Y7 English 1: Oliver Twist

Plot breakdown

Oliver is born in the workhouse. When he is a bit older he is nominated to ask for more food because the boys are starving.

He is kicked out of the workhouse and sold to the Sowerberry family to be an undertaker's apprentice. He's bullied by Noah, they fight and he is locked up.

Oliver runs away to London, meets Dodger and is introduced to Fagin's gang.

Oliver is taken out with the gang and is horrified to see Dodger steal a gentleman's handkerchief. Oliver is wrongly arrested for the theft.

The gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, takes pity on Oliver and takes him in. The gang plot to get him back in case he reveals information about them.

Oliver is abducted by the gang whilst running an errand for Mr. Brownlow.

Oliver is used by Sikes in a burglary. They fail and Sikes runs away. Oliver is left behind but the people who live there feel sorry for him and look after him. They are called Fred and Rose Maylie.

When Bill and Fagin realise what has happened, they plot to catch Oliver again. Nancy overhears and visits Mr. Brownlow to warn him.

Fagin tells Bill about Nancy's betrayal and Bill murders her. Fagin is discovered and sent to prison and Bill dies trying to run away.

Oliver discovers who his parents were and joins Mr. Brownlow and the Maylies to live happily ever after.

Key words

morality – a code of right and wrong. People who try to be good can be called **moral** and people who do bad things can be called **immoral.**

vulnerable – in a situation in which you could be easily harmed. People living on the streets are **vulnerable.**

brutal – very violent or cruel.

corrupt – a word used to describe a person who uses their power in a dishonest or illegal way in order to make life better for themselves.

villain – a 'baddie' who harms other people or breaks the law to get what they want.

malicious – meant to hurt or upset someone.

victim – someone who has been harmed, often by other people.

naïve – If someone is naïve if they don't have experience of how complicated life can be and therefore trust people too much.

society – the people who live in a certain area. This could be a country, town or small group.

workhouse – a place where people who couldn't support themselves were sent to live and work.

Background information

'Oliver Twist' was written in 1837-39.

It was written by Charles Dickens.

In was published chapter by chapter in a periodical (magazine).

Charles Dickens had to work in harsh conditions as a child when his father was sent to prison.

Dickens wanted to criticise a new change to The Poor Law which happened in 1834 and created more workhouses and show how hard life was for poor people.

Characters

Oliver
He is a 'pale, thin' orphan who is treated badly by almost everyone he meets. He tries his best to be a good person and experiences 'horror and alarm' whenever he sees crimes being committed.

Mr. Bumble
The man who runs the workhouse and gives Oliver his name. He is 'a fat man' who enjoys power and doesn't care about the people beneath him.

Noah Claypole
A 'malicious and ill-conditioned' boy who bullies Oliver at the undertakers. He eventually runs away to London and joins the same gang as Oliver.

Fagin
An old man who runs the gang of pickpockets. He seems kind but his 'villainous-looking and repulsive face' reflects his selfish nature as he gets young boys to do his dirty work for him.

Jack Dawkins (The Artful Dodger)
A young boy who introduces Oliver to Fagin's gang who has 'all the airs and manners of a man'. He's confident and cunning.

Bill Sikes
A 'rough man' who has been a criminal for many years. He beats his dog viciously and brutally kills his girlfriend, Nancy.

Nancy
Bill's girlfriend who risks her life to help Oliver escape from the gang. She loves Bill even though he treats her abusively and she feels guilty about the life of crime she has led.

Mr. Brownlow
A wealthy older gentleman who takes Oliver in and looks after him. He believes in Oliver's goodness even when it looks like Oliver has stolen from him and eventually finds out the truth about Oliver's parents.

Year 7 English 2: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Plot Summary

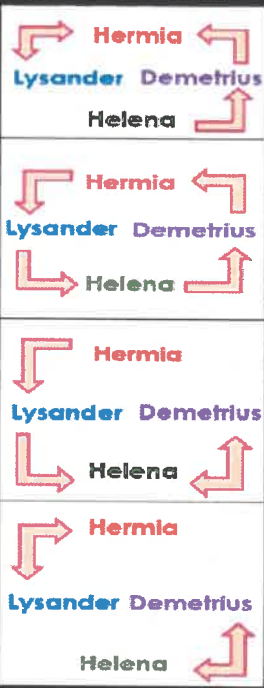
Act 1: **Hermia** and **Lysander** love each other but are not allowed to marry so decide to run away to the forest to get married in secret. **Demetrius** wants to marry **Hermia**. **Helena** loves **Demetrius**. They follow **Hermia** and **Lysander** into the forest.

Act 2: In the forest, Oberon and Titania are arguing. Oberon sees **Demetrius** and **Helena** arguing and commands Puck to use the potion on the Athenian man to make him fall in love with **Helena**. However, the first Athenian man Puck sees is **Lysander**, so he puts the love potion on him. **Lysander** falls madly in love with **Helena**.

Act 3: Puck sees Bottom in the forest and transformed his head into a donkey's head. He puts the love potion on Titania, who falls in love with Bottom. Puck puts the love potion on **Demetrius** so that he falls in love with **Helena**. As a result, both men love **Helena** so there is chaos. Puck eventually drops a herb in **Lysander's** eyes to put him back to normal.

Acts 4 and 5: Oberon finds Titania and Bottom and decides that he has had enough fun. Puck drops a herb in her eyes, she wakes and leaves with Oberon. The lovers return to Athens where Bottom and the other actors perform their play at the wedding of the three happy couples: Theseus and Hippolyta, **Lysander** and **Hermia** and **Demetrius** and **Helena**.

Who loves Whom



Characters

Theseus
The duke of Athens. He is a strong and strict ruler of the city.

Hippolyta
Theseus's bride. She was a fearless warrior.

Egeus
Hermia's stubborn father who wants her to marry Demetrius or be put to death.

Hermia
Egeus's daughter who is in love with Lysander.

Lysander
He is in love with Hermia and runs away to the forest with her.

Demetrius
He wants to marry Hermia and is disgusted by Helena's love for him.

Helena
Hermia's friend who is desperately in love with Demetrius.

Oberon
The king of the fairies who controls the love potion.

Titania
The fierce queen of the fairies who falls in love with Bottom when the love potion is put on her.

Bottom
A weaver and actor who has his head turned into a donkey. Titania falls in love with him when she is under the love potion's influence.

Puck
Oberon's mischievous servant who puts the potion on people's eyes.



The Love Potion

The love potion is made from a flower in the forest. The flower is magical because Cupid hit it with his arrow when he was aiming at a young girl. When the potion is put on characters' eyes, they fall in love with the first person they see. It is very powerful.

Background Information

Shakespeare went to a grammar school where he was taught Ancient Greek.

The play is set in Ancient Greece and follows the rules of a comedy from Ancient Greece.

When the play was written, Elizabeth 1st was Queen. She decided not to get married which many people disagreed with.

Many Elizabethans believed in and feared magic.

Cupid is the ancient god of love. He is usually presented as a baby whose arrows make people fall in love.



Key words

soliloquy - a speech in a play that the character speaks to himself or herself or to the audience, rather than to the other characters

severe – very strict or harsh

conflict – a serious disagreement, battle or struggle between two sides or ideas.

unrequited love – If a person loves someone who doesn't love them back, the person's love is unrequited

to mock – To mock someone is to make fun of them

chaos – a situation where there is no order and everyone is confused

to resolve – to solve a problem or difficulty

Year 7 English 3: Poetry

Metaphor

Literal language: if something is **literal** it is accurate or precise.
- A **literal** description tells what actually happens.
- Something that is **literal** reports on events.
- An example would be 'he is lazy'

Metaphor: if something is a **metaphor** it is **not literal.**
- A **metaphor** does **not report on what actually happens.**
- A **metaphor** tells us more about something by bringing ideas together.
- An example would be 'he is a couch potato'

Tenor, vehicle, ground

A **metaphor** has three parts:
The tenor: the thing you want to try and describe to your audience.
The vehicle: The imaginative idea you compare it with to help your audience understand it. This is the 'made up' bit.
The ground: the thing the tenor and the vehicle have in common.

Here is an example:
'**Achilles** fought like a **lion**' (both Achilles and the lion are **strong**)
Achilles is the tenor because he is the thing being described. The lion is the vehicle because it is the imaginative idea Achilles is compared to. The ground is that they are both strong because this is what they have in common.

The poems and their key metaphors

	**'Fog' – Carl Sandburg, 1878 – 1967** '**The fog** comes on **little cat feet**'	Both 'the fog' and the 'little cat feet' are grey, delicate and move gently.
	**'November Night' – Adelaide Crapsey, 1878 – 1914** 'like **steps of passing ghosts**,/ **The leaves**, frost –crisp'd, break from the trees and fall'	Both 'the leaves' and 'the steps of passing ghosts' rustle softly.
	**'Dreams' – Langston Hughes, 1902 – 1967** '... **if dreams die/ Life** is a **broken-winged bird/ That cannot fly**'	Both a life without dreams and 'a broken-winged bird/ That cannot fly' are sad and wasteful.
	**'Sally' – Phoebe Hesketh, 1909 – 2005** '**She** was **a dog-rose** kind of girl:/ Elusive, scattery as **petals**'	Both Sally and 'a dog-rose' are wild and not traditionally beautiful.
	**'Frogs' – Norman MacCaig, 1910 – 1996** 'In mid-leap **they** are/ **parachutists falling/ in a free fall**' '... **their ballet dancer's/ legs**'	Both frogs and 'parachutists' leap into the air and spread out when they fall. Both frogs and ballet dancers have powerful and elegant legs.
	**'Pigeons' – Richard Kell, 1927 –** 'small blue **busybodies**/ Strutting like **fat gentlemen**' '**their heads** like **tiny hammers**'	Both pigeons and 'busybodies' walk around looking like they think they're important. Both pigeons and fat gentlemen have big bellies but look quite dignified.
	**'The Eagle' – Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1809 – 1892** 'And like **a thunderbolt he falls**'	Both the eagle falling and 'a thunderbolt' are fast and dangerous.
	**'The Tyger' – William Blake, 1757 – 1827** '**Tyger, tyger burning** bright'	Both the tiger and fire are beautiful and powerful, but also difficult to control.
	**'A Case of Murder' – Vernon Scannell, 1922 – 2007** '**The cat**, half-through, was **cracked like a nut**' '... **the wound** of **fear** gaped wide and raw' '... **the huge black cat** pads out' (the cat turns from **tenor** into vehicle for the **boy's fear**)	Both the cat being slammed in a door frame and a nut being broken make a cracking sound. Both 'fear' and a 'wound' can be painful and can get worse. Both fear and a 'huge black cat' are haunting and can sneak up on you.

Year 7 English 4: Ancient Tales

Tale	Author	Origin	Morals	Key words	One key connection
The Cheetah's Whisker	KP Kojo	Ethiopia and Eritrea	a. There is no shortcut to building relationships. You have to work hard at them. b. Relationships are important. Some you will never forget.	quest love potion enunciation	There is a love potion in this story, just like in A Midsummer Night's Dream. This love potion doesn't cause chaos.
Hansel and Gretel	Adapted by Carol Ann Duffy	Germany	a. Growing up is difficult but rewarding. b. Good will overcome evil. c. A little bit of cunning can save your life.	vulnerable Ingenious/ingenuity outwit dialogue	The children are vulnerable in this story, just like Oliver Twist. Like Oliver, they are rewarded at the end.
Two Dinners	Trish Cooke	West Africa and the Caribbean	Don't be greedy. If you are greedy, you will end up with nothing.	lovable rogue comeuppance universal	Brer Anansi is a lovable rogue, just like the Artful Dodger. Both receive a comeuppance.
The Giant's Causeway	Una Leavy	Ireland	a. Trust your wife to save the day. b. Don't be arrogant. c. A little but of cunning can save your life. d. A big and scary problem can be overcome.	lovable rogue Ingenious/ingenuity hand gestures	Bláithín's plan is ingenious, just like Hansel and Gretel's. Bláithín's ingenuity saves her husband's life.
The Wicked King and his Good Son	Madhur Jaffrey	India	a. No mortal can escape death. Trying to do so ends in disaster. b. Don't be arrogant. c. Good will triumph over evil. d. It is never too late to make up for the bad things you have done.	tyrant/tyrannical Holi hand gestures relate universal	King Hiranya Kashyap and Theseus are both rulers. However, they use their power in different ways.
Extracts from ***Tales from the Thousand and One Nights***	Translated by NJ Dawood	The Middle East	a. Good will triumph over evil. b. No one is beyond repentance. c. A little bit of cunning can save your life.	tyrant ingenious repentant emphasis	King Shahriyar repents, unlike Bill Sikes in Oliver Twist. Bill Sikes kills Nancy, King Shahriyar pardons Shahrazad.