

**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
and  
**THE CONSTITUTION**  

---

**OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

# The Constitution of the Italian Republic

## ARTICLE 3

---

“All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal in front of the law, without distinction of: gender, race, language, religion, political opinion, personal and social conditions”.

In particular, it is the duty of the Italian Republic to remove obstacles of any economic and social order, which, by limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, prevent the full development of the human being.

# The Constitution of the Italian Republic

## ARTICLE 32

---

“The Republic protects health as a fundamental right of the human being and an interest of the community and it guarantees free care to the poor”.

In addition, no one can be forced to a specific health treatment except by the law. The law can never violate the limits imposed by the respect for the human being.

# OLIVER TWIST

---

- It was written by Charles Dickens and first appeared in instalments in 1837 and was later published as a book.
- Oliver Twist is a poor boy of unknown parents and is brought up in a workhouse.
- The most important setting of the novel is London, which is depicted at three different social levels.

# “OLIVER WANTS SOME MORE”

## From OLIVER TWIST: CHAPTER 2

**ARTICLE 3 IN “OLIVER WANTS SOME MORE”** → In the text, Oliver and his friends were obliged to **suffer a slow starvation for three months**. After a council was held: someone had to ask to the master of the workhouse for more food and it fell to Oliver Twist.

In particular, C. Dickens makes a very detailed description of children's hunger, obliged to a “*slow starvation for three months*”, or the voracity of the boy that threatened “*to eat the first boy who slept next him*”. With the description the novelist wants to show the reader the terrible condition of life in the workhouses and he wants to arouse pity.

**ARTICLE 32 IN “OLIVER WANTS SOME MORE”** → All over the episodes narrated in this chapter, article 32 is completely violated. It provides a clear example of a lack of interest in the health of the poorest.

# HARD TIMES

---

- It was first published in 1854.
- It is set in an imaginary industrial town named Coketown.
- C. Dickens personally visited some factories in Manchester in early 1839 and was appalled by the harsh working conditions of the workers.

# “THE DEFINITION OF A HORSE”

## FROM HARD TIMES - CHAPTER 2

**ARTICLE 3 IN “THE DEFINITION OF A HORSE”** → Mr. Gradgrind’s behaviour violates article 3 of the Constitution of the Italian Republic because **he hinders the full development of Sissy Jupe** (one of his students).

Indeed, he wants to call Sissy Jupe with her formal name. All aspects in the passage analysed show **an educational process that was impersonal and detached from humanity**.

In addition, calling Sissy “*girl number twenty*” Mr Gradgrind shows he wants a factory-like school that only cares about giving notions to children.

# CONCLUSIONS

---

Charles Dickens is a pioneer in introducing **the theme of education** in his works. Indeed, Mr Gradgrind's characterisation and his desire to establish a "*factory-school*" are closely linked to the vision of **the educational process as an impersonal one.**

Charles Dickens' vision of education and school (which are considered injurious to the children) is perfectly reflected by Mr Gradgrind, who prefers to call Sissy Jupe with her formal name.

The novelist wants the readers to **become aware of the working conditions of some of the factories in the industrial towns of Manchester and Preston.**