**VIEWPOINT ACTIVITY SHEET 1**

**POINT OF VIEW IN STORIES AND FILM: *OLIVER TWIST***

Some novels or poems are told in the ‘first person’, usually narrated by a character (or characters) who have a part to play in the story. In this case, the narrator will tell the story using ‘I’ or ‘we’. In this way, we have a particular character’s point-of-view on events.

Some novels or poems are written in the ‘third person’: in this case, we don’t have a character telling the story; instead, we read about what the characters are doing rather than them telling the reader directly. The story will be told using ‘he’, ‘she’, ‘they’ or ‘it’. The narrator might still focus on a particular character’s part in the story.

In film, you might still have a narrator telling parts of the story in the ‘voiceover’. However, this is usually just a small part of a film: what happens on screen, in terms of action and dialogue, is the main way in which a story is told on film. The way in which film can show us different characters’ viewpoints, and encourage us to have sympathy for certain characters, is very interesting to explore.

**VIEWING ACTIVITIES**

Read the questions below before watching the clip called ***Oliver Twist*: Opening sequence** on the DVD**.** You will need to watch the clip twice.Work with a partner to answer the questions as you watch.

First viewing:

1. How are we encouraged to feel about Oliver in this clip? Can you explain the different ways the filmmakers have tried to create this effect?

Second viewing:

1. Count how many different shots are in the sequence.
2. How many of the shots is Oliver in (tip: it is easier to count how many he’s not in)?

In the clip, the camera generally stays with Oliver; sometimes it is closer to him and sometimes further away. Generally, it shows us where he is and what he is doing, or what is happening around him; it doesn’t tend to show us things Oliver can’t see. In this way, we can guess that the film is going to focus on Oliver and events that involve him. There is also a hint in the film’s title that Oliver will be the focus!