

## Comprehension Challenge: Book 4

### Oliver Twist

#### Challenge 1:

##### Look at Page 8

1. How many people were involved in dishing out the gruel?  
Two or 3 people dished out the gruel.
2. Why do you think the bowls never wanted washing?  
As the boys were so hungry, they cleaned everything off the bowls.
3. Why did they suck their fingers?  
They sucked their fingers hoping that they were covered in splashes of gruel.
4. What terrible thing did one boy think he might have to do out of hunger?  
One boy thought he may have to eat the boy who slept next to him.
5. Who was chosen to tell the master they wanted they didn't have enough?  
Oliver Twist was chosen to tell the master they didn't have enough.

##### Look at Page 9

6. What did Oliver get hit on the head with?  
Oliver got hit on the head with a ladle.
7. Find and copy a word which tells you how sad Oliver was.  
The word meaning sad is 'misery'.
8. What did the man believe Oliver's punishment would be?  
The man believed he would be hung.
9. What is an apprentice?  
An apprentice is someone who is learning a trade, usually a younger person.
10. What do you think Oliver might end up working as in Victorian times?  
Oliver could end up working as a chimney sweep, or in a mill or helping in a coal mine with the ponies. There are lots of Victorian jobs which children were made to do. He might even end up on the streets as a thief.

#### Challenge 2/3:

##### Look at page 8

1. What was the food served from in the hall?  
The food was served from a pot called a copper.
2. What does the word 'devoured' suggest about the boys' hunger?  
Devoured suggests the boys ate everything that was there, not leaving anything at all, eating it hungrily or quickly.
3. What do you think 'hinted darkly' means?

'Hinted darkly' suggests the idea he was mentioning was not a good or pleasant thing to do; in fact it could be a terrible, threatening or frightening.

4. Find out what 'per diem' actually means and what language it is.

Per Diem is Latin for 'for each day', 'per day' or your daily allowance.

5. How did they decide that Oliver should ask for more. Describe this in your own words.

They decided Oliver should be the one by casting lots - this could be like each person having a piece of paper and one of them is marked. It can be done with straws, where one person will draw the short straw.

### Look at pages 9

6. 'What does 'reckless with misery' tell you about what Oliver was prepared to do. The word 'reckless' suggests he would do anything, even something which may be a risk to himself.

7. Explain why the master 'gazed in stupefied astonishment'.

If he was 'stupified', he was shocked and astounded as no boy had ever been brave enough to complain.

8. It had been decided exactly how much food each boy should have. Can you find a word which relates to this idea.

The word is 'allotted'

9. What was the first punishment Oliver received and what does it mean.

Oliver was sent to instant confinement which means he was immediately probably sent to a room he wasn't allowed to leave

10. What does an animated discussion mean?

An animated discussion is one in which the people involved may use lots of physical actions to express their ideas, they use lots of gestures and may seem excited.