The present text is an extract from C. Dickens’ “Oliver Twist”. The events are told by a 3rd person narrator. Telling is the most used narrative technique even if showing is used. The extract is settled inside a parish, in particular into a room in which children were fed. The extract reports some events happened during a meal time.

The text can be divided into two principal parts. In the first part, the narrator creates the setting. the second part deals with the protagonist's request of more food and the reaction of his request.

The intention of the writer is to provide a realistic portrait of the Victorian age about the role of men and especially the condition of children.

Right from the start, the writer uses irony to reach his intention. The ironic effect is provided by the exaggeration of:

* The actions of the protagonist, Oliver Twist;
* The reaction of the other people.

In the first lines, the protagonist’s actions of getting up from the table and of going to the master are conveyed with the words “rose” and “advancing”. These linguistic choices make the reader perceive the actions as if they were made without hesitation, while from the previous sequence, he knows it is not so.

The reaction of the master to Oliver’s request is unexpected from the reader: “he turned very pale”, he “clung for support to the copper” and he replied with a “faint voice”. The ironic effect conveyed by these exaggerations make the reader perceive Oliver’s request as a great sin. This reader’s perception is reinforced by the expression “horror […] on every countenance”.

The gravity of the situation is again ironically underlined by the expression "allotted by the dietary". The intelligent reader understands the children have no right to request more than he has been allowed.

in conclusion, the writer with the use of irony wants to implicitly denounce the condition of children, who have no rights towards adults and who are "eliminated" when they cause impediments.