Street Child – Chapter 2 ‘The Stick Man’

After reading/listening to Chapter 2 ‘The Stick Man’, please read through and discuss these questions.

- How do you think Jim might feel as Spink visits to collect the rent, then evicts the family when he realises Ma is penniless? What small details does the author include to ensure we see the scene unfold through Jim’s eyes?
- What kind of person do you think Spink is? What evidence do you have from the text about his personality, the kind of things he says and does and the way he looks? What impression do you think he might make on Jim and his sisters as they meet him? What impression do you think he might make on you?
- With your understanding of how accommodation is rented, do you think Spink is a reputable landlord? Do you think Jim’s ma could ask for time to pay the rent? How do you think Spink might respond?
- Do you think Jim understands what is going on and how ill Ma is? Do you think she will be able to find them a home, as she says?
- What do you think Jim believes will happen? What do you predict will happen?