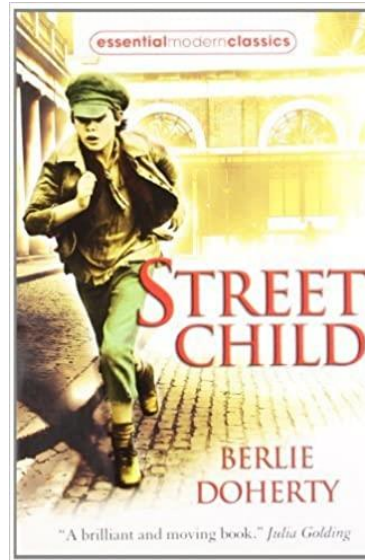


# STREET CHILD KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Name of book:	Street Child
Date Published:	1995
Author:	Berlie Doherty
Setting:	London – 1860s, workhouse
Genre:	Adventure, Historical Fiction
Themes:	injustice, poverty, child labour, cruelty, loneliness, responsibility, mistrust, resilience, humanity.



KEY QUOTES	
“Take ‘em to the workhouse,” the policeman said. “Let them die in there, if they have to.”	
“Now, them’s the boys what tried to run away. They catch ‘em and stick ‘em in there till they’re good. Remember that.”	
“They didn’t often laugh. There wasn’t much for them to laugh at.”	

DISCUSSION POINTS	
▪ What was life like for poor people in Victorian times?	
▪ Why do you think the workhouses were designed to look and be like a prison?	
▪ Why do you think the schoolteachers ‘beat’ the children in Victorian times? Was this right?	
▪ Jim has several ‘homes’ during the course of the story. How would you define the word ‘home’? Do you think Jim could call any of the places that he lived a ‘home’?	

VOCABULARY		
asylum	A place where people are cared for.	
brazier	A metal container for holding lit coals.	
clamour	A loud noise.	
coamings	A raised edge to keep out water.	

gruel	Thin oat mixture boiled with water.	
infirmary	A place to care for the ill or injured.	
lashed	Hit with a whip or cane.	
malevolence	Doing unkind things to others.	
scrawny	Very thin and skinny.	
scullery	A room where food is prepared.	
shilling	Former British coin which would have been roughly a week’s pay.	
sluice	A channel of water.	
wharf	A place in the water where ships and boats dock.	
whelks	An edible sea snail in a shell.	