

**Chapters 23 & 24 – Reading Comprehension ANSWERS**

Questions:

- 1) What does Jim think is wrong with Shrimps? (*Retrieval*)

*He thinks that he has Cholera*

- 2) Why do you think Shrimps refuses to go to the hospital? (*Infer & Interpret*)

*Any answer that refers to Shrimps being afraid of going to hospital and dying because they don't give him treatment because he can't afford it, or because he thinks that they will send him to the workhouse once they have treated him.*

*2 marks for an answer with full explanation and evidence from the text.*

*E.g.*

*I think Shrimps refuses to go to the hospital because he thinks that if he goes to hospital they will make him better and then send him to the workhouse. I know this because in the story we have heard that people in the workhouse had come in from hospital. Shrimps won't want to go to the workhouse because he knows it's a bleak and dismal place where you are not free to do what you want and he likes being a 'free' character.*

- 3) Which word is closest in meaning to 'costermongers'? (*Word meaning*)

Tick one:

lawyer  
trader  
teacher  
policeman

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- 4) Look at page 176 (Chapter 24). How do we know that children were often ill and mistreated during the Victorian Era? (*Infer & Interpret*)

*Any answer that refers to Shrimps being in a crate, the police catching them and putting them in jail or the workhouse, adults ignoring children who were homeless and hungry, adults turning their backs on them, people saying that the workhouse was the only place for them even though they know the workhouse is a terrible place.*

*E.g.*

*I know that children were often ill and mistreated during the Victorian era because it says "they'd seen many a child in that state before, and they just shrugged" which suggests that lots of children were kept in crates rather than living in lovely houses and that people just ignored it if they saw it, rather than trying to help them. Also it says that "Shrimps was afraid that their hiding-place would be found by the police". By saying that Shrimps was afraid it suggests that the police would not have done anything to help the children. Finally, when Jim said that Shrimps was scared of being taken to the workhouse, the woman said "Nowhere else for him" and turned her back on the crate and started walking away. This tells me that she did not want to or try to do anything to help him. She was quite happy to see a small boy, weak, ill and in pain living in a tiny wooden crate in the middle of winter.*

- 5) What does the woman mean when she says "Cept a pauper's grave, and that'll be a blessing."? (*Infer & Interpret*)

*She is suggesting that if Shrimps were to die, he would be in a better place than having to live on the streets, in a wooden crate, in the bitter cold and with nothing to eat but scraps and leftovers.*

- 6) Why do you think the theatre goes ignore Jim and pretend that they haven't even seen him? (*Infer & Interpret*)

*Any answer that suggests that they did not want to give him money, be near enough to smell him (as the rich Victorians thought the poor Victorians smelt terrible), near enough to catch any of the illnesses or diseases they might have had or to be seen close to a poor, ragged child by any other rich Victorians in case they thought that they were actually talking to them.*

E.g.

*I think they pretended that they hadn't seen him because they didn't want to give him any money so if they turned away, they wouldn't have to see his sad, poor, weak face and feel guilty about not helping him.*

7) What do you think they author meant when they wrote that the theatre goers "swarmed" in? (Author word choices)

*Bees are said to 'swarm' and this is when they fly together in a large group, making lots of noise so I think that the theatre goers were moving together and noisily, into the theatre. It suggests that they were going in quickly, like bees, so that they didn't have to spend any more time outside, around the poor people.*

8) Why do you think Jim gets upset and refuses to go to 'The Ragged School'? (infer & Interpret)

*Any answer that suggests it is because Jim thinks it will be like the school in the workhouse and that he will be treated badly in there.*

9) Put these events in the order in which they happen in Chapters 23 & 24. (Sequence & Summarise)

One has been done for you:

The boy takes Jim to see Shrimps.	3
The boy says he reminds him of 'Skipping Jim'.	2
The straw is spotted with blood.	6
Shrimps said he didn't want to go to 'ospickal'.	4
Jim danced for the people in the theatre queue	5
Jim offers to help the woman selling seafood	1

10) Do you think Shrimps will make it through the night and still be alive in the morning? (Predict)

Tick one and explain your answer with evidence from the text.

YES   NO   MAYBE

*Any answer is correct if they have used evidence from the book to back up their opinion.*

E.g.

Yes.

*Jim is going to put his worries about going to 'school' behind him for his friend because he loves Shrimps like a brother, and he is going to go and see the 'Doctor'. The Doctor will come and look at Shrimps and take him to his school to help him get better. The children in the school will pray for Shrimps because we know that they do a lot of praying at the school and, in Victorian times, they had strong belief in god so the praying will probably work.*

No.

*They may have said 'no' and referred to the fact that it was difficult to recover from Cholera in Victorian times unless you had money to get you access to hospital and medicines that would help and Shrimps is living in a crate in the middle of winter with no food to help him get better. Also, once you start coughing up blood, that was a sign that you were not going to recover from it.*