



# 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	<b>cunningly</b>	adv. in a way that is clever and tricky.   <i>"The Artful Dodger cunningly slipped through the marketplace crowd, leaving no trace of his nimble-fingered work behind."</i>
1	<b>contemptible</b>	adj. deserving of scorn or dislike.   <i>"The magistrate regarded the trembling orphan as contemptible, unworthy of the court's patience or its charity."</i>
1	<b>cowering</b>	v. to crouch down in fear or shame.   <i>"Oliver stood cowering in the corner as Fagin's sharp eyes swept the room, counting every stolen handkerchief."</i>
1	<b>degrading</b>	adj. causing a loss of self-respect or dignity.   <i>"Oliver endured every degrading task assigned to him, yet his gentle spirit refused to be entirely broken."</i>
1	<b>destitute</b>	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	<b>dispossessed</b>	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	<b>hypocritical</b>	adj. behaving in a way that contradicts one's beliefs.   <i>"The parish authorities were hypocritical in their charity, advertising generosity while delivering only cruelty and gruel."</i>
1	<b>manipulate</b>	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	<b>mercilessly</b>	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	<b>relentlessly</b>	adv. in a way that does not stop or give up.   <i>"The authorities pursued the pickpocket gang relentlessly through the fog-choked alleys of the Seven Dials."</i>
1	<b>squalid</b>	adj. very dirty and unpleasant; neglected.   <i>"The squalid lodging house where Fagin kept his charges reeked of damp straw and long-extinguished tallow candles."</i>
1	<b>trembling</b>	adj. shaking or quivering from fear or excitement.   <i>"Oliver stood trembling before the board of governors, his empty bowl extended in that unforgettable act of asking."</i>
1	<b>tyrannical</b>	adj. behaving in a cruel and absolute way.   <i>"The tyrannical beadle strutted through the workhouse halls, delighting in every misery his authority could inflict."</i>
1	<b>unscrupulous</b>	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	<b>vindictive</b>	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>