

Student Essay on Why Is Oliver Twist Popular?

Why Is Oliver Twist Popular? by Charles Dickens

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Essay

Oliver Twist is considered one of the most popular novels in the history of world literature. However, unlike what the reader may expect, it does not contain the unique vision to human nature that exists in Shakespeare's works.

In general, the novel introduces the most contradicting facets in human character: pure goodness represented in Oliver and wretchedness represented in many different characters in the novel like Mr. Bumble. Moreover, all the novel's characters, except Nancy, are flat. Moreover, Dickens exaggerates the badness of his characters, for example Miss Mann, she steals children's food and clothes and treats them in a ruthless way. The reader cannot find anything good about her! On the other hand, there is Oliver, who is the goodness angel in the novel that evil fails to find his way to his heart! Moreover, Dickens strengthens his exaggeration by using contrast. Oliver, the angel, challenges the rules of Mr. Bumble, the devil, when Oliver asks for some more.

However, the fact that no one can divide people into two categories spoils the greatness of the novel. Moreover, the reader sees people do evil but does not understand why. Mr. Bumble treats Oliver badly and exploits other children without any clear reason. On the other hand, there is unnatural goodness in Oliver. It is impossible for a child in his age to resist temptation with such a admirable will that seldom adults have!

Nevertheless, the reader may be confused about the reason that 'Oliver Twist' is so popular. I am sure that everyone will see a different reason. However, in my opinion, I think this is because the novel is extremely amusing. One does not feel the time while reading it. Moreover, being an effective story about a child's abuse grants it a renewable effect upon different readers from different societies. Finally, I do not think that the novel is about something unique. Poverty exists in all societies around the world - perhaps worse than Oliver sees - but there is no writer who can delineate it like Dickens.

All in all, whatever people say about Dickens, he is still one of the greatest novelists in English Literature.