

Unit 5: *Reading for pleasure.*

Theme: *The world of literature. Genres of fiction*

**Read the text.**

The novel "Oliver Twist" was written by Charles Dickens (1812-1870). The novel is about an orphan boy whose childhood was marked by poverty and unhappiness. Struggling against the life problems Oliver manages to find out his origin and gain a loving family. Oliver was born in a workhouse in the first half of the nineteenth century. His mother died during his birth, and he was sent to an orphanage, where he was poorly treated, regularly beaten and poorly fed. Oliver was an innocent and poor boy. When he was eleven he was tried to be sold from the workhouse as an apprentice but he escaped from there. He wanted to find his fortune in London. In his way to London he met a boy called Artful Dodger and then ended up with Fagin the leader of a gang of thieves who taught children how to steal. Oliver was brought into the gang and trained as a pickpocket. When he went out on his first job, he ran away and was nearly sent to prison. However, the kindness of the person he tried to rob saved him from the terrors of the city gaol (jail) and instead he was taken into the man's home. He believed he had escaped Fagin and his gang, but Bill Sikes and Nancy, two members of the gang, forced him back. Oliver was once more sent out on another job--this time assisting Sikes on a burglary. The job went wrong and Oliver was shot and left behind. Once more he was taken in, this time by the Maylies, the family he was sent to rob, where his life changed dramatically for the better. But Fagin's gang came after him again. Nancy, who was worried about Oliver, told the Maylies what was happening. When the gang found out about Nancy's treachery, they murdered her. Meanwhile, the Maylies reunited Oliver with the gentleman who helped him out earlier. Fagin was arrested and hanged for his crimes; and Oliver settled down to a normal life, reunited with his family.

**Task 1. Answer the questions according to the text.**

1. Who was Oliver Twist?
2. Where did Oliver Twist live for the first nine years of his life?
3. What kind of life did Oliver have according to this novel?
4. How should society treat children who break the law?

**Task 2. Read the text and put the sentences in the right chronological order:**

Oliver was brought into the gang.....  
In his way to London he met a boy called Artful Dodger  
His mother died during his birth  
The job went wrong and Oliver was shot and left behind.