

P.E.E - Oliver Twist

CHAPTER 2

The room in which the boys were fed was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end; out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at mealtimes. Of this festive composition the boys had one porringer and no more – except on occasions of public rejoicing when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides. The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons again till they shone again; and when they had performed this operation (which never took very long, the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls), they would sit staring at the copper, with such eager eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed; employing themselves meanwhile, in sucking their fingers most assiduously, with the view of catching up any stray splashes of gruel that might have been cast thereon. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months. At last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy who was tall for his age, hinted darkly to his companions that unless he had another basin of gruel, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy sleeping next to him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast for who should walk up to the master after supper that evening and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves beside him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered to each other and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity,-

"Please, sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed with stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds; and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralyzed with wonder, the boys with fear.

"What!" said the master at length, in a faint voice.

"Please, sir," replied Oliver, "I want some more."

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle, pinioned him in his arms, and shrieked aloud for the beadle.

P.E.E Questions (Point, Evidence, Explanation)

*What's your **point**?*

First make a simple statement about what the writer does:

- The writer suggests that...
- The writer shows this by using...
- The writer describes... as...

*Give **evidence** from the text to support your point.*

- For example...
- For instance in the third paragraph...
- The writer states:

***Explain** how the writer's methods affect the reader.*

Explain how key words and techniques from the evidence help to get these effects:

- The effect of this is...
- This makes the reader feel that.....
- This suggests that...

Look at the questions carefully.

Can you create the correct P.E.E answer, to each question, using the cards provided?

QUESTION CARDS

Were the boys satisfied with the amount of food they were given?

What were the boys' food bowls like?

How was the hunger affecting Oliver Twist and the other boys?

How did the Workhouse Master feel when Oliver Twist asked for more?

How did Oliver Twist feel about asking for more?

The boys weren't satisfied with the portions they were given.

The food bowls were very small.

The hunger was affecting the boys' behaviour.

POINT CARDS

The master is shocked when Oliver Twist asks for more.

Oliver Twist couldn't quite believe what he said to the work-house Master.

EVIDENCE CARDS

The text tells us that, 'the boys had one porringer and no more,' and also that 'The bowls never wanted washing.'

The author describes the bowls by saying, 'the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls.'

The author tells us that, 'at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger.'

There are a number of ways that the author tells us this: 'He gazed with stupefied astonishment. ...then clung for support to the copper.'

The author tells us that Oliver is, 'somewhat alarmed at his own temerity.'

This tells us that the work-house staff were very strict about the portions they gave the boys and also that the boys never left any food, suggesting that they were always very hungry.

EXPLANATION CARDS

This tells us that the bowls were so small that the spoons were just as big as the bowls.

This tells us that the hunger the boys were experiencing was causing the boys to become greedy and their behaviour became wild.

This tells us that he cannot believe what has just happened. He is so shocked that he almost falls over.

We can understand from this that Oliver is shocked by his own bravery by asking for more food.

Now Your Turn...

Answer the following questions using the P.E.E method you have practised in the task above.

1. What tells us that the assistants had never experienced a child asking for more?
2. What are the boys' feelings in regard to Oliver asking for more food?
3. Why did the bowls not need washing?

Answers

1. Were the boys satisfied with the amount of food they were given?

The boys weren't satisfied with the portions they were given. The text tells us that, 'the boys had one porringer and no more,' and also that 'The bowls never wanted washing.' This tells us that the workhouse staff were very strict about the portions they gave the boys and also that the boys never left any food, suggesting that they were always very hungry.

2. What were the boys' food bowls like?

The food bowls were very small. The author describes the bowls by saying, 'the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls.' This tells us that the bowls were so small that the spoons were just as big as the bowls.

3. How was the hunger affecting the Oliver Twist and the other boys?

The hunger was affecting the boys' behaviour. The author tells us that, 'at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger.' This tells us that the hunger the boys were experiencing was causing the boys to become greedy and their behaviour became wild.

4. How did the Workhouse Master feel when Oliver Twist asked for more?

The master is shocked when Oliver Twist asks for more. There are a number of ways that the author tells us this: 'He gazed with stupefied astonishment. ...then clung for support to the copper.' This tells us that he cannot believe what has just happened. He is so shocked that he almost falls over.

5. How did Oliver Twist feel about asking for more?

Oliver Twist couldn't quite believe what he said to the workhouse Master. The author tells us that Oliver is, 'somewhat alarmed at his own temerity.' We can understand from this that Oliver is shocked by his own bravery by asking for more food.