



Please sir, I want some more.

You all know the sentence from **Oliver Twist**, but what if you 'twisted' the story around a bit and had a go at changing what happened next? You could create a new set of characters, settings and a whole new plot.

To celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of one of the UK's greatest ever writers, Charles Dickens, the 2012 ALCS competition for shadowers is all about twisting a sentence from **Oliver Twist**. We'd like to see if you can take a classic line from one of our greatest writers and turn it into your own story.



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How many words do you need to tell a really good story?

Can you tell a story that's powerful enough to keep an audience hooked in only a few words?

We want to see if you can tell a compelling story **using only 140 words**.

Charles Dickens' writing was popular for many reasons, the powerful characters he wrote about, the dramatic and descriptive settings he used and the way that he used 'cliffhangers' in his stories to keep the audience interested. So, we'd like you to think about those three things when writing your very short story.

You can use the following space to write your story...

Please sir, I want some more...

Your name:

Your age:

Your shadowing group:

Harlaw Academy

Your library or school:

Harlaw Academy

Shadowing group leader's name:

Mrs Alison Ustun

Group leader contact details:

austun080@aberdeenschools.org.uk

Submit



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How to Enter

You can either print this form out, and use the space provided to write your story and post it to us at:

Oliver Twist competition,
The Writers' House,
13 Haydon Street,
London, EC3N 1DB

Or you could use this pdf to send your entry to us by email (write your story on page 2 using your computer and send it in by email using the submit button at the bottom of the form).

Alternatively you could send a word document or an email with your entry in to competition@alcs.co.uk or by post to the above address. Don't forget to let us know who you are, your shadowing group and how to contact you.

Please make sure we receive all entries by 25 May 2012.

The Prizes!

1st Prize – for the winner of the best overall story:

Tickets for you and a chaperone to the Carnegie and Greenaway awards ceremony on 14 June 2012 in London

A Samsung Galaxy Tablet for you
A selection of Carnegie and Greenaway shortlisted books
£500 worth of library books for your school library

2 x Runner up prizes:

A selection of Carnegie and Greenaway shortlisted books

Rules

1. Your story must begin with the sentence: "Please sir I want some more"
2. You may only use 140 words to write your story.
3. Think about the characters, setting and the plot of your story; try and channel some 'Dickensian' influence into your story if you can.
4. Be as creative as you can.
5. The submission deadline is Friday 25 May 2012. All entries (post or email) must reach ALCS by that date.

Teaching resources

ALCS has this year worked with the National Schools Partnership on another project based around Charles Dickens. What the Dickens? – www.whatthedickens.org – is a full teaching resource for key stage 2-3 students, which includes a variety of lesson plans about Charles Dickens. The programme is fully aligned to the National Curriculum, the lesson plans look at Dickens' characters, settings and his use of the 'cliff-hanger'.





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Copyright

Copyright was something that was very important to Charles Dickens. His books were very popular across the world, but at that time the USA did not recognise the copyright of UK authors, so publishers freely printed and sold their own copies of Dickens' works and he didn't receive a penny for the sale. Dickens was very vocal about the unfairness of this and campaigned extensively for copyright to be more widely recognised.

Copyright is just as relevant to all types of creators today. You may have heard discussion on the news or among your friends about the ownership of the pictures or video clips that are uploaded to social media sites such as facebook or YouTube. Sharing your photos among your friends is fine, but would you be happy for a company to use an image of yours and say – made a t-shirt of it – and not pay you for the use?

All types of social media have rules and policies on what they will and won't do with the items you add to their sites which you should read thoroughly before you sign up and be aware of.

Here are a few things that ALCS would like young people to know about copyright:

- **Copyright** is a rule that **protects** something; if you came up with an idea, and then created something from the idea (for example you wrote a book) then the copyright belongs to you. **Like an invisible shield of protection.**
- Copyright can enable you to **make money from selling your work**. Would you think it right or wrong to copy a story from your friend's book and then sell it? How would you feel if they did it to you?
- You can **give (license or assign) copyright** to someone else, e.g. a publisher, if you want to. Then they can make money from selling your creation if they want to.
- You can show that copyright exists in something by writing the **symbol ©** e.g. © John Smith, 2012 but, if you created it, then the copyright is yours, whether you've written the symbol or not. Like we said before, it's **invisible protection**, it doesn't need a symbol.
- Copyright continues to protect a work for **70 years** after a writer has died. It carries on protecting the work that's been created.
- Copyright applies to all **written work, music, images** and more. The text books you read were written by an author, just as the songs you listen to were written by a songwriter. Just because you haven't heard of them doesn't mean that you shouldn't **think about their copyright**; they might not write anything ever again if you don't.