

The Victorian Age and Today's World

Two eras with similarities and
common characteristics

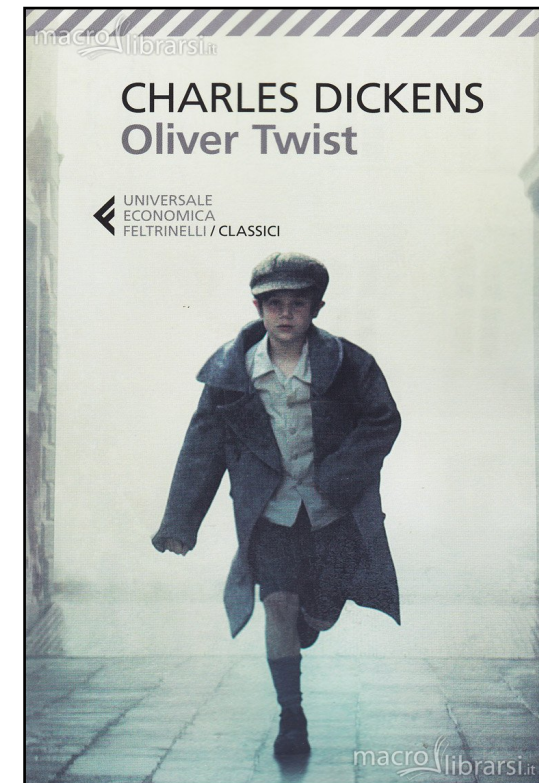
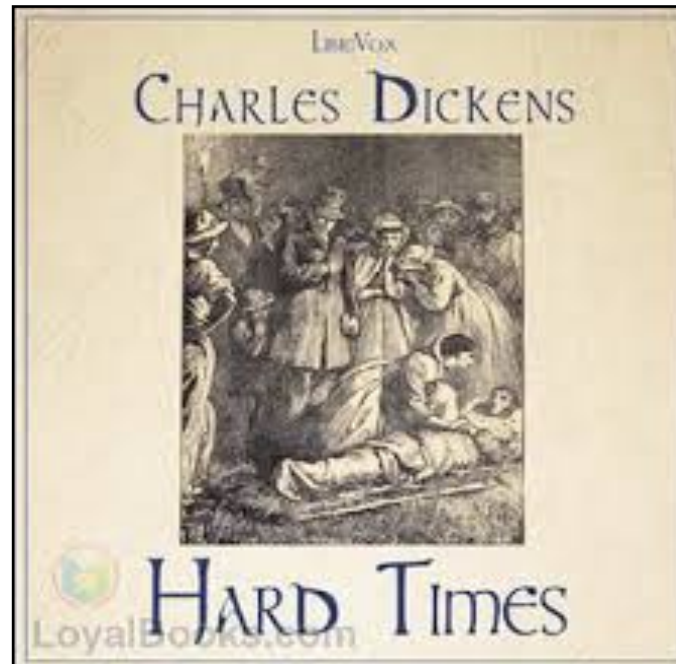


Some examples of points in common can be drawn from literature.

Charles Dickens criticizes the society and the culture of the Victorian Age:

- **Oliver Twist** plays an important role in the sentimental portrayal of childhood, Dickens attacks the social evils of his times

- In **Hard Times** he criticizes the process of industrialisation of towns



Child Labor in Oliver Twist

- Oliver Twist is a poor boy brought up in a workhouse in an inhuman way
- The boys in the workhouse are subject to hard regulations
- Children are forced to work



In Oliver Wants Some More there are some examples that highlight the living conditions of children

- Rations of food are small and the children are very hungry
- The place where they live is poor and shabby
- Children can not rebel against the master, against adults who control them
- The children are sold for little money



Child Labor in Today's World

- **Starvation** is an actual problem which kills everyday a lot of children
- In the world there are more than 150 million children trapped in jobs that endanger their mental and physical health and condemn them to a life without education or leisure
- Child labour is concentrated mainly in the poorest areas of the planet



- Millions of children are employed in various forms of dangerous work, such as working in mines, in contact with chemicals or with dangerous machinery
- The worst forms of child labor also includes street work, especially in biggest cities in **Asia, Latin America and Africa**
- Especially girls are employed in domestic work which often becomes slavery



The industrial development in **Hard Times**

- The **Industrial Revolution** created deplorable living conditions in England like overcrowding in cities as a consequence of the population shift from rural to urban areas
- Victorian town was characterized by squalor, disease and crime, particularly in the slum districts
- The **mortality** rate was high and terrible, the **polluted atmospheres** had a disastrous effect, especially on children's health

- Dickens sets *Hard Times* in the industrial centre of **Coketown**, a sad city and heavily polluted
- Pollution makes the city dirty and unlivable
- The inhabitants are influenced by industrialization that creates diseases and social problems



Industrialization and pollution of cities in Today's World

- Everywhere industrialization is in constant development but creates many negative effects on society and on cities
- The commercial companies compromise the environment by changing the conditions of life just to get wealth and gains
- Pollution is also caused by a need of everyone
- cars, smoke, all new technologies, expose to many risks



- Pollution may be of various kinds: air, water and noise pollution
- **Noise pollution** is the most common but less dangerous, especially in large cities and can cause mental and physical disorders, stress, depression
- **Air and water pollution** often leads to serious health problems

