

## Chapter 7

### The secret of the locket

They reached the bridge at dawn. Mr. Brownlow was waiting, just as Nancy had promised. "Run!" she cried to Oliver.

56

Oliver dashed forward. He'd almost reached Mr. Brownlow's outstretched arms when Nancy's frightened voice made him turn around.

"W-why did you follow me, Bill?"

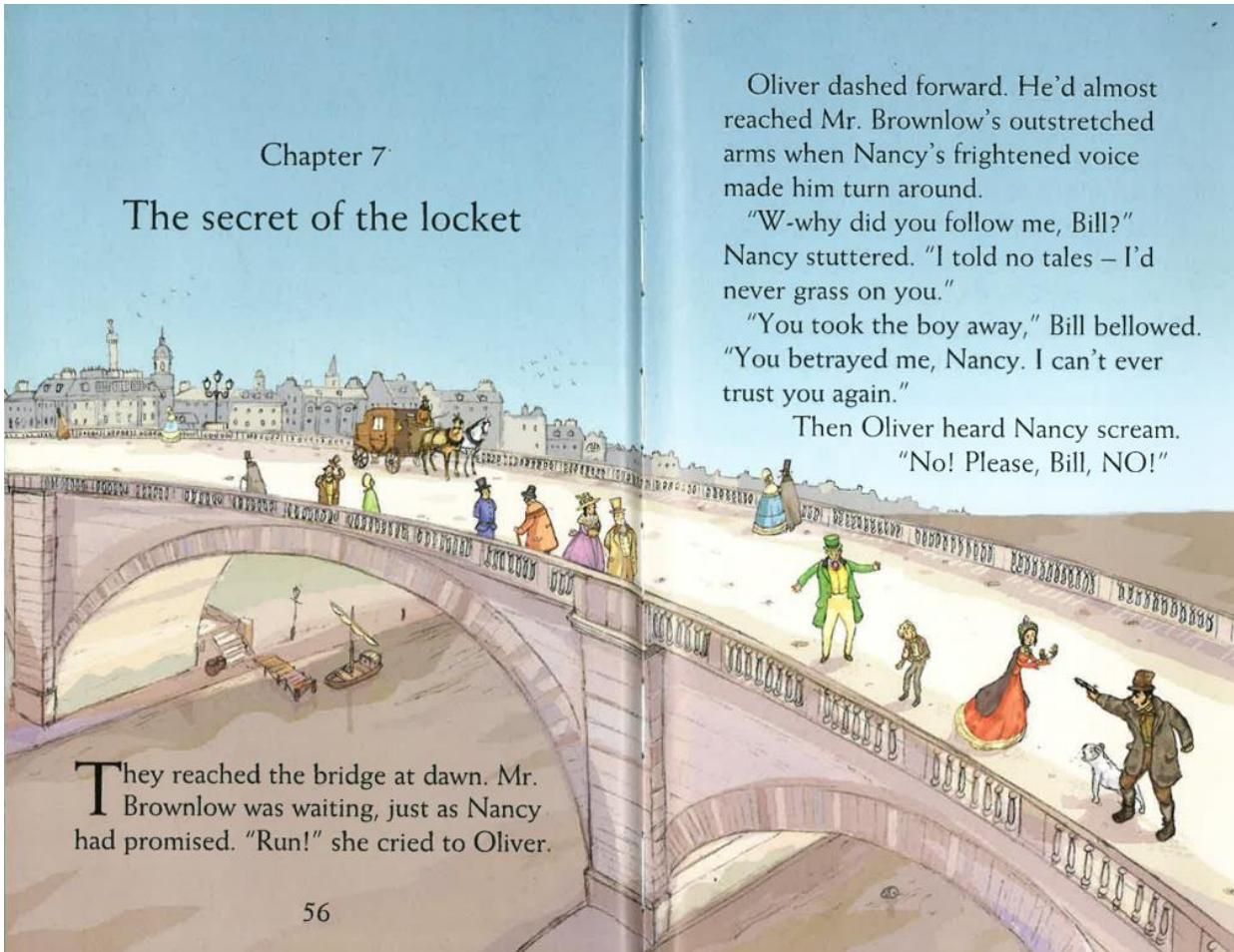
Nancy stuttered. "I told no tales – I'd never grass on you."

"You took the boy away," Bill bellowed.

"You betrayed me, Nancy. I can't ever trust you again."

Then Oliver heard Nancy scream.

"No! Please, Bill, NO!"



### Questions

Summarise the last two chapters in ten points.

What does Nancy mean when she says, "I'd never grass on you"?

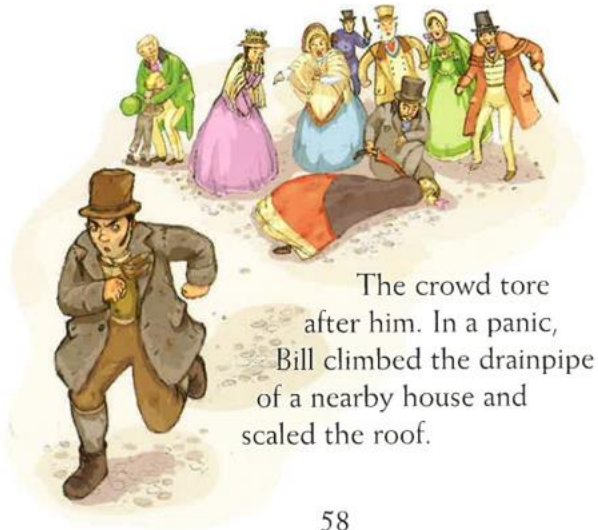
What time did they meet on the bridge?

BANG! A pistol shot exploded and Nancy slumped lifeless to the ground. Bill swore and closed his eyes. "I had to kill her," he muttered.

Oliver was frozen to the spot with terror.

"I'm here, Oliver," said Mr. Brownlow, reassuringly. "Come to me. Don't look."

By now, a crowd had appeared, drawn by the sound of the pistol shot. Bill fled from the bridge, desperate to escape.

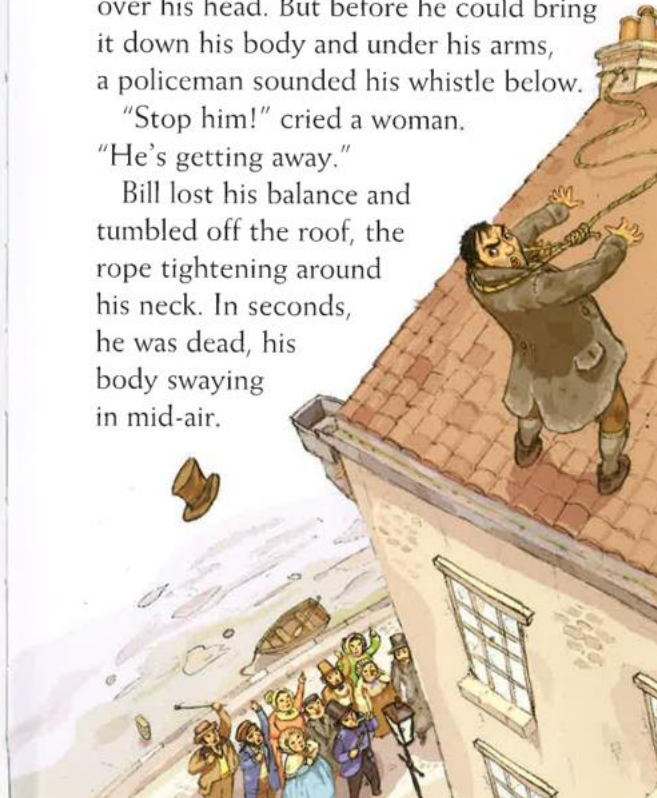


The crowd tore after him. In a panic, Bill climbed the drainpipe of a nearby house and scaled the roof.

He grabbed a rope that was dangling from its chimney, intending to swing over to the roof of the house opposite. Quickly, he made a loop and slipped it over his head. But before he could bring it down his body and under his arms, a policeman sounded his whistle below.

"Stop him!" cried a woman. "He's getting away."

Bill lost his balance and tumbled off the roof, the rope tightening around his neck. In seconds, he was dead, his body swaying in mid-air.

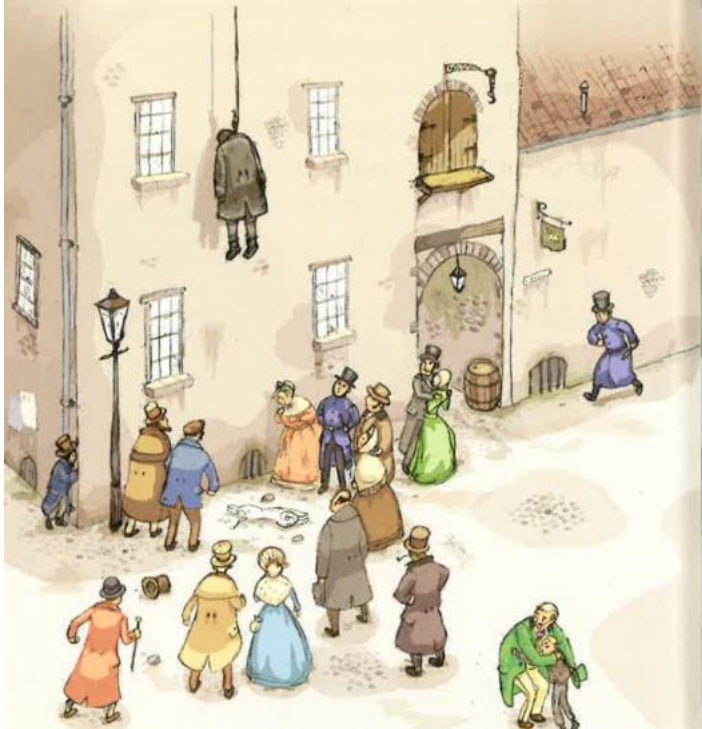


### Questions

Why do you think Bill had to kill Nancy?

How do you think Bill felt when he killed Nancy?

Bullseye ran back and forth, howling dismally. Then the dog leaped at the dead man, trying to reach him. Instead, he dashed his head on a stone windowsill and fell to the ground. The dog was as dead as his master.



Mr. Brownlow held Oliver firmly in his arms. Oliver couldn't stop shaking.

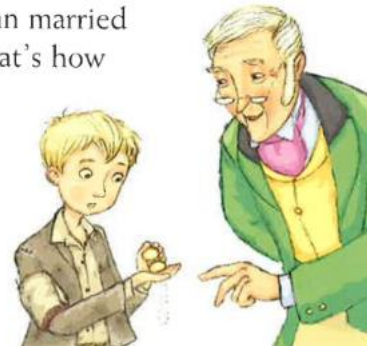
"Nothing can hurt you now," Mr. Brownlow told him. "You're safe. Bill deserved that, for what he did to Nancy."

"Poor Nancy," Oliver sobbed.

"Yes, she was a brave girl." He hugged Oliver tightly. "Listen, Oliver, I have good news for both of us. I went to see Mr. Bumble and he gave me this." He handed Oliver a gold locket. "Open it."

Oliver looked at the inscription inside. "Agnes," he read.

"Mrs. Mann, the midwife who was with your mother at the workhouse, stole this locket from her. Later, Mrs. Mann married Mr. Bumble. That's how he discovered the locket."



### Questions

Why was Bullseye jumping up to Bill?

Why do you think Oliver was shaking?

What does "dismally" mean?

Who is Agnes?

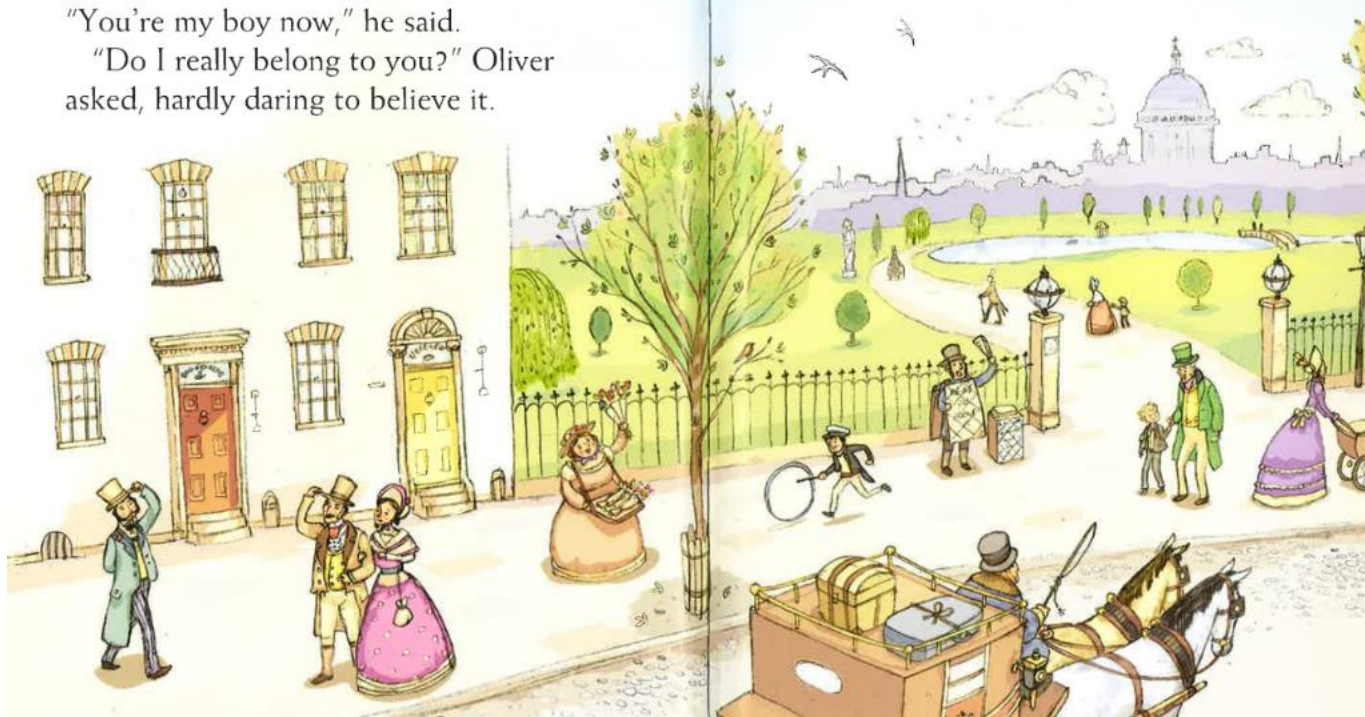
"Was Agnes my mother?" Oliver asked.  
"Yes. Your mother and my niece. I gave her the locket many years ago – I recognized it at once. You remember her portrait at home? You look just like her."

Mr. Brownlow hugged Oliver again.  
"You're my boy now," he said.

"Do I really belong to you?" Oliver asked, hardly daring to believe it.

Mr. Brownlow smiled. "You really do. Please God, your unhappy life is over forever. Let's go, Oliver. Mrs. Bedwin is longing to see you again."

And, hand-in-hand, they walked home.



### Questions

How do you think Oliver felt when he found out he could stay with Mr Brownlow?

Create a small review of the book? Include:

- If you liked it or not and why?
- Brief summary of what happened.
- Who would you recommend it to?