Street Child by Berlie Doherty: Reading Comprehension Questions

Chapters 22 and 23

1. Why did Jim steal from the woman on the farm rather than asking for help?
2. Read the bottom of page 164, what does ‘cramming’ mean?
3. Find the simile in the first paragraph of page 165.
4. On page 165, ‘trudging’ is used to describe how the beggars are walking. Explain what ‘trudging’ means.
5. What were the only two things that Jim had to call his own?
6. Find and write down the sentence on page 166 that describes Jim’s walk along the lanes.
7. Where previously in the book has the author referred to the sky as being grey?
8. At the end of the chapter, why was the air becoming hazier and sootier?
9. Read the first paragraph of page 167. Why was everything ‘growing familiar, yet everything was wrong’?
10. On page 168 describe the phrase the author uses to describe the woman’s laugh.
11. What does the phrase ‘pastures new’ mean?
12. Describe what the woman liked like that Jim met near the river on page 168.
13. Read page 170. Why were ‘Jim’s spirits up’?
14. On page 171, what work do you think the boy needs to do?
15. Why do you think Jim is ‘deeply afraid’?
16. Summarise what has happened in Chapters 22 and Chapters 23.