# **Analysis “Oliver wants some more” p.303**

“Oliver wants some more “ it is an extract taken from chapter two from Charles Dickens ‘Oliver Twist, the title of the extract is given by the authors of the our book.

Oliver Twist is a poor boy who stays in a workhouse (a public house), it is mealtime and children are supposed to eat but he can eat only a soup’s bowl; over time they are more and more hungry and Oliver is chosen randomly to ask the master for one more couple of soup. The master’s reaction is violent and surprise; he is surprise and he does not expect anyone to ask some more. Children in that time ( 19 th century) were considered like slaves in the workhouse, they were considered inactive people.

The narrative strategy are different, in the first part of the extract he uses the telling but in the second one he uses the showing technique ; in addition in all the extract he uses rhetoric figure and irony to ridiculed the characters. In fact the ideal reader was who had a certain social prestige or at least was cultured with respect to the figure of poor Oliver. The narrator is a third person omniscient narrator.

The text is arranged in three sequences characterized by different events. In the first sequence (from line 1 to line 21) , in particular in the first line the narrator focuses his attention on the room that are characterized by a large stone hall that conveys the idea of something very cold and represents the idea of absence of communication. The other point of reader’s attention is the figure of master , there isn’t a physical description, but only the description of how he is dressed. He is dressed with an apron “ for the purpose” ; the impression that the reader receives is that the master has a high position and decides what the children must eat. The figure of master assumes an important role in the extract. The cooper and the figure of master prominence position on the centre. The reader can understand the asymmetric relationship between the master and the boy and between the man and the women that assist the master in his task; this element is typical of Victorian age. The role of the women are inferior that the men’s role.

The narrator in all the fist sequence insists in the use of irony to underline the dramatic situation, the boys are very very hungry; an example is “the bowls never wanted washing” but in reality there isn’t much food!

The narrator uses irony to create a funny moment in a first approach but in a second moment he wants to create a sense of pity for the children. In first sequences ends with the with the poor choice of poor Oliver to ask the master for a second ration of food.

In the second sequence the violence of the master is unleashed against Oliver Twist when he asks for another portion of food. The position of power assumed by the master makes him incredulous and almost disoriented in front of the boy's request, so that he pales. Obviously once again, the narrator uses a subtle irony to ridicule the master but also to understand the drama of the situation.

The sequence is characterized by the dialogue , in fact the narrator moves from the telling to the showing to create a the situation more dramatic.

In the last sequence, once again the narrator wants to underline the hierarchical structure that exists at that time. The head of the master takes the final decision to isolate and then literally to sell as a merchandise the poor Oliver who for misfortune and hunger is delivered to whom he wanted to take him to become an apprentice or better to make him a slave...

The text aims to make the reader reflect on the social organization and the problems that were present during an era of great poverty. He also wants to underline that the Church with its "workers" assumed a fundamental role for the poor but also a role-played for those who opposed or tried in some way to rebel against it.