



Oliver Twist

by Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens's social novel follows a young orphan through the grim London underworld, exposing the cruelty of the workhouse system and street crime with unforgettable Victorian prose.

Rank #9

Elite 10

Power Words

#	WORD	DEFINITION
1	cunningly	adj. clever at tricking others; sly; <i>"The Artful Dodger cunningly slipped through the marketplace crowd, leaving no trace of his nimble-fingered work behind."</i>
1	contemptible	adj. deserving of or viewed with contempt; disgraceful; dishonorable <i>"The magistrate regarded the trembling orphan as contemptible, unworthy of the court's patience or its charity."</i>
1	cowering	v. to draw back or crouch down in fearful submission <i>"Oliver stood cowering in the corner as Fagin's sharp eyes swept the room, counting every stolen handkerchief."</i>
1	degrading	v. to reduce from a higher to a lower rank or degree; adj. 1 used of conduct; characterized by dishonor; 2 harmful to the mind or morals <i>"Oliver endured every degrading task assigned to him, yet his gentle spirit refused to be entirely broken."</i>
1	destitute	adj. lacking basic necessities like food and shelter. <i>"The destitute children huddled together in the workhouse yard, their thin coats no match for the bitter cold."</i>
1	dispossessed	adj. having lost possession of something valuable. <i>"Oliver was entirely dispossessed, stripped of name, family, and fortune by those who conspired against his birth."</i>
1	hypocritical	n. a person who pretends to be different or better than he or she really is; adj. being a hypocrite <i>"The parish authorities were hypocritical in their charity, advertising generosity while delivering only cruelty and gruel."</i>
1	manipulate	v. to control or influence something skillfully. <i>"Fagin could manipulate the youngest children with extraordinary skill, binding them to his service before they knew it."</i>
1	mercilessly	adv. in a way that shows no mercy or kindness. <i>"Sikes mercilessly drove the boy through the freezing streets, indifferent to his exhaustion or his terror."</i>
1	relentlessly	adv. in an unyielding or unbending or adamant manner <i>"The authorities pursued the pickpocket gang relentlessly through the fog-choked alleys of the Seven Dials."</i>
1	squalid	adj. 1 dirty or foul as from neglect; 2 morally repugnant; sordid <i>"The squalid lodging house where Fagin kept his charges reeked of damp straw and long-extinguished tallow candles."</i>
1	trembling	v. to shake or tremble with cold or fear or excitement <i>"Oliver stood trembling before the board of governors, his empty bowl extended in that unforgettable act of asking."</i>
1	tyrannical	adj. 1 of or relating to or associated with or resembling a dictatorship; 2 marked by unjust severity or arbitrary behavior <i>"The tyrannical beadle strutted through the workhouse halls, delighting in every misery his authority could inflict."</i>
1	unscrupulous	adj. without scruples or principles <i>"Monks proved entirely unscrupulous, willing to destroy an innocent child to secure an inheritance he felt was his."</i>
1	vindictive	adj. having or showing a strong desire for revenge. <i>"Monks grew increasingly vindictive as each scheme to ruin Oliver unravelled before it could reach its cruel end."</i>