

Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens

What does the adults' reaction to one ordinary request reveal about the workhouse system?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Oliver asks for more
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II
START	Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months:
END	I know that boy will be hung.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ot-01

THE MOVE

Read exaggerated reaction as institutional characterization

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Oliver asks for a slightly larger serving of food, yet the adults respond as though he has committed an act of rebellion. The exaggerated reaction reveals the institution's values more clearly than a narrator's direct explanation of the workhouse could.

MARK

Underline Oliver's exact request. Then circle every adult reaction that is wildly out of proportion to it. Label each reaction FEAR, PUNISHMENT, SHOCK, or CONTROL.

NOTICE

- What makes Oliver's request ordinary from a child's point of view?
- Why do the adults treat the request as a threat to order?
- What does the disproportion between request and punishment reveal about the system rather than about Oliver?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does the adults' reaction to one ordinary request reveal about the workhouse system? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does the adults' reaction to one ordinary request reveal about the workhouse system? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The adults' extreme reaction reveals a system that treats ordinary need as disobedience. Oliver's request threatens the institution because the workhouse depends on hunger, submission, and the idea that recipients must not claim more than they are given.
EVIDENCE	Contrast the smallness of Oliver's request with the adults' shock, punishment, predictions, and institutional response.
WATCH FOR	Do not make the answer about Oliver being unusually brave only. The exaggerated reaction is evidence about the system itself.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What does the adults' reaction to one ordinary request reveal about the workhouse system?

START ANCHOR	Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months:
END ANCHOR	I know that boy will be hung.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Oliver's exact request. Then circle every adult reaction that is wildly out of proportion to it. Label each reaction FEAR, PUNISHMENT, SHOCK, or CONTROL.
2. NOTICE - What makes Oliver's request ordinary from a child's point of view? Why do the adults treat the request as a threat to order? What does the disproportion between request and punishment reveal about the system rather than about Oliver?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does the adults' reaction to one ordinary request reveal about the workhouse system?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.