



Comprehension Questions

1. What did the work of a hurrier involve?
 - a opening and closing trapdoors
 - b pushing coal-filled tubs
 - c encouraging others to work faster
 - d extracting coal with a pickaxe
 - e hauling tubs of coal

2. Why were hurriers and thrusters needed in the coal mines?
 - a coal mine owners couldn't afford many pit ponies
 - b to keep an eye on the trappers
 - c the deepest tunnels were too narrow for pit ponies
 - d to keep dangerous gases away
 - e to work in pairs

3. Who did William blame for the death of his father?
 - a his mother
 - b Joseph
 - c Alfie
 - d Thomas Foster
 - e the minister from the chapel

4. "*The Butty docked me a penny for being slow with the last tub...*"
What is the meaning of the word *docked* in the quote above?
 - a found
 - b offered
 - c showed
 - d delayed
 - e deducted



5. What did William and Joseph have in common?
- a their fathers had been in a mining accident
 - b they were both puny lads
 - c they both worked as hurriers
 - d they were around the same age
 - e they both had a younger brother called Alfie