Street Child - Chapter 1 ‘The Shilling Pie’

After reading/listening to Chapter 1 ‘The Shilling Pie’, please read through and discuss these questions.

- What do you think is happening in this piece of writing? What makes you think that?
- What do you think Jim is thinking as he rushes to the meat pudding shop, as he purchases the pie, and as he rushes it home?
- Following your predictions from the cover, what further clues to the time and place the story is set did you come across as you were listening? What do they tell you about Jim and his family and their situation?
- Why do you think Mrs Hodder is so unwelcoming to a customer, and so fed up of boys? What do you think this tells you about what it was like to be a child in Victorian times?
- What impression do you get of the place where Jim and his family are living? What do you think it tells you about their circumstances?
- Why do you think Jim is excited about the pie, yet his sisters are trying to be quiet? What does Jim’s understanding of Ma’s condition tell you about him compared to his sisters?
- Why do you think Ma spent her last money on a pie she cannot eat? Do you think she intended to eat it when she sent Jim to buy it?
- Do you feel like eating when you are poorly? What kind of things might you manage to eat? Have you ever eaten a steamed meat pudding? Do you think you would want to eat it if you were unwell?
- What do you think is wrong with Ma? Do you think she will feel better in the morning? What mood does the end of the chapter create in you as a reader? How does the author manage this?