CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

HOMEWORKS

CHARLES DICKENS, Oliver Twist, 1837-1839

Oliver wants some more

Chapter 2

The extract is taken from the second chapter of Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist. The topic of the extract is the point when the situation of the kid changes. It also presents Dickens’s point of view about the social problems of his time. The extract is written in third person omniscient intrusive narrator that filters reality from a point of view which brings to surface the main problems of the time like poverty, orphans banished in parishes and the gap between social classes which better witnessed how the Industrial Revolution didn’t bring wellness as well as it produced wealth.

The scene takes place in a workhouse where there are many starved children. The extract stars with a description about children’s conditions in the house where they live focusing especially on the way they were fed. The narrator seems to focus his attention on the uncertain conditions of the children and on the lack of food the master offered them.

These condition are exaggerated by the negative terms used by the narrator to better highlight the precarious situation. He underlines the voracity of the children in eating the food and cleaning their bowls. Moreover the reader can understand that they were so hungry because they watch at the copper with “such eager eyes”.

After a short description the narrator focus his attention on Oliver Twist: the main character of the novel. he tells the reader bout his childhood where the food seems to never be enough. Oliver’s condition are told in a comic way. Even if it seems to be funny, going on reading the situation becomes more and more dramatic. When Oliver decided to ask for more food there is the top of the climax.

At the end of the extract Dickens clearly explains his opinion about his contemporary society and he tries to carry out its main problems. it seems tat Victorian society based its interest in its image and order and seems not to give importance in the healthy and benefits of the population. It results heartless even in front of a little kid that asks for more food and he will be hardly punished for his question. Oliver is an example of the people who damage the order creates by the masters. So he will be expelled.