

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## OLIVER TWIST 1 – BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM, B2

Číslo projektu	CZ.1.07/1.5.00/34.0950
Kódování materiálu	VY_22_INOVACE_fjc_cjn21
Označení materiálu	cjv21_twist1.pdf
Název školy	Gymnázium Kladno
Autor	Mgr. Michaela Stočesová Malá
Anotace	Výukový materiál obsahující cvičení týkající se anglické klasické literatury se zaměřením na život a dílo Charlese Dickense. Materiál je součástí čtyřdílné sady vztahující se k filmu Oliver Twist a byl vytvořen pro jazykovou úroveň B2.
Předmět	Anglický jazyk
Tematická oblast	Anglická literatura
Téma	Oliver Twist 1 – Before watching the film, B2
Očekávané výstupy	Žáci si osvojí, popř. zopakují znalosti o životě a díle Charlese Dickense.
Klíčová slova	Charles Dickens, English literature
Druh učebního materiálu	scénář hodiny
Ročník	3
Cílová skupina	vyšší stupeň osmiletého gymnázia, čtyřleté gymnázium
Ověřeno	9.5.2014, 07
Pokud není uvedeno jinak, uvedený materiál je z vlastních zdrojů autora	

### Metodický pokyn

### Zdroje

[1] Charles Dickens. In: *Biography* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-07-17]. Dostupné z: <http://www.biography.com/people/charles-dickens-9274087>

[2] Charles Dickens. In: *Wikipedia: the free encyclopedia* [online]. San Francisco (CA): Wikimedia Foundation, 2001- [cit. 2014-03-17]. Dostupné z: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Dickens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Dickens)



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### OLIVER TWIST 1 – BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM, B2

#### 1) Brainstorming.

What English writers do you know? Write their names on the blackboard.

If possible, write the names of at least one book written by them.

Have you read any of the books? Tell the class about it.

What do you know about Charles Dickens? Write the facts on the blackboard.

Can you name at least two books written by him?

Do you know any famous literary characters which appeared in his books?

#### 2) Read the text about Charles Dickens.

##### CHARLES DICKENS (1812 - 1870)

Charles Dickens was an English novelist who was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, on the southern coast of England. He came from a big family - he had seven siblings. His parents tried to do their best to look after the family well but despite their effort, the family remained poor.

In 1822, his family moved to a poor neighbourhood in London called Camden Town. Charles' father got in debt and was sent to prison for it in 1824 accompanied by his wife and youngest children as was the practice at that time.

Charles was just 12 years old but because of his father's imprisonment he was forced to leave school to work 10 hours a day at a factory producing boot-blackening. The working conditions were very hard there. The factory was an ugly, filthy place full of rats and young Charles felt depressed and unhappy there. However, he knew working in the factory was the best thing to do to financially support his family. One of the boys who also worked in the factory instructed him on how to work efficiently. The boy's name was Bob Fagin. Charles remembered his name and many years later he used it in *Oliver Twist*, where Fagin is one of the main characters. Charles' personal experience from the boot-blackening factory later became one of the frequent themes in his novels.

Later on, when his father luckily inherited some money from a relative and paid his debts, Charles was allowed to go back to school. However, his mother did not immediately remove him from the boot-blackening factory which led him to the feeling of being abandoned and betrayed by the adults who were supposed to take care of him. He became angry not only because of his own situation, but also because of the dreadful conditions under which poor factory workers or poor people in general had to live and work. This became the major theme of his future works.

Eventually, Charles was sent to the Wellington House Academy in Camden Town, but he did not consider it to be a good school. The discipline was poor and the headmaster acted like a brute and



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sadist. Some of Dickens' memories from this school were later used in *David Copperfield*, his most autobiographical novel.

In 1827 he had to give up his studies and started to work as a junior office clerk at a law office to earn money and contribute to his family's income. In 1828 he left the office to work as a freelance reporter at the law courts of London. Five years later he began publishing sketches to various newspapers and magazines under the pseudonym "Boz". Gradually, he started to be successful. Soon he married Catherine Hogarth with whom he had had 10 children before they separated in 1858.

In 1840s, Dickens became so famous that people recognized him all over London as he was walking round the city collecting inspiration and observations for his future writings. In 1865, he was in a train accident and never fully recovered. He died at his country home in Kent in 1870, at the age of 58. He is buried in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey in London.

### 3) Correct the statements.

**Some of these statements about Charles Dickens' life contain either one or several various mistakes, some of them do not need any corrections.**

- a) Charles Dickens had 7 brothers.
- b) Camden Town, where his family moved in 1822, was a middle-class neighbourhood in Portsmouth.
- c) Charles' father was imprisoned, because he was caught shoplifting.
- d) All members of the Dickens family had to go to prison together with Charles' father.
- e) At the age of 10, Charles had to start working at a factory 12 hours a day.
- f) Although Charles didn't like the factory, it was a relatively nice place.
- g) Bob Fagin was a young boy, who showed Charles how to work fast and well.
- h) After his hard work experience at the factory, Charles was never allowed to go to school again.
- i) Charles' family were released from prison because he had earned enough to pay all their debts.
- j) Charles worked as a junior office clerk at a law office.
- k) Charles married Catherine Hogarth, they had 5 children and lived happily until 1870, when Ch. Dickens died.

### 4) Vocabulary focus. Explain the meaning of the following expressions from the text about Charles Dickens.

siblings, be in debt, boot-blackening, be abandoned, dreadful, autobiographical novel, give up, office clerk, freelance reporter, law court



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**5) Speaking. Without looking at text again, tell your partner what you remember about Charles Dickens' life.**



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### Answer key:

1)

Books written by Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist, The Pickwick Papers, David Copperfield, Little Dorrit, The Old Curiosity Shop, A Christmas Carol, Bleak House...

3)

a) Charles Dickens had 7 brothers.

Charles Dickens had 7 siblings (= brothers and sisters).

b) Camden Town, where his family moved in 1822, was a middle-class neighbourhood in Portsmouth.

Camden Town was a poor neighbourhood in London.

c) Charles' father was imprisoned, because he was caught shoplifting.

His father was imprisoned because he was in debt.

d) All members of the Dickens family had to go to prison together with Charles' father.

Charles didn't have to go to prison with them (and his elder sister too).

e) At the age of 10, Charles had to start working at a factory 12 hours a day.

At the age of 12, Charles had to start working at a factory 10 hours a day.

f) Although Charles didn't like the factory, it was a relatively nice place.

The factory wasn't a nice place at all - it was filthy and full of rats.

g) Bob Fagin was a young boy, who showed Charles how to work fast and well. - True

h) After his hard work experience at the factory, Charles was never allowed to go to school again.

He went to Wellington House Academy (but it wasn't a good school).

i) Charles' family were released from prison because he had earned enough to pay all their debts.

They were released because they inherited some money.

j) Charles worked as a junior office clerk at a law office. - True

k) Charles married Catherine Hogarth, they had 5 children and lived happily until 1870, when Ch. Dickens died.

They had 10 children. They separated in 1858.



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### Sources:

[1] Charles Dickens. In: *Biography* [online]. 2014 [cit. 2014-07-17]. Dostupné z:

<http://www.biography.com/people/charles-dickens-9274087>

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the film: *Oliver Twist* directed by Roman Polanski, UK | Czech Republic | France | Italy, 2005, 130 min.