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Worksheet 11

The book: *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

Penguin Readers, 2000

Topic:

ŠVP: mezipředmětové vztahy český jazyk
oblíbený spisovatel, dílo

Level: A1-B2

Number of lessons: 2-5

Skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking

Forms and methods:

individually, pair work, group work, S-S, T- Ss, S- Ss interactions

Warming up activity

Discuss

1. What do you know about Charles Dickens?
2. What is typical for Critical Realism?

Before you see

1. Basic facts about Charles Dickens:

Complete the sentences (the dates with information):

1812, 1822, 1823, 1827, 1843, 1870

Charles Dickens was born on 7 February..... in Portsmouth. In Dickens' family moved to London. There were the Dickens parents, five children and a servant. Charles' father had problems with debts and was imprisoned. Charles had to interrupt his schooling. He worked in Warren's shoe- blacking warehouse and until his death he was scarred of orphanage and debts, sound of rats and rotten old buildings in London slums.

Inat the age of 15 he started to work in a solicitor's office. After that he worked as a reporter and later a professional writer.

In he wrote *A Christmas Carol*. He wrote it very quickly, because he wanted it in the shops before Christmas. it was expensive, at twenty- five pence, but 6,000 people bought the book.

On 9 June Dickens died and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

(used *The World of Dickens, Pitkin Guides, U.K.*)



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Dickens wrote his novels in the middle of the nineteenth century, so why is he still so popular in this day and age all around the world? Here are some possible answers:

Dickens was the first writer to describe the modern industrialized world, especially its cities, like London.

Dickens was the first writer to make children the central characters of novels aimed at adults.

Dickens prose style is very rich and varied.

He is a master of dialogue and action - which is why his books make wonderful

1. Main characters: True or False?

Oliver Twist was an orphan.

Fagin was finally executed.

Arful Dodger was an adult.

Nancy loved Bill.

2. The background:

In 19th century Britain there were many poor people. That may be true of many societies even today but the type of poverty in Britain then was new. Poor farmers were leaving the land through pressure from the new industrial agriculture that did not need humans. Even more importantly than that the new industrial cities lured country people to them as there was a huge need for factory workers.

- Do you understand the words?

poverty

farmers

agriculture

human

a need

pressure

- What do you know about the technical revolution?

3. What were workhouses?

These places gave free food and shelter to poor people but they were also a type of punishment for being poor. They were run rather like prisons. Each workhouse was run by a Beadle – this officer could easily steal money set aside to feed and clothe the poorand the Beadle often did just that! Poor people feared the workhouse and would do almost anything to escape its clutches. The workhouses continue right up until the First World War. Dickens hated workhouses. Oliver is a typical victim of the workhouse. As an illegitimate orphan there was nowhere else for him to go except the street and a life of crime.

Answer the questions:



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What was the principle of a workhouse?
Do such realities still exist these days?
What is the relationship between poverty and crime?

After the performance:

Answer the following questions:

- Who is the main female character?
- Who ran the workhouse?
- A character in the play that often drinks?
- Which city is the play situated?
- What are the most tragic moments of Oliver's life?