

# OLIVER TWIST

by Charles Dickens

It was market-morning. The ground was covered, nearly ankle-deep, with filth and mire; a thick steam, perpetually rising from the reeking bodies of the cattle, and mingling with the fog, which seemed to rest upon the chimney-tops, hung heavily above. All the pens in the centre of the large area, and as many temporary pens as could be crowded into the vacant space, were filled with sheep; tied up to posts by the gutter side were long lines of beasts and oxen, three or four deep. Countrymen, butchers, drovers, hawkers, boys, thieves, idlers, and vagabonds of every low grade, were mingled together in a mass; the whistling of drovers, the barking of dogs, the bellowing and plunging of oxen, the bleating of sheep, the grunting and squeaking of pigs, the cries of hawkers, the shouts, oaths and quarrelling on all sides; the ringing of bells and roar of voices, that issued from every public-house; the crowding, pushing, driving, beating, whooping, and yelling; the hideous and discordant din that resounded from every corner of the market; and the unwashed, unshaven, squalid, and dirty figures constantly running to and fro, and bursting in and out of the throng; rendered it a stunning and bewildering scene that quite confounded the senses.

<i>Mire</i> .....	mud, sludge	<i>Resound</i> .....	echo, bounce back
<i>Perpetually</i> .....	continuously, constantly	<i>Squalid</i> .....	filthy, unclean, foul
<i>Reeking</i> .....	stinking, putrid	<i>To and fro</i> .....	backwards and forwards
<i>Oxen</i> .....	cattle	<i>Throng</i> .....	crowd, mob
<i>Bellowing</i> .....	roaring, at the top of the lungs	<i>Rendered</i> .....	made
<i>Hawkers</i> .....	people who have come to sell	<i>Confound</i> .....	amaze, puzzle, leave speechless
<i>Vagabonds</i> .....	drifters, tramps, beggars	<i>Drovers</i> .....	boys/men that 'drove' the animals to market, walking along behind them
<i>Oaths</i> .....	to give your word, agreement, or promise		
<i>Discordant</i> .....	jarring, conflicting		

1. Pick out phrases that appeal to the following senses:

<b>SIGHT</b>
<b>SMELL</b>
<b>SOUND</b>
<b>TOUCH</b>

2. Think about how Dickens has made the scene come alive for the reader by using such an appeal to the senses.

3. Try your own piece. Choose from the following

- Saturday lunchtime in McDonald's
- a crowded market
- your local high street
- the school canteen.