



## Word Analysis

1. On **page 11** it says: “*Billy grasped his stubby sweeps’ brush ...*” Which word is the best synonym for ‘stubby’?
  - a) Thin
  - b) Thick
2. On **page 11** Billy has “*a fleeting memory of a tiny room up a narrow flight of stairs ...*” What do you think the word ‘fleeting’ means?
3. Find one adjective on each page. Write your own sentences about the job of a chimney sweep, using these adjectives
4. On **page 11**, find the simile used to describe Gerard’s beard.
  - Write your own description of your teacher, using similes to do with their job.
5. On **page 12**, Billy thinks about getting “*the odd swig of gin*”, and on **page 14** he feels “*oddly at peace*”. What does the word ‘odd’ mean in each of these sentences?
6. On **page 15**, Tosher is described as having a “*shock of bright red hair*”. What does the word ‘shock’ mean here?

## Inference

1. On **page 10** we read: “*It was only when the crying stopped that Billy knew he would not be coming down again.*” What happened to the unnamed boy?
2. On **page 11** Billy reflects that “*the chimney would swallow him alive if he gave it half a chance.*” What does this tell you about Billy’s job, and Billy’s attitude?
3. Do you think Billy enjoys his job? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Compare Billy and Tosher’s attitudes to their job. You can draw a table, or two spider diagrams. Find quotes from the text to support your answers.
5. Based on what you read on **page 16**, and what we know of Tosher, what do you think Tosher might have been showing to Billy?



## Word Analysis

1. b) Thick
2. Reference is made to something happening quickly or swiftly. Collins Dictionary: “Used to describe something which lasts only for a very short time.”
3. Any adjective taken from the relevant section. Examples include: dirty, hot, black, cramped, cheap, narrow, tight. Teachers may judge whether adjectives have been used correctly.
4. “... as thick as the brushes that were his livelihood.”
  - Teachers may evaluate the success of example sentences!
5. Page 12: occasional, happening from time to time; Page 14: strangely, an unfamiliar sensation
6. A bright clump or tuft - ie Tosher has lots of very brightly-coloured hair

## Inference

1. Reference is made to the boy dying.
2. Reference is made to Billy’s job being dangerous and possibly fatal; Billy’s attitude is careful and cautious.
3. Student gives an opinion one way or the other, but **must** use evidence to back up their opinion.
4. Teachers may evaluate the success of this task.
5. Reference is made to something stolen or taken; but all reasonably-argued answers are deemed appropriate. The idea is more to get the students to explore character.