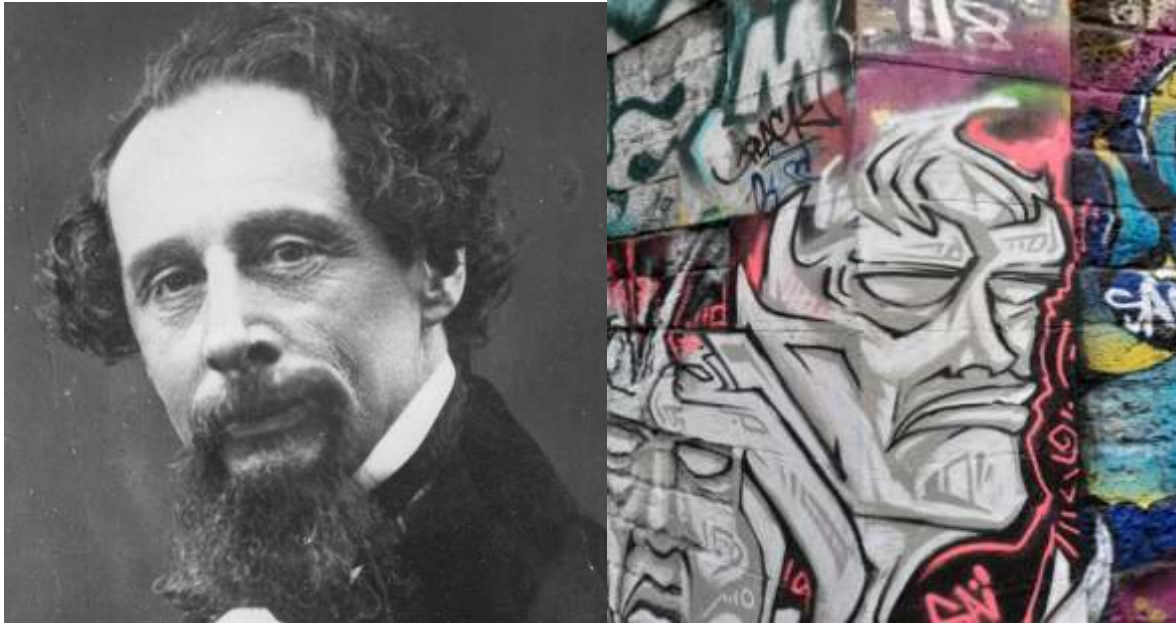


# ***WHAT THE DICKENS!***

A Play by Dario Costa



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## INTRODUCTION-ENGLISH

*"Dickens's fictional narrative impulse would have been towards any possible plot. Dickens may have been driven towards what was tellable but not believable."*

An **imitator of Charles Dickens** meets a young, aspiring street artist, **Pippa Pumblechook**, who works in a sweat shop run by a flawed villain, **Bill Sikes**!

Charles meets Pippa one night while she is working at her art. He introduces her to his **Readings** where he plays characters from Dickens's works. She was an orphan and ran away to London where she met Bill Sikes, by chance. His business is called: "Sikes: Rags, Bottles, and Shoe-Polish Warehouse." Pippa works long hours for Sikes and spends her spare time drawing, sketching. Charles and Pippa strike up a wary friendship and Charles encourages Pippa to help him in his **Readings** where he plays Fagin and she reads Oliver Twist from **Oliver Twist**, he plays Magwitch and she reads Pip from **Great Expectations**. We see that Pippa's life runs parallel to the characters she reads: Pippa working at the Shoe-Polish factory is an echo of Charles Dickens's own childhood. Pippa pursues her dream of applying to attend the Royal College of Art. She has Great Expectations. At the same time, Bill Sikes not only runs his sweatshop (atelier clandestin) but dreams of singing with his favourite group, Queen!

As we progress through the play, the themes treated include:

- **child labour, sweat-shop practices**: today young people are exploited in work-places across the world;
- **tolerance of others**: Fagin's treatment in Victorian England because he was a Jew but also a metaphor about modern times where we must address issues of tolerance and acceptance of others no matter the religion, gender, beliefs;
- **the generation gap**: where the young have great ambitions and want to change the world compared to the older generation that can sometimes hold onto the past or are unable to understand and adapt to changes;

We follow the destinies of these three characters, **Pippa Pumblechook**, the young ambitious street artist who represents the future; **Charles Dickens** a thespian down on his luck- the theatres are shut because of a despicable virus, he represents the past; and **Bill Sikes**, the flawed businessman who harbours a dream of singing with his favourite rock group, Queen!

What exciting, colourful and engaging adventures we have in this very upbeat, buoyant and rhythmical play.



## INTRODUCTION- FRANÇAIS

« *La pulsion narrative de Dickens aurait pu se diriger vers n'importe quelle intrigue. Dickens était attiré par ce qui pouvait être raconté, jamais par le vraisemblable.* »

Un homme, **grand imitateur de Charles Dickens**, rencontre **Pippa Pumblechook**, une jeune artiste de rue qui travaille dans les ateliers clandestins de **Bill Sikes**, grand méchant de notre histoire! Charles rencontre Pippa une nuit froide, alors que celle-ci s'apprête à pratiquer son art, le tag. Au cours de cette nuit, il lui présente ses **Lectures** dans lesquelles il joue les personnages Dickensiens. Elle, orpheline de son état, avait fuit à Londres où elle avait rencontré Sikes et son affaire: « Entrepôt Sikes : Chiffons, Bouteilles et Cires ». Pippa travaille de longues heures pour l'entreprise, et pour elle-même, elle dessine quand elle le peut. Charles et Pippa initient cette nuit-là une étrange amitié. Charles demande à Pippa de l'aider avec ses **Lectures**: pendant qu'il joue Fagin, elle lit Oliver Twist; pendant qu'il se grime en Magwitch, elle devient Pip. Comme Dickens dans son enfance, Pippa travaille dans les ateliers de cirage de chaussure. Mais elle a de grandes espérances, Pippa rêve d'entrer dans la Grande Ecole D'Art de Londres. Pendant ce temps, Bill Sikes lui aussi poursuit un rêve, celui de chanter avec son groupe préféré, Queen !

A travers la pièce, les thèmes suivant sont parcourus:

- **le labeur des mineurs**, la condition de travail dans les ateliers;
- **la tolérance** (Fagin lui-même était maltraité dans l'Angleterre Victorienne pour ses origines juives, une métaphore de notre temps où les clivages n'ont pas disparus, et où le genre, la religion, la croyance divisent, et où l'intolérance règne encore);
- **le fossé générationnel** les jeunes ont des grandes espérances pendant que les vieux parfois s'accrochent au passé;

Nous suivons ainsi le destin de ces trois personnages : **Pippa Pumblechook**, jeune artiste représentant l'avenir ; **Charles Dickens**, comédien fauché, grand perdant d'une pandémie, il est le passé, il est vieux ; et **Bill Sikes**, homme d'affaire peu doué, rêvant de chanter avec son groupe préféré, Queen !

Quelles aventures passionnantes ! Quelles merveilles et quelle vie nous trouverons dans cette pièce bouillonnante et vivace, agitée par l'esprit de Charles Dickens et rythmée par ce monde nerveux !



# WHAT THE DICKENS!

## PRODUCTION

Written by Dario Costa

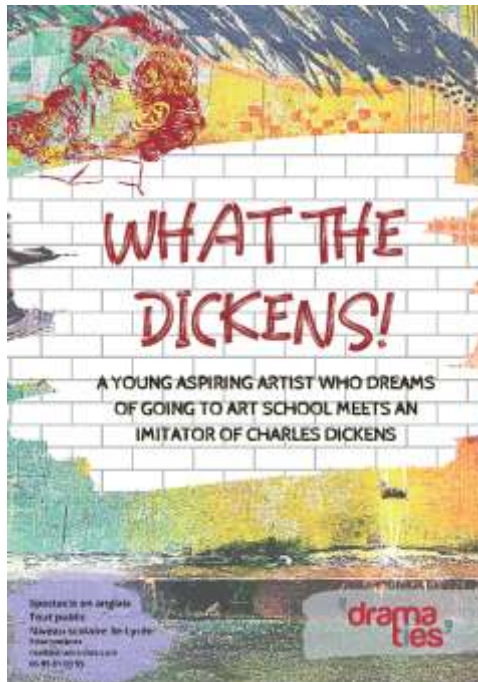
Performed by Jane Rony, Robert Brazil and Dario Costa

Choreography sequences by Charlotte Donnelly

Poster Design by Alexandra Tomko

Sketch of Charles Dickens in the Show by Tehau Paea

Teachers' Guide by Dario Costa



Charles Dickens, one of the world's most famous and talented authors, who created such memorable characters as Oliver Twist & Fagin from Oliver Twist, Pip & Magwitch from Great Expectations. His encounter with the young street artist, Pippa Pumblechook, a name taken from Dickens' works, forms the basis of our story. This Teachers' Guide is designed to lead you and your students to better understand and enjoy the theatrical experience of *What the Dickens!* There follows a wide range of information, exercises and activities for both college and lycée classes. Feel free to choose which exercises you wish to do with your class! Enjoy the Teachers' Guide, but most of all, enjoy the show!

**N.B. Answer Key will be sent to teachers separately upon request.**



## CHARACTERS

**Pippa Pumblechook** – a young Street Artist aspiring to go to the Royal College of Art and works in a sweatshop run by Bill Sikes

**An Imitator of Charles Dickens** – a thespian who pretends he is Charles Dickens, wanders the streets, and wants to pass on the tradition of Charles Dickens' famous 'Readings'

**Bill Sikes** – a businessman who owns 'Sikes: Rags, Bottles and Shoe-Polish Warehouse' a sweatshop; dreams of quitting this type of work and sing with his favourite group, Queen!

## SUMMARY

### SCENE 1 'IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES'

In **London**, we meet an imitator of **Charles Dickens** who tells us about his early life and upbringing. He was forced to work in a shoe-polish factory by his parents at the age of 12, what we could call a sweatshop today. Charles is interrupted by **Pippa Pumblechook** who gets away for the evening to search for walls to spray and drawings to make as she is an aspiring **Street Artist**. Pippa thinks he is a policeman but he explains he is a **thespian** and not at all a **peelerman**. Pippa explains how she is an **orphan** and ran away to London. What Pippa describes is very similar to *Oliver Twist*'s story and Charles starts to play **Fagin**. Charles would like to pass on his enthusiasm for 'Readings' to Pippa so gets her to read the part of **Oliver Twist**. She wants to work at her art but gives in and they strike up a wary friendship and Charles asks she come back with food for him the next night.

### SCENE 2 'MORNING MIST'

Pippa returns to **Bill Sikes'** sweatshop. Bill makes her work hard and Pippa performs her tasks in a very repetitive, robotic way. Bill says 'what is life but work?' and considers that Pippa is not grateful enough to him for lodging her, feeding her and giving her work. He often listens to and sings lyrics from his favourite group, **Queen**. Sikes leaves to go to the bank with his earnings and Pippa enjoys a moment with the audience about Street Art. Sikes returns to announce Queen have sacked their lead singer. He thinks he may have a chance at auditioning to become the new singer...

### SCENE 3 'WHY ARE THE YOUNG NEVER GRATEFUL'

Pippa meets up again with Charles who sets up a **Reading** from *Oliver Twist* where he plays the part of Fagin, the old Jew, who runs a pickpocketing ring and Pippa reads *Oliver Twist* and the **Judge**. Fagin lectures *Oliver Twist* on why he was trying to run away from him. The Old always lecture the Young on why they are ungrateful. The Judge condemns Fagin to death; Fagin replies with quotes from **Shakespeare's Shylock** from **The Merchant of Venice**: 'I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew hands, senses, affections, passions...' Charles explains that he was in favour of capital punishment when it was deserved so he was very much a C19th century figure and to us can seem very out of date. But he also helped reform **child labour laws** and always strived to give the **dispossessed** a voice. Pippa then describes what Street art is about and why it's so important. Her dream is to go to the Royal College of Art...

#### SCENE 4 'BLEAK HOUSE'

Pippa returns to the sweatshop, exhausted after her nocturnal rambling. Sikes picks up a sketch Pippa that she made of Charles which she accidentally drops. Sikes collects the mail and sees a letter has arrived for her from the Royal College of Art. Sikes confides to the audience that he has an audition to sing for Queen. At that moment his phone rings and the group would like him to come in that evening to try out. Sikes pretends to fall asleep. Pippa sneaks out. Sikes acknowledges that she has talent.

#### SCENE 5 'THE MYSTERIOUS BENEFactor'

Charles sets up a **Reading** of *Great Expectations* where he plays *Magwitch*, a convict sent to Botany Bay, Australia. Pippa reads *Pip* who receives much wealth from a *mysterious benefactor*. Pip thinks it is *Miss Havisham*, a rich old lady who invited Pip to keep her company. *Magwitch* and Pip meet and *Magwitch* had become a successful *sheep-farmer* in Australia but had to live through dreadful *bushfires*. *Magwitch* hears a police siren and is afraid of being caught and hanged because he was not allowed to return to England. Charles Dickens was a believer in *Republicanism* and was happy that a place like *Van-Diemen's Land (Tasmania)* existed where you could escape the English class system. Sikes arrives and he and Charles meet for the first time. Sikes distrusts Charles and says he is a poseur, a charlatan, a hypocrite. Sikes tells him he loves the group Queen and saw them first in concert in *Birmingham*. Charles says that Dickens did his first **Reading** in Birmingham and the two start warming to each other. Pippa interrupts this budding friendship and Sikes hands her the letter which informs her that she has been offered a place at the Royal College of Art. It is due to Pippa's talent that she is accepted into the RCA. Sikes knows he has lost a good worker and seeks a new employee and Pippa now has *Great Expectations*!





## CHARLES DICKENS TIMELINE

- 1812:** Born in Portsmouth (February 7th) to John and Elizabeth Dickens.
- 1822:** John Dickens transferred to London. Family lives in Camden Town.
- 1824:** John Dickens imprisoned for debt in the Marshalsea Prison (February 20th - May 28th). The young Charles Dickens, at 12 years old, is sent to work at Warren's Blacking Factory.
- 1828-29:** Learns shorthand and works as a freelance reporter at Doctors' Commons.
- 1833:** Publishes first story, "A Dinner at Poplar Walk," in *The Monthly Magazine*.
- 1837-39:** His second novel, *Oliver Twist*, originally published in serial parts 1837- 39, and as a three volume edition in 1838 which greatly influenced the adoption of the Factory Act at parliament and helped eased working conditions for children.
- 1842:** Visit to America. *American Notes* published (October 19th).
- 1844:** Lives one year in Italy with his family.
- 1849:** *David Copperfield* serialized (May 1849 - November 1850).
- 1853:** Gives first public 'Reading' for charity at Birmingham Town Hall on December 27th.
- 1858:** Gives his first public 'Readings' for profit (April 29th- July 22nd); first provincial 'Reading tour' (August 2nd- November 13th).
- 1860:** *Great Expectations* serialized in *All the Year Round* (December 1860- August 1861).
- 1867:** American reading tour (November 1867 - April 1868) where his health started to decline due to his exhausting schedule.
- 1870:** Twelve farewell 'Readings' in London (January). Received by Queen Victoria (March 9th); begins serializing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Dies on June 9th at Gad's Hill, Kent, of a cerebral haemorrhage. Buried in Westminster Abbey.



## **SHORT SUMMARY OF *OLIVER TWIST* AND *GREAT EXPECTATIONS* FROM WHICH THE CHARACTERS AND SCENES ARE TAKEN**

**OLIVER TWIST** is one the most famous and influential works of Dickens: it was the first novel in English to have a boy as the protagonist. With irreverent black humour, the novel examines nineteenth-century English society's ills: poverty, child labor, urban crime, and the inherent hypocrisy of Victorian culture.

**Oliver** is an orphan who lives until the age of nine in a workhouse, where he goes hungry and suffers abuse at the hands of his elders. There is a classic scene where Oliver asks for more food and is viciously denied. One day Oliver escapes and goes to London, where he gets involved with a gang of robbers and pickpockets headed by **Fagin**, a wicked character who trains young boys to become thieves. Fagin's gang is broken up by the police because a terrible murder has been committed and Fagin is arrested and condemned to death for the crime for which he is not responsible. Oliver shows compassion towards Fagin and goes to see him in jail on the eve of his execution.

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS** is the story of the orphan **Philip Pirrip** called "**Pip**", describing his first days of his life from childhood to adulthood. Pip encounters an escaped convict named **Magwitch** who obliges Pip to bring him food. Later, Pip comes under the protection of a local aristocrat, Miss Havisham, and keeps her company. Further on in the story Pip receives a huge fortune, which he believes comes from Miss Havisham. The benefactor wishes to remain anonymous, however.

This new found fortune creates high hopes, or great expectations, for Pip. Pip subsequently learns that his fortune comes from Magwitch, who had been deported to Australia where he had made a fortune as sheep farmer and endured scorching bush-fires. He sent money to Pip because he wanted to reward him for having given him food while Magwitch was an escaped convict. Magwitch comes to London to see

Pip, risking his life, because he came back from Australia and would certainly be executed if discovered. This is because he was transported for life never to return to England. Pip is shocked to learn that Magwitch is his mysterious benefactor.



*(Early draft of a 'What the Dickens!' Poster!)*

## SCENE EXTRACT #1

- **Pippa:** My name is Pippa... don't laugh....Pumblechook...Pippa Pumblechook, yep, that's my name. I don't know my real name. I'm an orphan...I was an orphan. I was given the name at the orphanage. I hated the place so I ran away. My love in life is Street Art... one artist I love, and he's a mystery still, is Banksy! I love Banksy! Do you know Banksy?... I have a dream that one day...ooh, what's this? ooh, looks nice. *(She picks up a handkerchief)*
- **CD as Magwitch:** "Stop thief! Come on, get up!"
- **Pippa:** It wasn't me indeed sir!
- **CD as Magwitch:** "Tell us your name quick!"
- **Pippa:** Pippa!
- **CD as Magwitch:** "Once more! Give it mouth!"
- **Pippa:** Pippa. Pippa sir! You're a policeman?
- **CD as Magwitch:** "No, you young dog!" Do I look like a peelman?
- **Pippa:** Peelman?
- **CD:** A policeman was called a peelman, named after Sir Robert Peel who set the police force up in 1829. That was Magwitch from 'Great Expectations.'
- **Pippa:** I see....
- **CD:** Mr. Charles Dickens.
- **Pippa:** Who? That can't be. Dickens is dead.
- **CD:**...I am the ghost of the past, the present and ...the future.....That's mine. *(refers to handkerchief)*
- **Pippa:** Right.
- **CD:** Don't be afraid. I really am quite harmless. I am a thespian, down on my luck! I have played at the Old Vic, the National, the Globe...
- **Pippa:** You performed at the Globe? Are you that old? Ha! Did you meet Shakespeare?
- **CD:** No, the new Globe, at Southwark.
- **Pippa:** I'm only teasing.
- **CD:** And you are?
- **Pippa:** Pippa!





## WORKSHEET #1

1. Which one of the three following pieces of artwork is attributed to Banksy? Do you know who created the other two?



2. Listen carefully to the extract and answer the following questions: Why does Pippa not know her real name? What is a 'peelerman'? Who first set up the police force in London? In which year was the police force set up?
3. Listen to the extract and answer the following questions: What does the imitator of Charles Dickens say he is? In which theatres has he performed?

### Discussion Questions

Can you find a Street art app? Do you know of any Street art places in your neighbourhood? What do they represent? Which are the most important cities known for Street art? What is your opinion on Street art? Is graffiti Street art? Who should decide on what artwork goes where: the artists themselves, the ministry of culture, the mayor and her/his councillors, local community groups?

## SCENE EXTRACT #2

- **Sikes:** Hey! What's up?
- **Pippa:** Tired.
- **Sikes:** Tired, eh?.... Hah! Back to work! 'What is life but work?' Hah!
- **Pippa:** "Covering tins with labels; first a piece of oil-paper, and then a piece of blue paper; then to clip the paper close and neat, paste on each a printed label; and then go on with more tins. 10 hours a day, 6 days a week!"
- **Sikes:** Well, of all the artful and designing ex-orphans that ever I see, Pippa, you are one of the most bare-facedest! of all the ungratefulest as ever I see! Just remember what I've done for you! When I found you!
- **Pippa:** I remember!
- **Sikes:** Flashback!
- **Sikes:** 'Hullo! My covey, what's the row?'
- **Pippa:** I am very hungry and tired. I have walked a long way. I have been walking for seven days.
- **Sikes:** Seven days? London?
- **Pippa:** Yes.
- **Sikes:** Got any lodgings?
- **Pippa:** No.
- **Sikes:** Money?
- **Pippa:** No.
- **Sikes:** I suppose you want a place to sleep tonight, don't you?
- **Pippa:** I do indeed. I have not slept under a roof since I left the orphanage.
- **Sikes:** I know a spectacle old genelman as lives there wot'll give you lodgings for nothink and never ask for the change....Me! Bill Sikes! Back to work!
- **Pippa:** And so, day in, day out, my life was the same.
- '2, 4, 6, 8! 8 out of 10 will be dead!'
- '2, 4, 6, 8! 8 out of 10 will be dead!'
- Please!
- **Sikes:** What?
- **Pippa:** Breakfast!
- **Sikes:** Here!
- **Pippa:** Please, sir! Can I have some more?
- **Sikes:** More! More! Why the country would go to the dogs if every young person asked for more and they got it!





## WORKSHEET #2

### Comprehension Questions

Listen carefully to the extract and answer the following questions:

1. What work does Pippa have to do?
2. How many hours and how many days does she have to work?
3. What does 'bare-facedest' mean? Choose the correct word from the following list:  
a.honest, b.brash, c.anxious, d.curious
4. When they do the flashback, how many days does Pippa say she walked before she arrived in London?
5. Sometimes Dickens wrote how his characters speak in real life and to us it is ungrammatical, what do you think Sikes means when he says a. 'spectable' b. 'wot'll' c. 'nothink'?
6. Who does Sikes say he knows who can help her?
7. From which Charles Dickens novel does the chant "2, 4, 6, 8, 8 out of 10 will be dead!" come from? *Oliver Twist* or *Great Expectations*?
8. When Pippa says "Please, sir! Can I have some more?" which character from the two novels said this? *Pip* or *Oliver Twist*?
9. **Pronunciation:** repeat the following words from the list, paying attention to the vowel sounds: enquiringly (*ɪn'kwæɪərɪŋli*), artful (*'ɑ:(r)tʃ(ə)l*), designing (*/dɪ'zaɪnɪŋ/*), lodgings (*/'lɒdʒɪŋz*), genelman (*/dʒenlmen*).

**Match the Word** in the column on the left with the 'meaning' in the column on the right:

Enquiringly	respectable person
Artful	shelter
Designing	cunning
Lodgings	questioningly
Genelman	opportunistic

Now **Write 5 sentences** using these words, using your imagination! e.g. The baker looked at his customer enquiringly, wondering which pastry he was going to buy. (If you like, try writing just ONE sentence using all 5 words!)

### Discussion Questions

1. Sikes employs Pippa to work in his sweatshop. Do you know of somewhere in the world where young people, or any particular type of group, are exploited in the work-place, what type of work, where and what conditions are imposed?
2. The Chant: when workers perform a repetitive task they can often invent a chant to keep up morale, or help pass the time. Can you find any examples from any historical situations? Which period? Where and what were the circumstances?
3. **Extension Activity:** In Groups of 5, and from your own research, invent your own chant! One example, in street demonstrations for the environment the participants could chant: "What do we want? Climate Justice! When do we want it? Now!" and repeat as they walk, sometimes faster, sometimes slower. Share with the class!



### ● SCENE EXTRACT #3

- **Pippa as Oliver:** It was nearly eleven o'clock when we reached the turnpike at Islington. We crossed from the Angel into St John's Wood, struck down the small street which terminates at Sadler's wells theatre, and pushed open the door....
- **CD as Fagin:** "Well, why were you trying to run away from your dear old master? I've given you sausages and shelter. What makes you young people think you can do whatever you like? I am taking the time now **Oliver** to lecture you on the crying sin of ingratitude of which you are clearly guilty to no ordinary extent and bla....ming.....
- **Pippa:** Bla bla bla bla....Adults! Elders! Wise people! Authority figures! Boy, can they go on and on and on and on....What can I say?
- **CD as Fagin:** You can say nothing! You Ragamuffin! Hoodlum! Hooligan! Seek-sorrow! Pheasant Plucker! Poopbutt! My hideout is surprised by the police- all the boys scatter to the four winds and I was taken prisoner! I was taken to Newgate jail and thence to the Old Bailey for my trial!
- **Pippa as Judge:** 'All looks were fixed upon one man- the Jew. Fagin! I hereby charge you with the gross offences of using young boys as your thieves, sheltering them, kidnapping them, harbouring stolen goods, and indirectly responsible for the heinous crime of murder! Do you have anything to say Jew, before I pass sentence on you?
- **CD as Fagin:** 'I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, senses, affections, passions; fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, heal'd by the same means, warm'd and cool'd by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?'
- **Pippa as Judge:** Do not think that because you are a fairly recent arrival, an outsider, a practitioner of other.... beliefs that you will find any sympathy here! Fagin! I hereby sentence you to death by hanging!



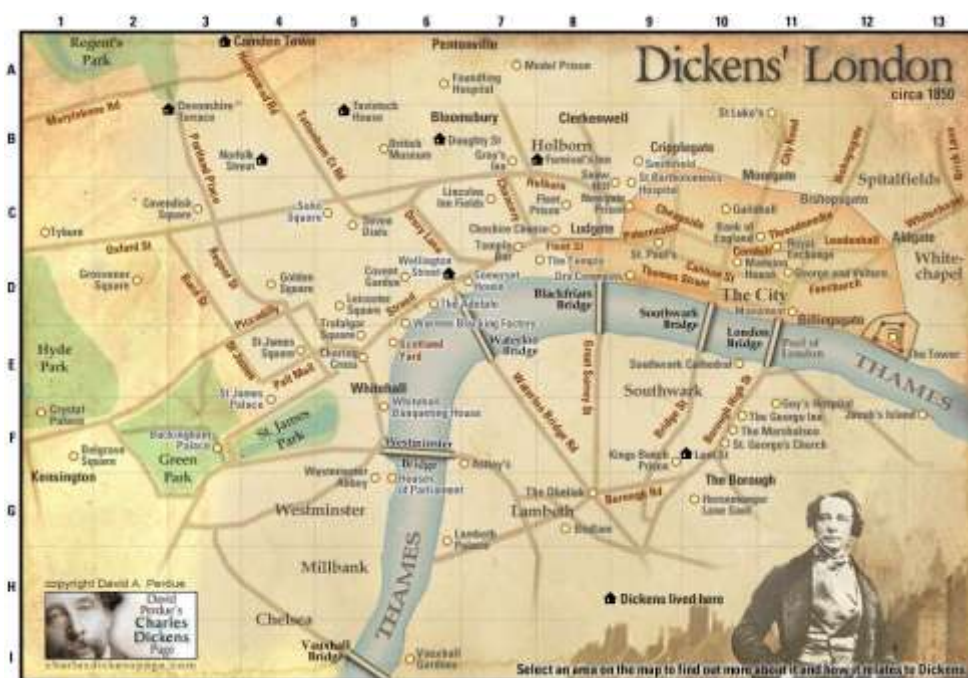


## WORKSHEET #3

### Comprehension Questions

Listen carefully to the extract and answer the following questions:

1. What are the first 4 place-names that Pippa mentions when Oliver goes back to Fagin's hideout? Either using the map below, or from your research in a book or the internet find a map and then find these locations in London.
2. What is Pippa's reaction when Charles as Fagin lectures her?
3. Can you repeat the insults Charles as Fagin uses? Look up what some of them mean.
4. When Charles plays Fagin where is he taken? What is the name of the famous court in London? Using the following map, mark the locations. One of the two places is not indicated but locate it based on your own research. (Where was Dickens' father imprisoned?)



5. What does the Judge accuse Fagin of doing?
6. What sentence does the Judge pass on Fagin?
7. Which Shakespearean character, and from which play, does Fagin quote before the Judge passes sentence?

### Extension Activities & Discussion

- a. Find synonyms for "recent arrival, outsider, practitioner of other beliefs."
- b. Write a short letter to Charles Dickens asking about his views on capital punishment. Set out your own views on this and detail them to Charles Dickens.
- c. Why did Dickens choose the character of Fagin to be one of the criminals in Oliver Twist? What social views existed in Victorian England? Should Charles Dickens be put on trial for his decision to make Fagin a villain?



### Word-Search

Find the following words in the letter grid below: **CLIMATE, ACTIVIST, WORLD, ALLEYWAY, DARE, DREAMS, FUTURE, SUFFERING, BANDWAGON, BUSHFIRE**

U	J	I	A	L	L	E	Y	W	A	Y	T	H	D	A	R	E	F
S	T	V	E	L	R	S	Z	P	F	C	D	I	O	Z	I	P	U
A	U	S	D	L	F	M	W	Z	B	U	P	F	J	A	T	M	I
Z	U	U	Y	R	K	C	U	Y	Y	A	T	G	Y	X	H	H	J
C	N	F	E	E	E	X	K	K	U	L	N	U	P	S	B	T	K
L	G	F	G	S	A	A	I	Q	B	T	O	D	R	R	Q	L	H
I	P	E	K	K	W	K	M	H	A	D	S	X	W	E	P	W	X
M	G	R	Y	G	V	H	L	S	N	T	F	G	C	A	B	L	O
A	V	I	N	C	O	T	Q	C	F	P	I	U	Q	T	G	Q	O
T	H	N	R	A	C	T	I	V	I	S	T	X	L	B	Z	O	K
E	V	G	E	B	R	H	W	K	A	W	O	R	L	D	S	X	N
N	Q	K	O	V	O	L	B	H	B	U	S	H	F	I	R	E	Z

## **EXTENSIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:**

1. Write your own speech to the United Nations on issues dealing with climate change. Try and make it as passionate as possible. Give this speech in class and allow your classmates to react. Let them ask questions about what you really think. Try not to read a prepared statement but invent, use your own words, make it spontaneous.
2. Debate: Organise a debate between two teams of 3 actors. Here are three possible topics:
  - a. *Vegetarianism vs. Meat-Eating* OR *Veganism vs. Vegetarianism*
  - b. The *Older generation* who hold onto the past vs. the *Younger generation* who can adapt to a changing world
  - c. *Climate change*: Ignore it and continue as we are? Or Take action now!

**THE FOLLOWING LINKS AND ARTICLES ARE DESIGNED TO HELP WITH YOUR FURTHER RESEARCH, STUDY AND INTEREST IN THE THEMES AND TOPICS TREATED IN THE PLAY. (AT THE TIME OF PREPARATION OF THE GUIDE ALL WEBSITE LINKS WERE VERIFIED BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT THEY CAN EASILY BECOME OUT OF DATE!)**

### **1. CHARLES DICKENS 'READINGS'**

He began these as a charity event in Birmingham Town Hall but as there was such an overwhelming interest in his performances he decided to turn 'professional' and continued in this way nearly right up to his death:

<https://www.charlesdickenspage.com/charles-dickens-on-stage.html>

### **2. SWEAT-SHOP CONDITIONS**

This American website treats the appalling conditions that workers have faced in countries throughout the world, lists some products that some of us did not know were made through atrocious conditions, and has set out links on how people can help:

<https://www.greenamerica.org/world-hurt/8-things-you-didnt-know-were-made-sweatshop-labor>

### **3. STREET ART TRIVIA**

Try this Street Art Quiz if you dare and see how much you know!

<https://quizizz.com/admin/quiz/5c9cab9d0a6816001a698ec2/street-art>

#### **4. QUEEN**

Bill Sikes often refers to his favourite musical group, Queen! The band started in 1970 in London. We use various extracts from some of the group's most famous songs and Bill Sikes loves to hum and sing along to his favourite tunes! The group's lead singer, Freddie Mercury, died in 1991 however they have had numerous concert revivals with new lead singers. Even though the group no longer as they did in their heyday in the 1970s and 80s their music is still much loved around the world today. Here are links to their official website and the Wikipedia page for further reference. Enjoy!

<https://www.queeniofficial.com/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen \(band\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_(band))

#### **5. DICKENS' NOVELS FILM ADAPTATIONS IMDB**

The following International Movie Database lists most film versions of Dickens' novels and stories. Explore the vast wealth of possibilities to find the right one for you!

<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls006348409/>

#### **6. ENGLISH & ART**

Make a series of drawings, sketches, paintings to illustrate the characters, images, text, the storyline, and comic strips from '*What the Dickens!*' Perhaps even design your own poster! These can be very expressive and avant-garde and could even feature as artwork pieces in the appropriate place(s) in the school, or even in the local community! Gems for all to discover!

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL AT DRAMA TIES FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT, ASSISTANCE, PATIENCE AND HELP WITH THE CREATION OF THIS PROJECT.**

**UN GRAND REMERCIEMENT AU CENTRE LOUIS LUMIÈRE, PARIS 20ÈME ET LA LIGUE.ORG POUR LEUR CHALEUREUX ACCUEIL ET AIDE!**

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