Teaching notes

This resource was originally published on the Collaborative Learning website (www.collaborativelearning.org/) and was produced with EAL learners in mind.

This is a character card game with a difference. There are no cards with information about Oliver. You can designate up to six pupils to take on the role of Oliver. They have to listen in to the other characters and find information about themselves. At the end they can get together, find out what they know and what they still need to know. Then they can take turns to ask the other characters questions. You need to produce the cards in at least two colours. You can double up characters (or if you have energy and application you can write new cards for other characters in the book!) but make sure the same characters have different colours so that they don’t meet each other!

Student instructions

Nearly everyone in the class takes or is given a character card. Everyone should read the information on the card two or three times. You do not have to remember the card word for word, but have a good idea about the information on it.

Put the card in your pocket or out of sight and then find someone else in the room with the same coloured card as you. Pretend to be the character and introduce yourself to your new partner.

Your partner should do the same to you. Remember if either of you get stuck, you can take out your card and look at it. But only if you are stuck! Listen carefully to each other. If you know any more about your character you can mention this too.

Now go to find another two people with the same colour card as you. Now you are four, you have to introduce your partner to the others, and they have to introduce each other to you.

Some of you will be asked to be Oliver. You can join any pair or group. You may not talk. You have to listen and try to find out as much as you can about yourself.
**Mr Sowerberry**
You are an undertaker, and have a contract with the workhouse to bury paupers. You are kept busy because a lot of paupers die. Most of them die because they don’t get enough to eat. You can save money by making very small coffins. You also get money to take Oliver as an apprentice. You don’t intend to give him a lot to eat.

**Mrs Mann**
The parish pays you to bring up orphan babies by hand. They get so little to eat that many die. Mr Bumble is supposed to make sure you look after them well. He always gives you plenty of warning when he is coming to eat your tea and cake.

**Mr Fang**
You are a police magistrate in Clerkenwell in London. You believe that the poor are wicked and that everyone brought to you is guilty. You usually make sure they are hung or transported to Australia. Oliver has a lucky escape to get away from you.

**Nancy**
You work with Fagin’s gang and live with Bill Sikes. He treats you harshly, but you love him. You take Oliver from Mr Brownlow. You listen to Monks and Fagin talking about Oliver. You then go to Rose Fleming to tell her a secret. Fagin suspects you, and you are murdered.

**Toby Crackit**
You are a crackster. You are very good at burgling and opening locks. You need a small boy to help you for a job in Shepperton. He has to climb through a tiny window and then unlock the door from the inside. Fagin lends you Oliver. Bill Sikes comes too.

**Mr Grimwig**
You are a friend of Mr Brownlow. You are a pessimist. You think everything and everybody is bad. When Mr B sends Oliver on an errand with money, you think he won’t come back. He doesn’t come back because Nancy captures him for Fagin. You are wrong to be pessimistic because Oliver is very honest.

**Mrs Carney**
You are the overseer of the workhouse. You know secrets about Oliver. Monks pays you well to keep quiet, so you throw a ring and locket in the river. These things prove truths about Oliver’s parentage and history. You marry Mr Bumble and make his life hell.

**Agnes Fleming**
You are Oliver’s mother. You die in childbirth in the workhouse. Just before you die, you tell secrets and give a ring and locket to the person who looks after you. These are destroyed. You are buried by Mr Sowerberry in an unmarked grave.
Oliver Twist character card game

*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fagin</strong></td>
<td>You are the leader of a group of street robbers and house burglars. You are an expert at tempting young people into a life of crime. A man called Monks has paid you well to make sure that Oliver becomes a criminal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jack Dawkins</strong></td>
<td>You are known as the Artful Dodger. You are a very skilful pickpocket and sneak thief. Fagin instructs you to tempt Oliver and teach him to steal handkerchiefs (swipes). Oliver gets caught and is taken to Mr Fang the magistrate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Bumble</strong></td>
<td>You are the beadle in a town 70 miles north of London. You are mean, grasping and a bully. You work for the board of overseers at the workhouse. You are responsible for finding someone to take Oliver into work, so that the town does not have to pay for him.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Sikes</strong></td>
<td>You are a robber and burglar working for Fagin. You have a faithful dog and a girlfriend called Nancy. You and Toby Crackit take Oliver to Shepperton to burgle Mr Maylie's house. The robbery goes wrong. Oliver is shot, but survives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Brownlow</strong></td>
<td>Oliver is accused of stealing your handkerchief. You believe he is innocent and you save him from Fang and transportation. His face reminds you of a dear friend. At the end of the story you adopt Oliver as a son.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monks</strong></td>
<td>Your real name is Edward Leeford. Oliver is your half brother, but only you know that. He should have inherited the money that you have. But he has to remain honest. You try very hard with the help of Fagin to turn him into a criminal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rose Fleming</strong></td>
<td>You are Mrs Maylie’s niece. You help Oliver recover after he is shot in the burglary. You very nearly die of a fever shortly afterwards. Henry Maylie is in love with you, but you are not sure. All ends happily and romantically.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Noah Claypole</strong></td>
<td>You are very tall and thin. You came from the workhouse and work for Mr Sowerberry the undertaker. You bully Oliver when he becomes an apprentice, so that he runs away to London. Later you run away with the undertaker’s money and Charlotte, the housemaid, and become a thief.</td>
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