

## **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Shared Reading - Oliver Twist**

Oliver Twist was the child of an unknown woman who died in the workhouse almost as soon as her babe drew his first breath. The mother's name being unknown so the workhouse officials called the child Oliver Twist. For nine years he was farmed out at a branch poorhouse, where with twenty or thirty other children he bore all the miseries consequent on neglect, abuse, and starvation. He was then removed to the workhouse proper to be taught a useful trade.

His ninth birthday found him a pale, thin child, diminutive in stature but possessed of a good sturdy spirit. The boys were fed in a large stone hall, with a copper pot at one end, out of which the gruel was ladled at meal-times. Each boy had one spoonful, and no more—except on occasions of great public rejoicing. The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; and when they had performed this operation, they would sit staring at the copper, as if they could have devoured it - sucking their fingers, with the view of catching up any stray splashes of gruel.

One boy hinted that unless he had another basin of gruel a day, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next him. A vote was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master, and ask for more, and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The gruel was served out, and a long grace was said. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said:

"Please, sir, I want some more!"

### **Retrieval**

How many years was Oliver Twist in the poorhouse?

Where did he go after the poorhouse?

Why didn't the bowls need washing?

### **Vocabulary**

What does 'rose' mean in 'He rose' . Tick the correct meaning.

To smell a flower

he went red

he stood up

### **Inference**

Did Oliver Twist ever meet his mother? How do you know?

# Devoured – to devour



To eat hungrily or quickly