

OLIVER TWIST

de David LEAN

FICHE TECHNIQUE

Pays : GB

Durée : 1h56

Année : 1947

Genre : Comédie dramatique

Scénario : David LEAN, Stanley HAYNES d'après le roman de Charles DICKENS

Directeur de la photographie : Guy GREEN

Montage : Jack HARRIS

Coproduction : United Artists / Independant Producers

Distribution : Les Acacias

Interprètes : Robert NEWTON (Bill Sikes), Alec GUINNESS (Fagin), John Howard DAVIES (Oliver Twist), Kay WALSH (Nancy)

Sortie : 15 octobre 1948

Reprise : 26 octobre 2005

SYNOPSIS

Après son calvaire dans un orphelinat et un passage chez un fabricant de cercueils, Oliver Twist se retrouve à Londres, dans la bande d'enfants voleurs du vieux Fagin. Après bien des péripéties, il est pris en otage par l'assassin Bill Sikes, mais en réchappe et est recueilli par le bon M. Brownlow.

PISTES PÉDAGOGIQUES

1 – Classes

Secondes, premières : adapter l'étude en fonction du niveau de la classe.

2 – Charles Dickens : a short biography

See web sites.

3 – Plot Synopsis

The novel narrates the story of a young orphan, Oliver Twist, who is confronted to poverty, fear, ill-treatments and hunger but who finally manages to meet kind people who will pity and take care of him. At the end, good triumphs in the face of great adversity.

C'est l'histoire d'un jeune orphelin, Oliver Twist, qui se trouve confronté à la pauvreté, la peur, la violence et la faim, mais qui parvient finalement à rencontrer des personnes pleines de bonté qui auront pitié de lui et le prendront en charge. A la fin, le bien triomphe face à l'adversité.

4 – Themes

Oliver Twist will introduce children to the 19th Century London experienced by the poor : the film recreates the horror of Victorian slum life. (programme d'Histoire en 4^e et 1^e)

The story also provides an example of spousal abuse (Nancy is beaten and then killed when she tries to protect Oliver).

Themes that can be studied : the triumph of good over evil, the lures of temptation, the terrors of fear.

REFERENCES

➤ *Open the window, 2nd*, pp. 104-105-107-109 (manuel)

➤ *Open the window, 2nd*, pp. 88-89-90 (cahier de l'élève)

EXTRAITS DU LIVRE

- p. 12-13 from 'the evening arrived' to 'than I am that that boy will come to be hung'
- p. 95-97 from 'the narrow streets' to 'a deadly white'

Both extract the conditions of life at that time. The first one shows how orphans were treated in a workhouse and could lead to a comparison between nineteenth century's children and today's children.

The second extract shows the world of thieves, poverty and how women from a low social class were considered. It also describes nineteenth century London and can be opposed to the description of a rich scenery outside London where Oliver is being taken care of by Mrs Maylie : p. 204 from 'and when Sunday came' to 'himself'.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

There are many web sites about Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist or the Victorian Era.

- <http://www.perryweb.com/Dickens/> : "Charles Dickens – Gad' Hill Place. Provides a general overview of Dickens's life and work, and delves into points of interest, such as his tussle over copyright. Includes an interactive crossword puzzle" (Britannica.com).
- <http://www.fidnet.com/~dap1955/dickens/> : "David Perdue's Charles Dickens Page".