THEATRE THREE presents *Oliver!* The sides do NOT have to be memorized.

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE READ THE FOLLOWING SPEECH: *(To OLIVER, inviting him to live at Fagin's.)*

Accommodate you shall be, me old mate. There's a certain house—and I know a respectable old gentleman who lives there, who'll give you lodging for nothing, and never ask for the change—and that is, if any other gentleman who he knows introduces you. And does he know me? I should say he does! I happen to be a particular favorite of Mister Fagin … that's his name—Mister Fagin. By the way, if I'm introducing you to Fagin, I better know who you are.

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(OLIVER meets THE ARTFUL DODGER. PLEASE NOTE: The role of THE ARTFUL DODGER is cast.)

DODGER. What yer starin' at? Ain't yer never seen a gent?

OLIVER. No, I haven't.

DODGER. Tired?

OLIVER. I've been walking for seven days.

DODGER. Seven days … You must be running away from the Beak.

OLIVER. The what?

DODGER. Now don't say yer don't know what a beak is, me flash mate?

OLIVER. Isn't a beak what a bird's got?

DODGER. My eyes—how green! A beak—is a madg'strate, for your hinformation. 'Ungry?

OLIVER. Starving.

DODGER. Got no mother?

OLIVER. No.

DODGER. Father?

OLIVER. No. I'm an orphan.

DODGER. Staying in London?

OLIVER. Yes.

DODGER. Got any lodgings?

OLIVER. No.

DODGER. Money?

OLIVER. Not a farthing. Do you live in London?

DODGER. When I'm at home. I suppose you want some place to sleep tonight, don't you? Are you accommodated?

OLIVER. No, I don't think so …

DODGER. Than accommodate you shall be, me old mate. There's a certain house—and I know a respectable old gentleman as lives there, wot'll give you lodgin' for nothink, and never ask for the change.

OLIVER. Who is the respectable old gentleman, then? Is he a charity gentleman?

DODGER. Well, I wouldn't eggzackly say that—not eggzackly. By the way, if I'm interducing you to Fagin, I better know who you are, me old china plate.

OLIVER. My name's Oliver—Oliver Twist.

DODGER. And my name's Jack Dawkins—better known among me more hintimate friends as the Artful Dodger.

OLIVER. Pleased to meet you, Mister Dawkins.

DODGER. Come to think of it, I ain't got no hintimate friends. Still, what's the difference, you're coming with me.

OLIVER. Are you sure Mr. Fagin won't mind?