



Word Analysis

1. Read page 19
 - a) Find and copy one word used to describe Gerard's hands.
 - b) Can you find any other adjectives to describe Gerard's hands in the chapter?
2. What simile is used to describe Tosher's hair on page 23?
3. "*The wind in the alley cut through them instantly.*" What does 'cut through them instantly' mean?
4. On page 17 we read, "*flues ... ran up the backbone of the house like a river with many tributaries*"
 - a) What are tributaries?
 - b) What image does this give you?
5. On page 21, we read that Gerard "*adopted the writhing, fawning attitude he reserved for the clients ...*" What do these words mean:
 - a) writhing
 - b) fawning
6. On page 23 we read the word "*obsequious*". What do you think this might mean?

Inference

1. On page 19 Billy does something surprising.
 - a) What does this tell you about Billy's character?
 - b) How do the little 'uns respond, and what does this tell you about their character?
2. On page 20 it says, "*to his way of thinking every speck was coin stolen from his purse.*" What are these words telling us about Gerard?
3. What is the difference in the relationship between Billy and the little 'uns, and Billy and Tosher? How can you tell there is a difference?
4. Why do you think Gerard's clients say nothing about his treatment of the boys?
5. Where do you think the silver spoon could have come from? What does its appearance mean for Billy and Tosher?



Word Analysis

1. a) meaty
b) Acceptable answers include: blackened paw, fist, palm etc
2. 'sprouting out from under the brim in all directions like an orange explosion'
3. Reference is made to the wind being very cold, strong, fierce or painful.
4. a) Collins Dictionary: "*a stream or river that flows into a larger one*"
b) Reference is made to many flues meeting and joining
5. a) writhing: twisting and turning
b) fawning: flattering and generally behaving in an ingratiating manner
6. Collins Dictionary: "*Too eager to help or agree with someone more important than them.*"

Inference

1. a) Reference is made to bravery, helpfulness, or other positive and outward-going character traits
b) They are unthankful, and say nothing, which suggests they do not care for Billy, or they are selfish, or they are protecting themselves from Gerard
2. Reference is made to being mean, cheap, greedy or otherwise obsessed with money
3. Reference is made to friendship, support and mutual help, as well as conversation and interest in one another. Examples could include Tosher's noticing of Billy's injury.
4. Reference is made to the chimneys being swept, to turning a blind eye, not caring about children, maintaining the status quo, culture, etc.
5. Reference is made to stealing, or the spoon otherwise having come from somewhere else. Reference is made to potential trouble for Billy and Tosher in the future. All reasonable extrapolations can be considered.