



When Meggy stood up again, the carter and the wagon had gone. Her eyes filled but her hands held tightly to her walking sticks so she could not dash the tears away. She sat down and stroked Louise's soft white head.

Meggy softly sang a song she had learned from her granny but the sound of her trembling voice in the empty room was so mournful that she stopped and sat silently while the darkness grew.

Earlier that day, Meggy and the carter had arrived in London. Even though it was a light summer's evening, the streets were gloomy, with tall houses looming on either side. The air reeked with the putrid smell of fish and the sewage in the gutter and the road was slippery with horse droppings. Crowds of barking people, clamorous church bells and the clatter of cart wheels rumbling on cobbles made Meggy's head ache, accustomed as she was to the gentle stillness of the country.

"Good even', mistress," the carter had called to a bent, wrinkled and hairy-chinned woman with a tray of fish hanging from her neck. "Know you where we might find the house at the Sign of the Sun?"

"I cannot seem to recall," the fishwife said, "But I'm sure I'd remember if my palm were crossed with a penny."

She stuck out her hand, knobbly and begrimed. The carter frowned and grunted but finally took a penny from the purse tied at his waist and flicked it at her. She plucked it from the air and flashed a gummy smile.

"Up Fish Street Hill a little ways is Crooked Lane," she said, "You will see the Sign of the Sun six or more houses up the lane."

Crooked Lane. The carter had laughed.

As the fishwife had said, six houses up Crooked Lane, three storeys high and adorned with the sign, was the narrowest house Meggy had ever seen, hardly wider than six feet. Its timbers were black with age and its painted plaster was flaking. A bay window on each floor was fitted with small panes, dusty and cracked. The upper floors hung over the street, as all the houses in the lane did so that the street was in constant shadow. To the right of the house was a shop, shuttered and dark, with a large wooden shoe hanging above the doorway. On the other side was a seller of old clothes.

"Old cloaks? Have you an old cloak to sell?" The merchant called from the door of his shop.

"Away, fellow," the carter said, "We have business with the master here."

The man snorted. "Business? With him? Abracadabra more like!" And he spat.

Meggy shivered now, recalling the incident. "Abracadabra? What could he have meant? Oh, This is a horrid city! Hearken to me, Louise," Meggy went on, "On London Bridge I saw heads, people's heads, heads black with rot and mounted on stakes, hair blowing in the summer wind like flags at a fair. Traitors, the carter said."

Heads...She shivered again.

As twilight turned to night, Meggy lay down and tried to make herself comfortable on the straw pallet. She did not know what hurt most – her aching legs, her empty belly or her troubled heart. Pulling her cloak over her and Louise, she breathed in the familiar smell of goose and fell asleep.

	OPENING TASK	FOLLOW UP					
<b>Monday</b> <i>Vocabulary development &amp; Familiarisation</i>	<p>Skim the text. Can you quickly find the following words?</p> <table><tr><td><i>mournful</i></td><td><i>putrid</i></td><td><i>clamorous</i></td><td><i>adorned</i></td><td><i>familiar</i></td></tr></table> <p>Write each word and its definition. Write 3 synonyms and 3 collocations for each word. Explore and identify synonyms (same meaning) and antonyms (opposite meaning) and any collocations (words that are linked and commonly used together).</p>	<i>mournful</i>	<i>putrid</i>	<i>clamorous</i>	<i>adorned</i>	<i>familiar</i>	<p>Complete three out of these six stem sentences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I know this text is about...</li><li>2. I found this text....</li><li>3. I like this sentence...because...</li><li>4. This reminds me of.....</li><li>5. I have never heard of....</li><li>6. I already know about....</li></ol>
<i>mournful</i>	<i>putrid</i>	<i>clamorous</i>	<i>adorned</i>	<i>familiar</i>			
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>Fluency &amp; understanding</i>	<p>Read the text slowly to yourself. Can you visualise the London streets? Can you picture the house on Crooked Lane? What does the fishwife look like?</p>	<p>Read the text again aloud. Summarise the text in a maximum of 3 sentences or draw a cartoon strip to show the main points.</p>					
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>Prosody (reading with appropriate pace and expression) and Prediction</i>	<p>Read the text aloud again to practise using expression.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Why might the carter have laughed when he learned he was taking Meggy to Crooked Lane?</li><li>2. Do you think the carter will turn out to be Meggy’s friend?</li><li>3. What will happen when Meggy wakes up in the morning?</li></ol>					
<b>Thursday</b> <i>Word attack</i>	<p>Use the new vocabulary from Monday in sentences.  Look at the word ‘<i>accustomed</i>’. Can you break it apart using your phonics skills? What is the root of the word? What other words can be made from that word?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Find and copy one word meaning ‘<i>permanent or continual</i>’.</li><li>2. Meggy uses an old-fashioned word for ‘<i>listen</i>’. What is it?</li><li>3. Which word matches the definition ‘<i>to be worried, distressed or agitated</i>’?</li><li>4. What group of words indicate the passing of time?</li></ol>					
<b>Friday</b> <i>Focused Comprehension Skills</i>	<p>Answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Why does Meggy cry when she realises the carter has left?</li><li>2. What sights and sounds does the author use to create the atmosphere of London?</li><li>3. How might we know that the fishwife is old?</li><li>4. What kind of shop is to the right of the house on Crooked Lane?</li></ol>	<p>Extra Challenge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is the clothes seller suggesting about the owner of the house when he says ‘<i>Abracadabra more like!</i>’?</li><li>2. ‘<i>Heads...</i>’ What do you think the author is suggesting by the use of the ellipsis?</li><li>3. Why might Meggy have a ‘<i>troubled heart</i>’ as she tries to go to sleep? Suggest at least two things.</li></ol>					