

NEWSPAPER REPORT

Your task is to write a front page newspaper report based on the murder of Nancy by Bill Sikes. You will have to re-read the relevant parts of the play/story [pages 80 – 83 in the play / Chapters 47-48 in the original novel]. Once you have gathered the information - *what? when? where? who?* - it is then a question of making sure you get the style right. Remember that all the essential details must come in the first few sentences of your report.

To help you, below is a possible version of how a newspaper may have covered the follow-up story – Sikes' own death.

LONDON GAZETTE

Thursday 4th March 1864

FINAL EDITION

one penny

MURDERER DIES AFTER POLICE MANHUNT

A man wanted for the brutal murder of an East End prostitute was himself killed as he attempted to evade capture by police yesterday.

Mr William Sikes - who was being sought in connection with the death of his common-law wife, Nancy Brown - was shot by a police marksman. as he desperately tried to avoid arrest. Sikes had callously abducted twelve year old orphan boy, Oliver Twist, in the vain hope of keeping the police at bay. However, the sure aim of Constable Francis Crackshot

wounded Sikes and ensured the well being of the terrified boy. Sikes had been in hiding for almost thirty six hours since the. Discovery of the cruelly battered corpse of Miss Brown in the Whitechapel area of the city on Monday. Sikes had been seen fleeing the scene of the crime in 'an agitated state' according to one eye witness. Police believe that Sikes - a known burglar and feared by locals for his violent temper - killed Miss Nancy Brown after he had learned of her reporting his recent criminal activities to

certain respectable parties. Apparently Miss Brown had become concerned at the involvement, by force, of innocent children in Sikes' illegal activities. Tragically, Miss Brown's effort to save the likes of Oliver Twist cost her life. Police also arrested another man believed to be an accomplice of William Sikes in a series of robberies Joshua Ezekiel Fagin, 55, is to appear at Bow Street Magistrates court tomorrow to face charges of receiving stolen goods and abduction.