**Remedial work – the Victorian Age**

1. Discuss the idea of children in Victorian fiction with reference to C. Dickens’ novel.

2. Discuss the use of language in *Oliver wants Some More*

3. Discuss the features of the Victorian Compromise

- Pertinenza/relevance: what am I expected to discuss?

- Selezione/selection: what are the relevant information (…., where, which ones, …., why, to what effect/purpose, readers, novelist’s intention, conclusion)

- Organizzazione/textual organization (how do I organize my argumentationðð the logical thread: what information come first, what connectors

- Comunicazione/communication: language: syntax, grammar, flections, word choice

1. The idea of children in Victorian fiction reflects children’s vision in Victorian society. Children were considered inferior to adults and the ones who belonged to the working class had to work hard to survive and were most of the time exploited. Moreover, orphans had to go to warehouses – as Oliver Twist by Dickens confirms–, they were subjected and treated badly by adults, they could not have sufficient meals thus suffering from starvation and they could not take any decision, since their life only depended on adults’ ones.
2. The language in *Oliver wants Some More* reflects the Victorian age’s features. The language is therefore indirect, a bit contradictory and its aim is to denounce upper classes’ behavior towards poor people. The contradiction is made up of two narrative techniques: grotesque and pathos. The first one consists of exaggeration and irony which at first sight could make the reader laugh about such ridicule situations and descriptions; after that there is a sense a pathos which makes the reader feel empathy towards those poor children. The language seems to give value and power to adults while children have a passive role in the economy of the text.
3. By the expression Victorian compromise you generally refer to contradictions of the English society during the Victorian age: on one hand progress, social reforms, improvement of production and transportation means, the promotion of a code of values by the middle class based on hard work, respectability, charity, morality, honesty joined up with injustice, poverty, children exploitation and social unrest. To face these contradictions, the Victorian government had to adopt some economic and political measures which are at the basis of the compromise: a policy of non-interference by the State into Economy was promoted together with some reforms suitable to improve working people’s condition.