**Skill Focus: Vocabulary and Inference**

**Starter: Using the sentences in the extract to help you, can you infer the meanings of these wordS?**

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| --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Meaning** |
| **copper** |  |
| **ladled** |  |
| **gruel** |  |
| **porringer** |  |
| **assiduously**  |  |

**Main activity: Inference questions**

1. What impressions do you get of the way the children are treated in the workhouse? (2 marks)

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1. *The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons til they shone again.*

What does the description above suggest about the boys? (1 mark)

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1. Why do the boys suck their fingers? (1 mark)

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1. What impression do you get of the other boys in the workhouse? (2 marks)

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1. *The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper.*

What does this description suggest about the master’s mood? (2 marks)

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1. *The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arms; and shrieked aloud for the beadle.*

Write the meaning of the word *pinioned*  in this sentence (1 mark) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who do you think the beadle could be? (1 mark) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How has life in Victorian England been made to seem really hard for children in this text? (3 marks)

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