

## 'Street Child' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. What is the main difference between the prologue (Tell Me Your Story, Jim) and Chapter 1 (The Shilling Pie)?

The prologue is written in the first person and the first chapter is in the third person.

2. Why is Jim's story so special to Barnie?

Meeting Jim changed Barnie's life and the story is special to him.

3. Read the opening paragraph on p.15. What evidence is there that this story isn't set in the modern day?

Range of answers, e.g. The author mentions that there are carriages on the street, drawn by horses. The shops had hanging lamps outside.

4. Why do you think Mrs Hodder is 'sick of little boys today'?

She constantly has hungry boys waiting for scraps by the shop door and getting in the way of her paying customers. As well as children, she has dogs that are waiting too.

5. What does the word 'prised' mean on p.16?

The word 'prised' means to use force to open something to get an object out.

6. Why is Jim shovelling in the pie so fast?

He is really hungry and is trying to fill himself up as quickly as possible.

💡 7. What impression do you get of Lizzie? Use evidence from the text.

Range of answers, e.g. Lizzie seems to be the sister who understands her mother's needs the best. She knows it's important to get her mother to try to eat something. She is also good at reassuring and explaining things to Jim, e.g. she says, "She's tired is all..." when Ma refuses the food.

8. What are 'lie-abeds,' as Mr Spink calls them, on p.20?

People who stay in bed when they should have woken up and started the day



9. Give 3 ways that the reader can tell Mr Spink is not a nice character?

1. He pushes the children aside in order to see their mother

2. He claims that Ma must be in bed because she thinks she's a grand lady with nothing to do, other than count her money.

3. He has no sympathy for the family's situation and demands they move out because another family can move in and pay him money.

10. Who is moving into the room when the Jarvis family moves out?

A family of eight who have the money to pay the rent

