



Comprehension Questions

1. What was Joseph employed to do?
 - a sit crouched with his legs pulled up
 - b haul coal tubs along tunnels
 - c open and close a trapdoor
 - d collect dripping water
 - e cut away at the coalface with a pickaxe

2. Joseph's father was blind because...
 - a he had been born that way.
 - b he had an incurable disease.
 - c of a childhood accident.
 - d of a mining accident.
 - e he hadn't eaten healthily for years.

3. Why did Mary, the knocker-up, need to use a bamboo pole?
 - a to reach the bedroom windows
 - b to poke at people in their beds
 - c to prop up the slate boards
 - d to find her way in the dark
 - e to protect herself from rats

4. Joseph worked in the darkness. Why didn't he have a candle?
 - a it was a luxury he couldn't afford
 - b he was too young
 - c there was not enough space for a candle
 - d he couldn't be trusted with a naked flame
 - e he liked to work in darkness



5. *Joseph flinched from another blow.* Which of the following words is closest in meaning to *flinched*?
- a stumbled
 - b walked
 - c cried
 - d pinched
 - e cowered