

## Comprehension Test B

### Oliver Twist

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

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For many days, Oliver remained in the spare room, picking the marks out of the pocket-handkerchief, (of which a great number were brought home,) and sometimes taking part in the game already described: which the two boys played, regularly, every morning. At length, he began to languish for fresh air, and took many occasions of earnestly entreating the old gentleman to allow him to go out to work with his two companions.

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Oliver was rendered the more anxious to be actively employed, by what he had seen of the stern morality of the old gentleman's character. Whenever the Dodger or Charley Bates came home at night, empty-handed, he would expatiate with great vehemence on the misery of idle and lazy habits; and would enforce upon them the necessity of an active life, by sending them supperless to bed. On one occasion, indeed, he even went so far as to knock them both down a flight of stairs; but this was carrying out his virtuous precepts to an unusual extent.

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At length, one morning, Oliver obtained the permission he had so eagerly sought. There had been no handkerchiefs to work upon, for two or three days, and the dinners had been rather meagre. Perhaps these were reasons for the old gentleman's giving his assent; but, whether they were or no, he told Oliver he might go, and placed him under the joint guardianship of Charley Bates, and his friend the Dodger.

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The three boys sallied out; the Dodger with his coat-sleeves tucked up, and his hat cocked, as usual; Master Bates sauntering along with his hands in his pockets; and Oliver between them, wondering where they were going, and what branch of manufacture he would be instructed in, first.

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The pace at which they went, was such a very lazy, ill-looking saunter, that Oliver soon began to think his companions were going to deceive the old gentleman, by not going to work at all. The Dodger had a vicious propensity, too, of pulling the caps from the heads of small boys and tossing them down areas; while Charley Bates exhibited some very loose notions concerning the rights of property, by pilfering divers apples and onions from the stalls at the kennel sides, and thrusting them into pockets which were so surprisingly capacious, that they seemed to

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45 undermine his whole suit of clothes in every direction. These things  
looked so bad, that Oliver was on the point of declaring his intention of  
seeking his way back, in the best way he could; when his thoughts were  
suddenly directed into another channel, by a very mysterious change of  
behaviour on the part of the Dodger.

50 They were just emerging from a narrow court not far from the open  
square in Clerkenwell, which is yet called, by some strange perversion of  
terms, 'The Green': when the Dodger made a sudden stop; and, laying  
his finger on his lip, drew his companions back again, with the greatest  
caution and circumspection.

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## Test B - Oliver Twist Questions

Refer back to the passage in order to circle the correct answer for each question.

1. What does the description of the room suggest about Oliver's situation?
  - A He has been at the house for months
  - B He is the boss of the house
  - C He is new to the house
  - D He is unwelcome at the house
  - E He is of a high position within the house
  
2. How do you think Oliver felt about staying in the room?
  - A Pleased
  - B Bored
  - C Excited
  - D Indifferent
  - E Angry
  
3. What type of word is 'regularly' (line 9)?
  - A Adjective
  - B Verb
  - C Noun
  - D Adverb
  - E Preposition
  
4. What do you think 'entreating' (line 10) means in this context?
  - A Waiting
  - B Demanding
  - C Confidently requesting
  - D Seeing
  - E Anxiously asking
  
5. What does the word 'allow' (line 11) imply about the relationship between Oliver and the old gentleman?
  - A He is Oliver's boss
  - B He is his friend
  - C They are colleagues

- D They are companions
- E They are family

6. Why is Oliver anxious about being employed?

- A Because he has never worked before
- B Because he is young
- C Because of the gentleman's personality
- D Because he is not good at his job
- E Because he is scared of the streets

7. What happens if the boys return home without having pickpocketed anything?

- A They are fired
- B They do not get paid
- C They do not get any dinner
- D They get their bed taken away
- E They are sent out to try again

8. How does the gentleman view boys who come home empty handed?

- A Lazy
- B Irritating and old
- C Pointless
- D Disgusting
- E Pointless and lazy

9. The gentleman's actions (line 20) portray him as:

- A Timid
- B Violent
- C Powerless
- D Manipulative
- E Kind

10. What do you think the word 'meagre' (line 25) means?

- A Tasty
- B Plentiful
- C Filling
- D Insufficient

E Mediocre

11. What activity had Oliver been occupied with when he was confined indoors?

- A Cleaning handkerchiefs
- B Planning his work
- C Sleeping
- D Cooking dinner
- E Pickpocketing handkerchiefs

12. The description of Oliver in lines 32 and 33 suggest what?

- A That he knows exactly what to do
- B That he is not bothered about being outside
- C That he is the least experienced one there
- D That he is already bored
- E That he is the most experienced one there

13. In what way was Master Bates walking (line 31)?

- A Briskly
- B Slowly
- C Tip toeing
- D Speedily
- E Carelessly

14. How does the author describe the way Dodger acts? (lines 39-40)

- A Tenderly
- B Disregarding
- C Carefully
- D Warmly
- E Cruelly

15. Which of these statements fits Charley Bates' views about the law? (lines 41-43)

- A He is a law abiding citizen
- B He has never broken the law
- C He does not respect the law
- D He tells everyone how much he likes to break rules
- E He feels strongly about not breaking any rules

16. Why did Oliver consider going back to the house?
- A He wanted to pickpocket
  - B He was jealous of what they boys were doing
  - C He was bored
  - D He did agree with what the boys were doing
  - E He missed being at the house
17. Whose pockets does Charley Bates put the stolen food in?
- A Passer by's
  - B Dodger's
  - C Oliver's
  - D His own
  - E The gentleman's
18. What stops Oliver turning back to the house?
- A He notices something strange about Charley
  - B He notices something strange about Dodger
  - C He notices something strange about the gentleman
  - D He notices something strange about the street
  - E He notices something strange about himself
19. An antonym for the word 'emerging' (line 50) is:
- A Appearing
  - B Unfolding
  - C Expiring
  - D Demerging
  - E Disappearing
20. What is the most likely explanation for Dodger's sudden stop and 'mysterious' behaviour?
- A He saw a child
  - B He saw the gentleman
  - C He saw a policeman
  - D He felt sick
  - E He saw a bird