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英語
簡易讀物

Charles Dickens
**Oliver
Twist**

(霧都孤兒)

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OLIVER TWIST

By Charles Dickens

霧都孤兒

狄更斯著

鄭德明 許輝

(簡寫本)



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本書作者及內容簡介

Charles Dickens (1812—1870) 是十九世紀英國最偉大的現實主義作家。他生於一個小職員家里，家境貧困。十歲時，父親因負債入獄。當時 Dickens 正在私立學校受初等教育，這就使他不得不離校去當學徒來維持家庭生活。後來他在一家律師事務所里任職，以後又做新聞記者和議院的採訪員，並開始寫作。

1836 年他的第一部小說 *Pickwick Papers* (匹克威克外傳) 出版，他在這部小說里用細膩的幽默筆調，描寫當時英國農業已瀕臨日暮途窮的情況以及它的小市鎮的風俗習慣。這部作品使他獲得盛名。以後他陸續寫了三十多部作品，主要有 *Oliver Twist* (霧都孤兒，即奧列佛)，*David Copperfield* (大衛·考柏菲爾)，*The Great Expectation* (孤星血淚)，*A Tale of Two Cities* (双城記)，*Old Curiosity Shop* (老古玩店)，*Hard Times* (艱難時世)，*Nicholas Nickleby* (尼古拉斯·尼古貝)，*Donbey and Son* (董貝父子)，*Our Mutual Friend* (我們共同的朋友) 等。他的最主要的作品都已有中譯本，有的并早已拍成電影曾在我國上演過，深受中國讀者和觀眾的歡迎。

Dickens 出身於貧苦的家庭，對於英國的貧民生活有非常深刻的體會；他對倫敦下層社會的生活尤為熟悉。他始終對窮人抱著無限的、深厚的同情。兒童時代所經歷過的艱苦遭遇，留給他不可磨滅的印象，所以很自然他對不幸的兒童，特別是孤兒更深表同情。他的作品多半是描寫被壓迫者和被損害者。他用尖銳的筆鋒和諷諷的情調對英國資產階級的偽善、欺詐和貪婪，對英國社會的黑暗和罪惡加以无情的揭露和批判。

但是應該指出：Dickens 只是批判現實，而不想改造現實；雖然他也看出資本主義制度的不合理，但卻不願意改變這個制度本身。他對當時的資產階級還存着幻想，希望他們能對窮人多發點慈悲，多給予怜悯，希望貧富兩個敵對階級能夠妥協共處。儘管如此，他的作品充分暴露了英國資本主義存在着的尖銳矛盾，仍然反映出英國廣大人民的声音。因而馬克思在 1854 年曾撰文給他很高的評價。俄國作家別林斯基指出：“狄更斯善於描繪充滿驚人的現實真相和藝術生命的畫面。”

《*Oliver Twist*》是 Dickens 的第二部小說，于 1837 到 1839 年写成。他是根据倫敦貧民区的实际情况写成的。Dickens 以活潑的笔調、真挚的感情画出一个孤兒的悲惨遭遇，故事曲折动人。內容是这样的：Oliver 是一个孤兒，他母亲生下他以后便死在貧民院里。他長大后不堪虐待，只身逃往倫敦。他的同父異母哥哥为了独吞家产，竟毀了他父亲的遺囑，暗中勾結匪賊 Fagin 和 Sikes 等人，設法把他培养成为小偷。在一次搶劫中，他身負重伤，被 Maylie 太太收留。后来經過一个同情他的女賊 Nancy 的帮助，才弄清了自己的来历。在他的朋友 Brownlow 和 Rose 的帮助下，揭發了一伙匪賊，使他們受到了应有的懲罰。Oliver 在經過一段曲折惊險的遭遇后，得到了一大笔遺產，过着富裕的生活。可是还有无数的孤兒和貧民在遭受折磨和苦痛呢。

Oliver Twist 一書長达二、三十万字，曾經拍成电影，原著也曾有过中譯本。这个簡写本是根据苏联外国文学書籍出版局 1958 年最新出版的本子排印的，書中附有汉語註釋，适于大学英語专业二年級学生或相当程度的英語自修者閱讀。

CHAPTER I

Oliver Twist was born in a *workhouse*.¹ There was nobody around at the moment but a doctor and an old, old woman.² There were no aunts, no sisters, no cousins, no grandmothers. And the two that were there did not help much. But, perhaps, *this was all the better*.³ Too much help is sometimes worse than no help. *Be this as it may*,⁴ Oliver came into the world with a loud cry. The pale face of a young woman rose from the pillow and a weak voice said: "*Let me see the child, and die.*"⁵

*The doctor was sitting with his face towards the fire.*⁶ In a moment he rose, came up to the bed and said in a kind voice:

"Oh, you must not talk about dying yet!"

Saying this, he put the child into her arms. She put her cold lips to its forehead, then passed her hands over her face, looked around, fell back—and died.

The doctor tried to do what he could, But he could do nothing.

"*It's all over,*" Mrs. Thingummy,⁷ he said at last to the old woman. "I am going. Give the child some gruel if it cries."⁸ He put on his hat, and then added:

1. 貧民救济院。2. 当时旁边除了一个医生和一个老太婆以外，没有别人，but 在这里是前置词，作“除...外”解。3. 这更好。4. 即使是这样：不管怎样 (however this may be)。5. 让我看一下这孩子，再死吧。这是以 let 引起的一种祈使句，后面的动词不定式 see 之前的 to 可以省略。6. 医生正坐着，脸朝着火爐。7. 一切都完了 (意即死了)。8. [Gingami] 人名。9. 如果他哭了 (it 指小孩)。在连接词 if 后面的从句中，可用动词一般现在时来表示一个将来的动作。

“She was a good-looking woman; from where did she come?”

“She was brought here last night,” answered the old woman. “*She was found lying in the street.*¹ Nobody knows from where she came, or where she was going.”

“The old story”, said the doctor. “Good night!”

And he went to have his dinner.

The old woman sat down, took a green bottle from under the bed and began drinking from it.

And Oliver cried. What else could he do?

CHAPTER II

During the first years of his life, Oliver lived in the country. There was no place in the workhouse and *he was sent to a Mrs. Mann*² who “was very kind and liked to look after children”—so the *workhouse authorities*³ said. And they gave Mrs. Mann many of the boys and girls that were born in the workhouse. They also gave Mrs. Mann *seven pence halfpenny per week for every child*.⁴ But very much food cannot be got for seven pence halfpenny. And Mrs. Mann was not a young woman; she knew very well what was good for children and she also knew what was good for herself.

So she put the greater part of *this weekly stipend*⁵ into her pocket and gave only the smaller part to the children.

1. 他被發現躺在街上。 2. 他給打發到一個叫做 Mann [mæn] 太太那兒去。 3. 貧民救濟院當局。 authorities 用複數形式。 4. 每周每個孩子給七個半辨士。 Pence 是 Penny 的複數。 5. 每周的薪金。 weekly 是形容詞。

It is true that *as a result*¹ of this *eight children out of ten died*.² Sometimes—though very rarely—questions were asked about their death. The answer was always the same: the doctor went to Mrs. Mann's house, *opened up the body of the child and found nothing in the stomach*³—which was very probable!

Sometimes the workhouse authorities made an excursion to Mrs. Mann's *farm*.⁴ But they always sent one of the *smaller officials*,⁵ Mr. Bumble,⁶ the day before. Mr. Bumble had to tell Mrs. Mann that the authorities were coming.⁷ And when they came the children were always quite clean and looked very happy.

But Oliver did not die. On the day when our story begins he was just nine years old. *Of course*⁸ we must not think of him as a big, strong boy. *Far from it!*⁹ At the age of nine¹⁰ he looked like a boy of six. He was thin and pale and always *went about hungry*.¹¹

It was his birthday. How did he spend it? All that day he sat in the coal-celler with two other little boys. They were punished. Mrs. Mann had put them into the coal-celler¹² because they had said: "We are hungry."

Now it was evening. Mrs. Mann was sitting before the window taking her tea when she suddenly saw the figure of Mr. Bumble.

"Is that you, Mr. Bumble?" she cried, *pretending to feel the greatest joy*.¹³ "Susan,¹⁴ take Oliver and the other

1. ...的結果。 2. 十个孩子当中有八个死亡。 out of 这里作“从...之中”解。 3. 剖开孩子的尸体，在胃里没有找到什么东西。 4. 嬰兒寄养处。 5. 小公務員或職員。 6. ['bʌmbli] 人名。 7. Bumble 先生應該通知 Mann 太太說這事會要來(觀察)了。 had to 必須，應該。 8. 當然(副詞短語)。 9. 決沒有那種事！ 10. 九歲。 11. 挨餓。 12. Mann 太太把他們禁閉在煤窖里。 13. 假裝興高采烈似的。 14. ['sju:zən] 人名。

two boys upstairs and wash them. Oh, Mr. Bumble! How glad I am to see you!"

"I come *on business*,¹ Mrs. Mann," said Mr. Bumble.

Mrs. Mann asked him into her room and put a chair before him. Mr. Bumble put his hat on the table, sat down and smiled.

"You have had a long walk and you are tired," said Mrs. Mann. "Now, *will you take a little drop of something, Mr. Bumble?*"²

"Not a drop. Not a drop," said Mr. Bumble, waving his right hand.

"I think you will take a little drop," continued Mrs. Mann. "Just a little drop with a little cold water and a *lump of sugar*."³

Mr. Bumble coughed.

"Now, just a little drop," said Mrs. Mann.

"What is it?" asked Mr. Bumble.

"You see," said Mrs. Mann. "I must always keep a little of it in the house. When the dear little boys are ill, I put it into their stomachs." She went to the cupboard and took a bottle and a glass. "It's *gin*,"⁴ she said, "I shall not deceive you, Mr. Bumble, it's *gin*."

"Do you give the children *gin*, Mrs. Mann?" asked Mr. Bumble.

"*I do, dear as it is*,"⁵ answered the woman. "*I cannot see the little ones suffer before my eyes*,"⁶ you know, Sir!"

1. 有事. 2. Bumble 先生, 你想要喝点什么吗? 3. 一块方糖 4. 杜松子酒. 5. 给的, 酒虽然很贵. 这里 I do = I do give. 6. 我不能眼看孩子们受苦呀. 动词 see (或 make) 后面的动词不定式的 to 常常可以省掉.

"No," said Mr. Bumble, "no, you cannot. You are a very kind woman, Mrs. Mann. You feel as a mother, Mrs. Mann. I shall be glad to speak about it to the authorities." And saying this he drank the glass of gin, which Mrs. Mann has prepared for him.

"And now about business," continued Mr. Bumble, taking a leather copybook out of his pocket. "The boy, Oliver Twist, is nine years old to-day. So he is now too old to stay here. He must go back to the workhouse. I have come to take him there. I must see him *at once*."¹

By this time Oliver was already washed and dressed. In a minute he was before Mr. Bumble.

"*Make a bow to the gentleman*,"² said Mrs. Mann.

Oliver made a bow to Mr. Bumble.

"Will you come with me, Oliver?" said Mr. Bumble.

Oliver wanted to say he so much wanted to go away from Mrs. Mann that he was glad to go away with anybody, but then he looked at Mrs. Mann who was standing behind Mr. Bumble's chair. She was shaking her fist at him.

Oliver understood at once what she wanted. He knew well what her fist meant!

"Will she go with me?" he asked.

"No, she cannot," answered Mr. Bumble, "but she will come to see you sometimes."

Mrs. Mann kissed Oliver *many times*³ on both cheeks and gave him a big piece of *bread and butter*⁴ — the biggest he had ever eaten at her house — and then Mr. Bumble said it was time to start. And so they both *went off*⁵ to the workhouse.

1. 立刻 馬上 (副詞短語) 2. 向這位先生鞠一個躬 3. 很多次 4. 塗
奶油的面包 5. 離開

CHAPTER III

Workhouses in England are managed by a special system.

It is a system of giving the people in the workhouse the least possible food.¹ In fact,² the poor people in England are given the alternative, either to die of hunger quickly outside the workhouse, or to die of hunger slowly inside it.³

But the workhouse to which Oliver now came was perhaps the worst of all. Day after day the boys there received for dinner *nothing but*⁴ very thin gruel⁵ with no bread, but of course *with plenty of water*.⁶

The room in which the boys received their dinner was a large stone hall. At one end of this hall there was a big kettle with gruel. The master stood beside the kettle with a big spoon and *gave out the gruel*.⁷ Of this each boy had a very little basin and no more. The basins were never washed: the boys polished them with their spoons so that they shone.

Boys have, of course, *very good appetites*.⁸ For a long time the boys in the workhouse all suffered *silently* from the most terrible hunger. But then one day one of them—a big tall boy—said that *he could eat his neighbour if he did not get a second basin of gruel for dinner*.⁹

The boy who said this had a wild, hungry eye and his neighbour was a thin and weak little child. So all the other boys believed him. They thought he could really eat the little boy.

1. 尽可能少的食物; 少得可憐的食物。 2. 事实上。 3. 英国的穷人可在两者之中选择随便那一种: 或者是出去很快地饿死, 或者是留在贫民院里慢慢地饿死。 either... or..., 或者..., 或者。 4. 不过是; 不外乎是。 5. 稀粥。 6. 大量的水。 7. 分粥。 to give out 分配。 8. 胃口很好。 9. 如果他午饭不能再添第二碗粥, 他会把睡在他旁边的孩子吃掉。

That same evening they cast lots.¹ They put a number of tickets into a box. Each boy had to draw a ticket from the box. One of the tickets was specially marked.

The question was: who must go to the master after supper and *ask for some more gruel*?² They all drew the tickets and the lot fell to Oliver. He drew the specially marked ticket. He had to ask the master for some more gruel!

Evening came and the boys took their places. The master stood beside the kettle and gave out the gruel. The gruel was soon finished and the boys began to look at Oliver. His neighbours even pushed him a little. He rose from his place and went to the master with basin and spoon in hand.

"Please, Sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, strong man, but *he turned very pale*³ when he heard this. For some time he looked at Oliver *as if paralyzed with astonishment*.⁴

"What!" he said at last in a very weak voice.

"Please, Sir," answered Oliver, "I want some more."

The master at once seized Oliver by the arm and began beating him on the head with the big spoon.

Then he ran downstairs.

The authorities were sitting at a meeting downstairs when the master ran into the room and addressed the chairman:

"Mr. Limbkins,⁵ I beg your pardon,⁶ Sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more."

1. 抽签. 2. 請求再添点稀粥. 3. 他的臉色變白了. 4. 好像吓得呆若木雞 (直譯: 惊駭得四肢無力). 5. ['limkinz] 人名. 6. 对不起; 請原諒.

There was a general start.¹ You could see horror on every face.

"For more!" said Mr. Limbkins. "Answer me clearly. Do I understand right that he asked for more after eating his supper?"

"He did, Sir," answered the master.

"That boy will be hung,"² said a gentleman in a white waistcoat.³ "I know that boy will be hung."

Nobody said anything against this⁴, but a heated discussion⁵ started immediately. The question was: "What must we now do with Oliver?" Soon they came to a decision: Oliver was locked up in the cellar. Next day a bill was put on the wall of the workhouse. On this bill the following was written:

Five Pounds

will be given to anybody who takes the boy

OLIVER TWIST

from the workhouse and teaches him a useful trade.

The gentleman in the white waistcoat read the bill the next morning.

"I never was so sure of anything in my life", he said to himself, "*I never was surer of anything in my life than that this boy will be hung.*"⁶

CHAPTER IV

A whole week after his terrible crime Oliver remained a prisoner. All the time he was shut up in a small

1. 大家都吃了一惊。 2. 那孩子将来要受绞刑。 3. 一个穿白背心的先生。 4. 谁都同意这个看法(直译:没有人反对)。 5. 热烈的讨论。 6. 这孩子要受绞刑,我一生中再没有什么比这一点更肯定了(意即 Oliver 非受绞刑不可)。

dark cellar.¹ He was beaten every day,² he was given still less food than before and he was not allowed to see the other boys.

Now, one morning, Mr. Gamfield,³ chimney-sweep by profession,⁴ stopped before the workhouse and began reading the bill.

It must be said⁵ that Mr. Gamfield's money-affairs⁶ were in a very bad state at that moment and that the amount of money which he wished to have was just five pounds. And it was also a fine thing to get a boy from the workhouse! These boys were thin enough⁷ and they could get through any chimney.⁸

The gentleman with the white waistcoat was also standing in front of the workhouse. He looked at Mr. Gamfield and smiled too. Mr. Gamfield came up to him.

"Do they want to give the boy away?" he asked.

"Yes, my friend, quite so,"⁹ answered the gentleman in the white waistcoat. "Do you want him?"

"Yes," said Mr. Gamfield, "I want a boy to help me in my work. I am ready to take him."

"Walk in,"¹⁰ said the gentleman in the white waistcoat.

And together they went into the workhouse where Mr. Limbkins and the other authorities were again sitting at a meeting.

"You have a very bad trade,"¹¹ said Mr. Limbkins when Mr. Gamfield had said what he wanted.

1. 他被关在一间小黑屋里。 2. 他每天都挨打。 3. ['gamfield] 人名。
4. 以打扫烟筒为职业。 by profession 职业是... 5. 可以这样说；必须指出。
6. 经济情况；财政事务。 7. 够瘦的。 8. 可以进入任何一个烟筒里去。 to get through —— 通过，进去。 9. 正是那样；很对。 10. 进来。 11. 你的买卖很不好做。

"Little boys are often burnt in chimneys,"¹ said another gentleman.

"This is true," said Mr. Gamfield. "But it does not always happen. You see, boys are lazy and stop too long in the chimney, so we must *make them come down quickly*.² For that we generally light some straw below. It roasts their feet a little, and, I can tell you, they come down quickly! But some people burn too much straw and put water on it. Then it's all smoke in the chimney and *the boy is choked*."³

The gentleman in the white waistcoat laughed at this explanation, but Mr. Limbkins looked at him strictly. The gentleman stopped laughing immediately.

Then the gentlemen began talking in very low voices and at last Mr. Limbkins said:

"We cannot give you the boy."

"No," said the gentleman in the white waistcoat.

Mr. Gamfield took his hat and began slowly walking to the door. He did not understand. Why did they not give him the boy?

"So you will not give him to me," he said at last when he was quite near the door.

"No," said Mr. Limbkins, "we think that *as it's a very nasty trade*,⁴ you ought to take⁵ something less than five pounds!"

Mr. Gamfield quickly came back to the table.

"Well, what will you give, gentlemen? *Come*,⁶ give something to a poor man! What will you give?"

1. 小孩兒經常在煙囪里被燒死。 2. 要他們很快地下來。(參閱 p. 6 註釋 6)。
3. 孩子給悶死。 4. 因為這是一種很卑鄙的行業。 5. 你應當拿... ought to 應該, 應當。 6. Come 這里用作感嘆詞, 作“喂”解。

"I think *three pounds ten*¹ is quite enough," said Mr. Limbkins.

"*Ten shillings too much*,"² said the gentleman in the white waistcoat.

"Come!" said Gamfield; "say four pounds."

"Three pounds ten," repeated Mr. Limbkins firmly.

"*Pooh! pooh!*"³ said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. "*He's cheap enough with nothing at all!*"⁴ Take him, you silly fellow!⁵ He's just the boy for you. He wants the stick from time to time, and there is no need to give him much food, because he has not received very much from the very moment he was born."

"All right," said Mr. Gamfield. "I shall take him for the money."

The meeting was finished. All the gentlemen went to take their dinner and Mr. Bumble immediately received instructions to bring Oliver Twist to the *magistrate*⁶ *that very afternoon*.⁷

The magistrate had to give his sanction.⁸ He had to sign a paper permitting Gamfield to take Oliver as his help—a *little chimney-sweep boy*.⁹

And so that very afternoon Mr. Bumble came into the dark cellar where Oliver was sitting. In his hands he had a full basin of gruel and a rather big piece of bread.

1. 三鎊十先令 (英國貨幣: 1 鎊 = 20 先令; 1 先令 = 12 辨士). 2. = ten shillings more than what is enough, 即三鎊已够, 三鎊十先令是多出了十先令. 3. 噓! 噓! (表示不耐煩和輕視之意). 4. 他再便宜不過啦, 就是一點不給什麼也够便宜了! 5. 你这傻瓜! 你这笨家伙! 6. 法官. 7. 在当天下午. very 在这里是形容詞, 有“正好”“恰恰”之意, 和“the”, “this”, “that”連用. 8. 法官还得批准. 9. 一个打扫烟囪的小僕兒.

Seeing this Oliver immediately began to cry. He thought the authorities wanted to *fatten him*¹ and then kill him. *Why else could they give him so much food?*²

"*Don't make your eyes red.*"³ said Mr. Bumble, "but just eat your food. The gentlemen have decided to give you to Mr. Gamfield. He is a chimney-sweep. You will help him to clean chimneys."

But hearing this Oliver continued crying *all the stronger*.⁴

"Come," said Mr. Bumble. "*Don't cry into your gruel.*"⁵ That is very foolish." It certainly was foolish because there was quite enough water in the gruel already.

In a few moments they started walking to the magistrate. On the way Mr. Bumble gave Oliver the necessary instructions.

"Now, Oliver," he said, "*don't look sad.*"⁶ The only thing you have to do is to look happy. *And when the gentleman asks you if you want to be a chimney-sweep, say you want to.*"⁷ That is all. But if you do not do what I tell you—then..."

Mr. Bumble did not finish, but Oliver understood him without words.

Soon they arrived at the magistrate's office. Here Mr. Bumble put him into a little dark room where he stayed for half an hour. At the end of this half-hour Mr. Bumble put his head into the little room and said in a loud and very kind voice:

1. 养肥他。2. 要不然，为什么他们要给他这么多吃的呢？3. 别把你的眼睛哭红了。4. 哭得更厉害。5. 别把眼泪哭到粥里。6. 不要愁眉苦脸。7. 如果这位先生问你是不是要做一个打扫烟囱的人，你就说要。