



Lyra has escaped from Mrs Coulter and is now alone in London. How do you think she is feeling? Use evidence from the picture.
Remember PEE!

Task 2 - Read an extract of the book which describes Lyra's journey through London

She walked quickly away from the river, because the embankment was wide and well lit.

There was a of narrow streets between there and the Royal Arctic Institute, which was the only place Lyra was sure of being able to find, and into that dark maze she hurried now.

If only she knew London as well as she knew Oxford! Then she would have known which streets to avoid; or where she could some food; or best of all, which doors to knock on and find shelter. In that cold night, the dark alleys all around were alive with movement and secret life, and she knew none of it.

Pantalaimon became a wildcat and the dark all around with his night-piercing eyes. Every so often he'd stop,, and she would turn aside from the entrance she'd been about to go down. The night was full of noises: bursts of drunken laughter, two voices raised in song, the clatter and whine of some badly oiled machine in a basement. Lyra walked delicately through it all, her senses and mingled with Pantalaimon's, keeping to the shadows and the narrow alleys.

What can we infer about Lyra's situation from the first sentence?

Look at the missing words. Use meaning seeking strategies to work out what could go there.

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Here are words which could be used. Can you decide which word should be used in each sentence?

Scanned

tangle

magnified

Scrounge

raucous

bristling

Task 3 - Here are the words in the correct place. Try to decide what you think they mean and then decide what that infers about Lyra and the situation she is in.

She walked quickly away from the river, because the embankment was wide and well lit. There was a **tangle** of narrow streets between there and the Royal Arctic Institute, which was the only place Lyra was sure of being able to find, and into that dark maze she hurried now.

If only she knew London as well as she knew Oxford! Then she would have known which streets to avoid; or where she could **scrounge** some food; or best of all, which doors to knock on and find shelter. In that cold night, the dark alleys all around were alive with movement and secret life, and she knew none of it.

Pantalaimon became a wildcat and **scanned** the dark all around with his night-piercing eyes. Every so often he'd stop, **bristling**, and she would turn aside from the entrance she'd been about to go down. The night was full of noises: bursts of drunken laughter, two **raucous** voices raised in song, the clatter and whine of some badly oiled machine in a basement. Lyra walked delicately through it all, her senses **magnified** and mingled with Pantalaimon's, **keeping to the shadows** and the narrow alleys.

Word or phrase	What do you think it means?	What does the word/phrase suggest or infer?
Tangle	An untidy mass of things (eg string)	That Lyra was likely to get lost
Scrounge		
Scanned		
Bristling		
raucous		
magnified		
Keeping to the shadows		

Task 4 - Putting it into practice

Now you have practiced inferring meaning of words, give these questions a try.

1. Lyra has been grabbed and tied up in a net. Then she is rescued

Running feet, and someone **hauled** the man away and bent over him; then other hands lifted Lyra, a knife snicked and pulled and the net strings fell away one by one, and she tore them off, spitting, and **hurled** herself down to cuddle Pantalaimon.

a) What does the word hauled suggest about the size of the man?

b) What does the word hurled infer about how Lyra was feeling about her daemon Pan?

2. Lyra is being searched for by the police (who have been sent by Mrs Coulter)

There was a secret compartment beneath Ma's bunk, where Lyra lay cramped for two hours while the police banged up and down the length of the boat unsuccessfully.

a) What does the word cramped suggest about the size of the secret compartment?

b) What does the phrase banged up and down infer about the manner in which the police were conducting their search?



Task 5

In the next part of the story, Lyra is rescued by the Gyptians (canal people) who are searching for their missing children (who Mrs Coulter has kidnapped). The next tasks focus on Lyra's letter to The Master, in Oxford, where she tells him that she is safe.

Take some time to read the letter and highlight any information that tells you about the characters. You might want to colour code it for each character: Tony, Benjamin and Mrs Coulter.

Dear Master

I am now safe with the Costa family on their Canal Boat. We have to stay in hiding most of the time because Mrs Coulter has ordered the Magisterium to search high and low for me.

My best friends are Benjamin and Tony. They are Gyptians and know the waters like the back of their hand. They are both really courageous (nothing would send shivers down their spine) and also agile like monkeys. Tony is determined to make a difference. I am less sure of Benjamin; he's humorous and kind but a bit defiant when people give orders and when push comes to shove I think he might be a bit disloyal.

I am glad I'm away from Mrs Coulter. She's much more tenacious than I first thought (once she decides on something she never gives up) and she definitely has a nasty streak if you cross her but I don't think she's totally evil. She is though as stubborn as a mule.

I have to go now as I am being called by John Faa and Fardar Coram. They are two men who take care of me. I hope all is good in Oxford

Lyra

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Now you have read the letter can you sort the words and phrases to match the characteristics of the person.

Person	Characteristics
Tony	
Benjamin	
Mrs Coulter	

Look at the extract from the book. What additional things does the extract tell about John Faa's and Farder Coram's character?

Explain one feature of each of their character using evidence from the text to support your answer

John Faa let the noise continue for a minute, and then raised his hand for silence again.

“This'll take a while to organize. I want the heads of the families to raise a tax and muster a levy. We'll meet again here in three days' time. In between now and then I'm a going to talk with the child I mentioned before, and with Farder Coram, and form a plan to put before you when we meet. Goodnight to ye all.”

His massive, plain, blunt presence was enough to calm them.

Read the first paragraph

Look at the second paragraph. What evidence is there that

1) John Faa is curious?

2) Farder Coram is intelligent?

She felt in the pocket of the wolfskin coat and took out the velvet package. She laid it on the table, and she sensed John Faa's massive simple curiosity and Farder Coram's bright flickering intelligence both trained on it like searchlights.

When she laid the alethiometer bare, it was Farder Coram who spoke first. "I never thought I'd ever set eyes on one of them again. That's a symbol reader. Did he tell you anything about it, child?"

"No. Only that I'd have to work out how to read it by myself. And he called it an alethiometer."

"What's that mean?" said John Faa, turning to his companion.

"That's a Greek word. I reckon it's from aletheia, which means truth. It's a truth measure. And have you worked out how to use it?" he said to her.