

# Oliver!

## Character Descriptions

**Time & place:** London, 1830s

**Synopsis:** Oliver, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. Oliver escapes to London and finds acceptance amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin. When Oliver is captured for a theft that he did not commit, the benevolent victim, Mr. Brownlow takes him in. Fagin employs the sinister Bill Sikes and the sympathetic Nancy to kidnap him back, threatening Oliver's chances of discovering the true love of a family.

### Principal Roles:

**Oliver Twist** - A sweet, bright, and innocent workhouse boy. He is thought to be an orphan. He has a British (not Cockney) accent.

**Fagin** - A middle-aged leader of a children's band of thieves. Fagin is a devious but personable con man. Cockney accent.

**The Artful Dodger** - A charming, intelligent, and energetic street kid who shows kindness to Oliver. Fagin's brightest pupil. Cockney accent.

**Bill Sikes** - A ruthless criminal associated with Fagin; he is violent and abusive with an explosive temper. Cockney accent.

**Nancy** - A pretty and intelligent young woman who has fallen in with the wrong crowd. She has a heart of gold and immediately takes Oliver under her wing. When she was younger she worked for Fagin, now a barmaid, she is Bill's girlfriend but longs for a better life. Cockney accent.

**Bet** - A girl in Fagin's group, she looks up to Nancy and shares her spirited nature. Bet has a kind heart but has fallen upon hard times. Cockney accent.

**Mr. or Mrs. Bumble** (male or female) - The middle-aged master/mistress of the Workhouse, arrogant, cruel, and corrupt. Cockney accent.

**Mrs. Corney** - Sharp-tongued, cold-hearted, and domineering, she helps supervise the Workhouse. Cockney accent.

**Supporting Roles:**

**Mr. Sowerberry** - A middle-aged undertaker. He “buys” Oliver from Bumble’s workhouse to work in the funeral home as a coffin follower. Cockney accent.

**Mrs. Sowerberry** - Mr. Sowerberry's wife. She has better business sense than her husband. Cockney accent.

**Charlotte** - The Sowerberry's flirtatious 18 yr. old daughter. Cockney accent.

**Noah Claypole** - An undertaker’s apprentice. He is jealous of Oliver, so he dislikes and bullies him. Cockney accent.

**Mr. Brownlow** - An older gentleman of wealth and breeding, later discovered to be Oliver’s grandfather. British (not cockney) accent.

**Dr. Grimwig** - a middle-aged doctor and upper class friend of Mr. Brownlow. British (not cockney) accent.

**Mrs. Bedwin** - The Brownlow's Housekeeper. Warm personality. British (not cockney) accent.

**Old Sally** - An older woman, a pauper, an inmate of the workhouse. Cockney accent.

**Charley Bates** - a teenage boy that works for Fagin. Cockney accent.

**Ensemble:** Workhouse Kids, Workhouse Assistants, Fagin’s Kids, Street Vendors, Street Crowds, Police, Lamplighters