maylie?

Rose	Mrs. Maylie

Reading

Read the following extract and answer the questions below.

The ladies entered the bedroom to see the robber for the first time and were surprised to learn that Oliver was merely a child.

Ms. Rose, seating herself in a chair by the bedside, gathered Oliver's hair from his face. As she stooped over him, her tears fell upon his forehead. The boy stirred, and smiled in his sleep, as though these marks of pity and compassion had awakened some pleasant dream of a love and affection he had never known.

"What can this mean?" exclaimed the elder lady. "This poor child can never have been the pupil of robbers!"

"Can you really believe that this delicate boy has been the voluntary associate of the worst outcasts of society?" asked Rose.

Hour after hour passed on, and still Oliver slumbered heavily. It was evening, before the kind-hearted doctor brought them the intelligence that he was sufficiently restored to be spoken to. The boy was very ill, he said, and weak from the loss of blood but his mind was so troubled with anxiety to disclose something, that he deemed it better to give him the opportunity than to insist upon his remaining quiet until next morning. The conference was a long one. Oliver told them all his simple history, and was often compelled to stop, by pain and want of strength. It was a solemn thing to hear in the darkened room, the feeble voice of the sick child recounting a weary catalogue of evils and calamities which hard men had brought upon him.

1. Why are the ladies surprised by Oliver's appearance?
2. What does Oliver do? Do the ladies and the doctor listen to him?
3. How is the ladies' treatment of Oliver here similar or different to how Mr. Brownlow treated Oliver? How about the treatment Oliver received from the judge in Chapter 3?