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TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33B, CHD.
CLASS : IX

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE
PROSE OLIVER ASKS FOR MORE

PASSAGE 1.

- (i) The poor people did not have any money. They did not have any place to live in. A few of them used to be orphans as well. Such type of people lived in work houses.
- (ii) The babies born in the workhouse were named from A-Z. The last one was named Swrubble. The present one was named Twist and the next one would be Unwin.
- (iii) Oliver's young mother was lying ill in the room. There was also a doctor and an old woman who were standing by her side.
- (iv) First, she wanted to have a look at her newly born child. Secondly, she did not want to live any more as she knew her end was quite near. These were her two wishes.
- (v) The old woman was emotionally shattered on hearing her talking about death. The doctor handed over the baby to the young woman who wanted to see her baby one last time.

PASSAGE 2.

- (i) She refers to the young woman who happens to be Oliver's mother in the story. She had

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expressed her desire to see her child one last time as the chances of her survival seemed very bleak. Besides this, she had extended the wish that she did not want to live any more.

- (ii) After kissing the baby 'poor dear' convey the feelings of pity and sympathy for the young unmarried mother, woman fell back dead.
- (iii) The doctor was told that the baby's mother was brought to the workhouse the previous night. She was lying in the street. Nobody knew where she came from and where she was going. The young woman was in a miserable condition when she was brought to the workhouse.
- (iv) When the doctor looked at the dead woman's ringless hand, he easily admitted that she was not married. It was the usual story during those days.
- (v) When the doctor went away for dinner, the old woman sat in front of fire, took the baby in her lap and dressed it in very old clothes. Such clothes were used to those babies who were born in the workhouse.

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Passage 3 :

- (i) The organisers of the workhouse were unable to find out who the baby's father was as a young woman had given birth to Oliver in the workhouse and the woman was not wearing any wedding ring on her finger and even had died after giving birth and having a look at Oliver. They did not even know the name of his mother.
- (ii) Mr. Bumble was an important officer in the town. He invented a name for the baby by keeping with the ritual of naming the babies of the workhouse alphabetically. The last baby before Oliver was named Swubble so the present one had to be Twist and the next one was going to be Unwin.
- (iii) 'We' mentioned in the passage are the important ^{person} persons of the town. They named the new babies of the workhouse in order from A to Z.
- (iv) Oliver looked pale, lean and thin at the age of nine. He looked so because he was underfed at the workhouse. He used to get only one small bowl of soup and no more. This food wasn't sufficient for him to quench his appetite. He also didn't have even warm clothes to cover his body.
- (v) The usual food of workhouse boys thin bowl of soup thrice a day. However, ^{on} Sunday the boys

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- (v) used to have a piece of bread but still they were not allowed to ask for more amount of food than the specified one.

PASSAGE 4 :

- (i) The master hit Oliver with a spoon because he had asked for more soup. In fact they were not permitted to do so. They were expected to survive on one small bowl of thin soup thrice a day.
- (ii) He called Mr. Bumble for help, meaning that Oliver had asked for more. So Mr. Bumble took him away as he had got infuriated on Oliver's audacity to ask for more and then shut him in a dark room.
- (iii) This sentence is spoken in a ridiculous tone. It is thus spoken because it was quite unexpected of any boy to ask for more. The boys were expected to be contented with whatever little they were given.
- (iv) The notice said that five pounds would be given to the person who would take Oliver Twist. Oliver being the weakest and meekest was probably chosen to be adopted by somebody and was not exposed to hanging.
- (v) The boys in the workhouse were treated very badly. The housekeepers like Mr. Bumble were

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very callous. They exploited|exploited the boys badly. The boys were famished and beaten even. Nobody was expected to raise a voice against them.

PASSAGE 5:

- (ii) He referred to the doctor in the first line of the extract. The doctor was present by the side of the young woman when her son was born. She was lying at the time.
- (lii) The absence of the ring on the finger shows that the young woman was unmarried. Her partner had deserted her at that crucial time when her delivery time was around the corner.
- (lii) When 'he' i.e. the doctor had gone home, the old woman sat down on a chair in front of fire. Then
- (liv) she began to dress the baby.
The newly born baby was dressed in very old clothes which were used for dressing the babies of the poor house
- (v) The last line shows the society of that time in poor light. The affluent section of the society didn't bother about the poor and the destitute. They had no sympathy for these people and thus they openly flouted the Christian values.