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**PLOT, STRUCTURE AND  
THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF NOVEL  
OLIVER TWIST**



# Charles Dickens

An English writer

7 February 1812 – 9 June 1870

The greatest novelist of the  
Victorian period

works: *Oliver Twist*

*David Copperfield*

*Hard Times*

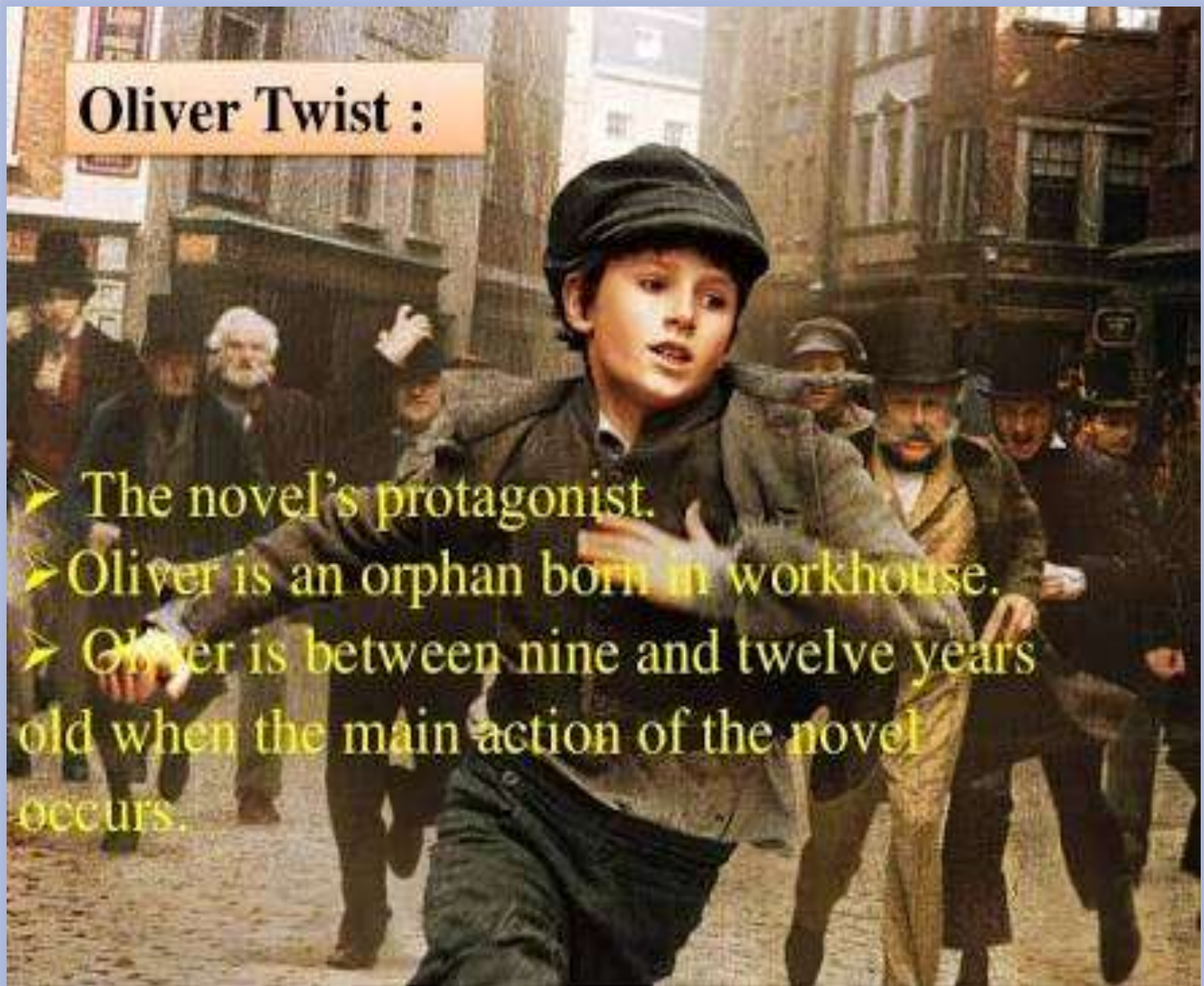
*A Tale of Two Cities*

*A Christmas Carol*

*Great Expectations ...*

## Oliver Twist :

- The novel's protagonist.
- Oliver is an orphan born in workhouse.
- Oliver is between nine and twelve years old when the main action of the novel occurs.





# CHAPTER 1

**Oliver Twist** is born in a workhouse, and his mother dies immediately after his birth. Oliver's mother has been found lying in the streets the night before. The surgeon notices that she is not wearing a wedding ring.

The narrator sarcastically comments on the generosity and kindness of the workhouse authorities, who offer the poor the opportunity to starve slowly instead of starving quickly on the streets. Oliver and the boys with him suffer the “tortures of slow starvation.” One night, a child tells the others that if he does not have another bowl of gruel, he might eat one of them. Terrified, the children cast lots to choose someone to ask for more food for the boy. Oliver is selected to ask for more. Mr. Bumble is shocked and runs to transfer the horrific news to the board. They decide to offer five pounds to anyone who will take Oliver.



# Theme:

- Main themes Charity and love are themes because even though Oliver is treated horribly by most people, he is shown love by a few good people. Those people being Mr. Brownlow, Mrs. Maylie, and even Nancy. Greed and corruption are also themes because of how people take advantage of Oliver. He is taken advantage by Mr. Bumble at the workhouse, and the thieves. Mr. Fagin tries to control Oliver, to use him for his own wealth. Monks tries to steal his identity, and his inheritance.

## Social Issues in Oliver Twist

- Poverty, society and class, criminality, identity crisis, institutional cruelty, powerlessness of women and children, mob mentality, the limits of justice, child labor, city vs. country side.

- That all are main social issue of the novel, Dickens very well focus that issues.



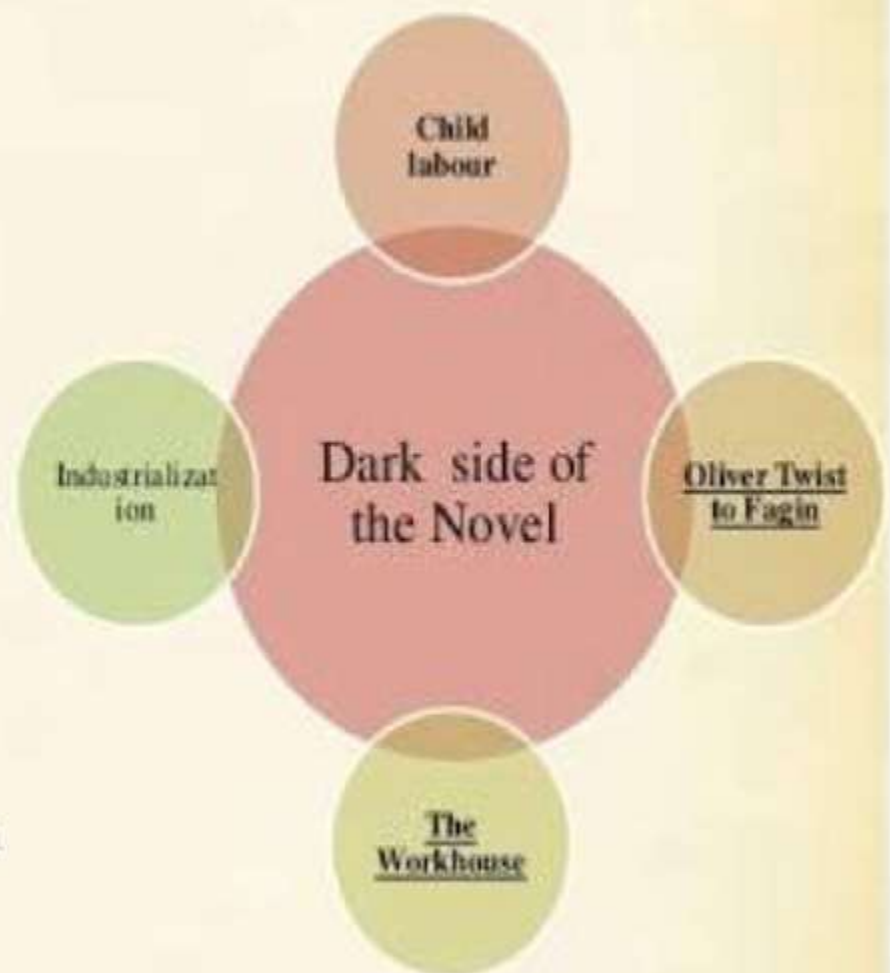
➤ **Oliver Twist is social novel.**

➤ **Dickens portrayal criminal world.**

➤ **Dickens's novels about children and poor.**

➤ **The book exposed the cruel treatment of the many orphans in London during the dickens era.**

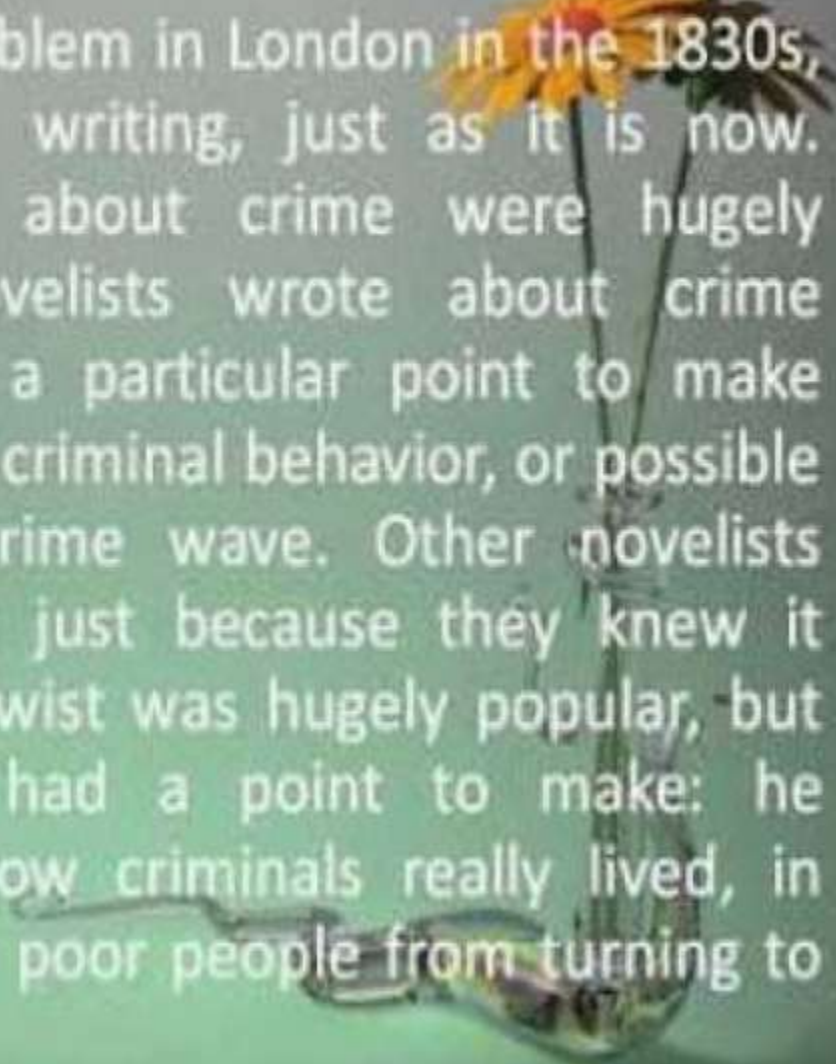
➤ **Novel reflects many social issues.**





## Theme of Criminality

Crime was a huge problem in London in the 1830s, when Dickens was writing, just as it is now. Novels and plays about crime were hugely popular. Some novelists wrote about crime because they had a particular point to make about the source of criminal behavior, or possible solutions to the crime wave. Other novelists wrote about crime just because they knew it would sell. *Oliver Twist* was hugely popular, but Dickens definitely had a point to make: he wanted to show how criminals really lived, in order to discourage poor people from turning to crime.

A daisy flower with a yellow center and white petals is in a clear glass vase. A pair of dark sunglasses is resting on the rim of the vase. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

- Homeless children: There were children living with their families in these desperate situations but there were also numerous, homeless children living on the streets of London.



# Themes

- Docks
- Aristocracy- wealth, rich, land and power
- Child labor- Oliver Twist
- Family life
- Lost love and unattainable women
- Dickens' main characters greatly resemble himself and his life



## Powerlessness of women:

- ❖ Like a children women, too are presented as the mercy of more powerful in society.
- ❖ This is especially exemplified in Nancy, who ends up giving her life in her attempt to act against the men who hold power over her. When Nancy is put in charge of taking Oliver to Sikes, she tells him that she would help him if she could, but she doesn't have the power.



## DESCRIPTION OF MAIN CHARACTERS

•**Oliver Twist** → The novel's protagonist. Oliver is an orphan born in a workhouse, and Dickens uses his situation to criticize public policy toward the poor in 1830s England. Oliver is between nine and twelve years old when the main action of the novel occurs. Though treated with cruelty and surrounded by coarseness for most of his life, he is a pious, innocent child, and his charms draw the attention of several wealthy benefactors. His true identity is the central mystery of the novel.

•**Fagin** → A conniving career criminal. Fagin takes in homeless children and trains them to pick pockets for him. He is also a buyer of other people's stolen goods. He rarely commits crimes himself, preferring to employ others to commit them—and often suffer legal retribution—in his place. Dickens's portrait of Fagin displays the influence of anti-Semitic stereotypes.

## Dark Character

- Fagin: A Figure Of Darkness

A Figure of Darkness lurks in the streets by night and spends the day in the door. It Remarkable that we see him in daylight.



"The Only Light Which was admitted, stealing its way through the round holes at The top which made the room gloomier ,and filled them with strange shadow."



# SETTING

The general set in Victorian Novel is the city:

- The factories

*Coke Town* represents a city in the time of Industrial Revolution: it is surrounded only by factories, smoke and work.

- The schools

In *Nicholas Nickleby* the set is the school.

- Workhouses

The set of *Oliver Twist* is the workhouse.



## Society and Class poverty

❖ Society and class is one of the central issue of most of Dickens's novels. In Oliver Twist Dickens's often show superficial class structure, and theme of poverty is obviously related to theme of society and class, it is showing social class system.

❖ Dickens throw light of this issue in his novel.

Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.

- Nelson Mandela







**THANK YOU!...**