Oliver Twist (1837-39)

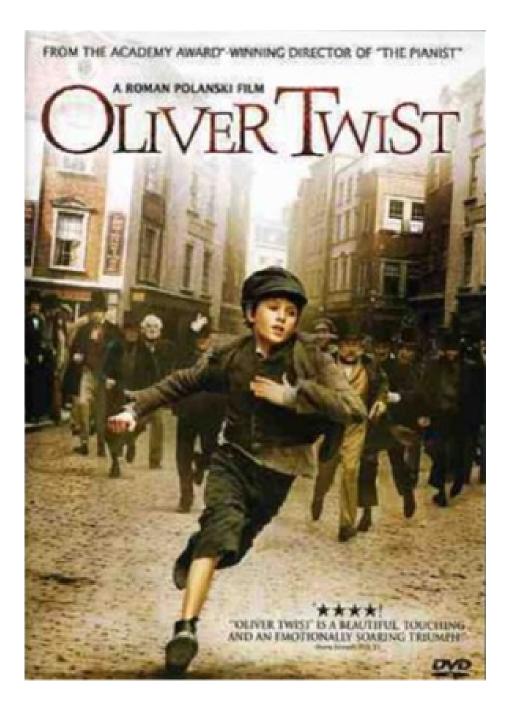
by Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

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<u>plot summary</u>

CHARLES DICKENS DIMPLETE AND

Oliver Twist first appeared in instalments in 1837 and and was later published as a book.

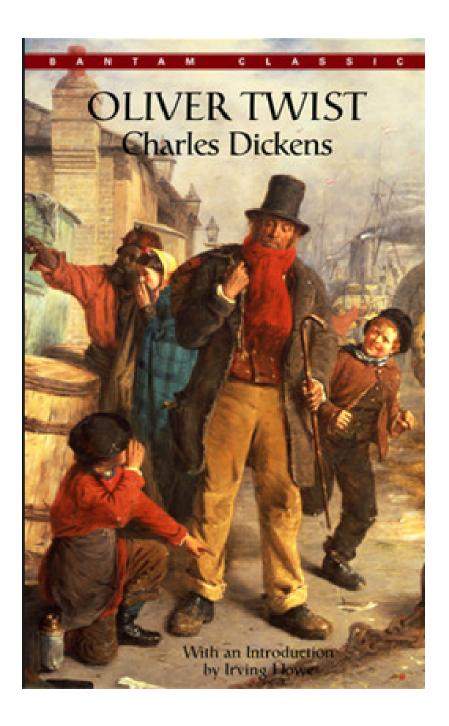


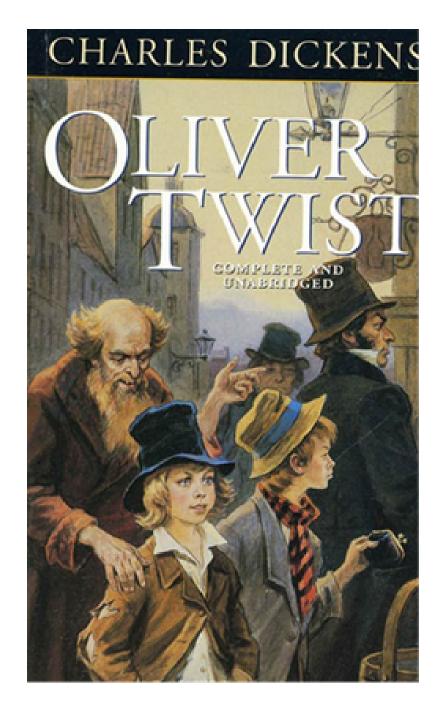
The novel reflects the economic insecurity and humiliation Dickens experienced as a child.

Oliver Twist is a poor boy of unknown parents; he is brought up in a workhouse in an inhuman way. He is later sold to an undertaker as an apprentice, but the cruelty and the unhappiness he experiences with his new master cause him to run away to London.



In London Oliver falls into the hands of a gang of young pickpockets, led by Artful Dodger and trained by the elderly Fagin, who try to make a thief out of him, but the boy is helped by an old gentleman.





Oliver is eventually kidnapped by the gang and forced to commit burglary; during the job, he is shot and wounded. It is a middle-class family that adopts Oliver and shows kindness and affection towards him.

Investigations are made about who the boy is and it is discovered that he has noble origins.

The gang of pickpockets and Oliver's half-brother, who paid the thieves in order to ruin Oliver and have their father's property all for himself, are arrested in the end.