



**1. Look at the engraving on the left page before reading the text and guess the situation. What can you read on the master's and boys' faces ?**

**Illustration:** *Engraving for the first edition of Oliver Twist by George Cruikshank.*

***The scene takes place in the dining hall of a boarding school...A young boy is holding out his bowl to a man dressed as a cook: he is certainly asking for more food as the title indicates... The boys sitting at the table and the woman-assistant standing in the back look stunned / dumbfounded...As for the cook / master, his face expresses anger as well as stupefaction... Asking for more is certainly not done in this school...***

**2. Find the English equivalents of the following words (in the right order):**

*faim (two words) – se placer – murmurer – faire un clin d'oeil – pousser du coude – téméraire – cuillère – regarder fixement – se cramponner – étonnement – faible – sursaut – visage – pendu – gilet – affiche – coller – commerce – métier*

***starvation (l. 2) / hunger (l. 3) – station oneself (l. 7) – whisper (l. 10) – wink (l. 10) – nudge (l. 11) – reckless (l. 12) – spoon (l. 14) – gaze (l. 18) – cling (l. 19) – wonder (l. 20) – faint (l. 22) – start (l. 28) – countenance (l. 29) – hung (l. 35) – waistcoat (l. 34) – bill (l. 36) – paste (l. 37) – trade (l. 40) – calling (l. 41)***

**3. True or false? Justify with quotations from the text.**

- a. Oliver and his friends didn't have enough to eat.
  - b. One evening Oliver decided to ask the master for more food.
  - c. A prayer was said before the meal.
  - d. Oliver rose to ask for more gruel spontaneously.
  - e. He felt self-confident when he addressed the master.
  - f. The master turned pale with anger.
  - g. The other boys laughed at Oliver.
  - h. The master's name was Mr. Bumble.
  - i. Mr. Limbkins was one of the board members.
  - j. Another board member predicted a sombre future for Oliver.
  - k. Oliver was immediately held in detention.
  - l. He was sold five pounds to anyone who agreed to take him away.
- a. True →... ***suffered the tortures of slow starvation... (l. 1) – ... they got so voracious and wild with hunger...(l. 2)***
  - b. False →...***lots were cast (... ) and it fell to Oliver Twist. (l. 3)***
  - c. True →...***a long grace was said over the short commons. (l. 8)***

- d. False → ...*the boys whispered (...) and winked (...), while his next neighbours nudged him.* (l. 9)
- e. False → ...*somewhat alarmed at his own temerity...* (l. 14)
- f. False → *He gazed in stupefied astonishment...*(l. 18)
- g. False → ...*the boys [paralysed] with fear.* (l. 20)
- h. True → ...*Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement...*(l. 24)
- i. True → ... *addressing the gentleman in the high chair, said, "Mr. Limbkins..."*(l. 26)
- j. True → *"That boy will be hung," said the gentleman in the white waistcoat.* (l. 34)
- k. True → *Oliver was ordered into instant confinement...* (l. 36)
- l. False → ... *offering a reward of five pounds to anybody who would take Oliver Twist off the hands of the parish.* (l. 37)

#### 4. Why did Oliver Twist have to ask for more food ?

Les expressions permettant d'exprimer la pression seront nécessaires ici : ***Oliver had to ask for more food because his schoolfellows made him ask / obliged him to ask... Oliver was made to ask for more food by the other boys... Since fate had designated him, Oliver had no other choice but to ask the master for more food...***

#### 5. What were the reactions to Oliver's demand and the consequences for him ?

On pourra dans un premier temps demander aux élèves de relever les mots exprimant la stupéfaction dans ce passage (*stupefied astonishment* [l. 18] – *wonder* [l. 20] – *start* [l. 28]), puis de repérer les mots révélant les autres sentiments des personnages (*fear* [l. 21], *excitement* [l. 25], *horror* [l. 28]).

Cette question permettra de rebrasser les adjectifs permettant d'exprimer l'étonnement : ***The master and his assistants were astonished / amazed / flabbergasted at Oliver's demand... Mr Bumble was so astounded / stupefied that he remained speechless for a while... As for the assistants, they were turned to stone...The adults had not expected such a demand... Even though the children had compelled Oliver to ask for more gruel, they were afraid of the master's reaction and didn't dare move... Maybe they hadn't thought that Oliver would dare to ask for more... The board members were both stunned and horrified...***

***As for Oliver, the event marked a turning point in his fate / destiny / life since he was expelled from the workhouse and offered (together with five pounds) to anyone who would take him...***

