

# ENGLISH: Year 8 Spring Half Term 1 – Oliver Twist

## What are we learning about?

In this topic, we will be learning about how Charles Dickens explores Victorian England, morality, marginalisation in society; class divide, and social status in the book Oliver Twist.

This includes learning about how historical and social context can influence the work writers produce.

## How does this build on the **SKILLS** I already have?

This unit builds on your skills of Identifying key ideas and supporting them with relevant evidence from a text. It also builds on your ability to explain how writers create character and setting through the use of language techniques.

## Why are we learning about it?

We are studying Oliver Twist because Dickens wrote the novel to criticise society's rich people and raise awareness about the poor conditions of Victorian England. Dickens is considered one of England's great writers and although the book is challenging to read we want to make sure you are reading **aspirational** texts.



## What new **SKILLS** will I develop?

You will develop your ability to adopt and sustain a viewpoint as well as support and justify a viewpoint when challenged. As we look at a novel written from an earlier time period, you will develop we explore new ways in which writers present their ideas.

## What new **KNOWLEDGE** will I gain?

You will read Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist which was written in the Victorian Era. You will learn about Dickens and the

Victorian Era as well as develop an understanding of themes within the novel. You will learn more complex terminology and a wider range of vocabulary to help you analyse the writers viewpoint and to express your own.

## How does this build on the **KNOWLEDGE** I already have?

This builds on your knowledge of understanding of how writers make choices about their language and structure to have the greatest impact on the reader. You have studied texts from more recent contexts and how these contexts influence the writers and the reader.