

The Birth of Oliver Twist



Long ago a baby was born in a **workhouse**. His mother died in **childbirth**.

“Poor young woman!” said the doctor. “Where did she come from?”

“Someone found her lying in the street last night,” replied the nurse. Her name was Sally and she lived in the workhouse.

“We don’t know her name,” said Sally slowly. She was very drunk.

“Or where she came from.”

A big man with a red face entered the room. This was the parish inspector, Mr Bumble. He was carrying a notebook.

“Ah Mr Bumble!” said the doctor. “I will leave the child with you. I really must get some dinner.”

“Another **orphan**?” said Mr Bumble, opening his notebook. “He needs a name! Now what letter are we on.”

Mr Bumble was the **parish** inspector. He was responsible for all the orphans in this small town. His notebook listed possible names in **alphabetical** order.

“The last one was S - so I called him Swubble,” said Mr Bumble, checking his list. “That means this one is a T. So what name begins with a T?”

His fat finger went slowly down the list. “Twist!” he said finally. “Oliver Twist.”

Quick Check: True or False?

1. Mr Bumble was born in workhouse
2. Oliver Twist is an orphan
3. Mr Bumble names Oliver

Vocabulary

Workhouse * Childbirth * Parish * Orphan * Alphabetical

	prison like institution for the very poor.
	in order of the letters of the alphabet <i>a, b, c...</i>
	a child whose biological parents are dead.
	the time when a baby is born.
	an area covered by a church