


Before you read the story

1 I was so excited ...

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a) What special event or situation were you so excited about that you found it hard to sleep at bedtime?

concert • important sports match • cool holiday • day trip
• sleepover • party • visit to ... • audition • part in a play • ...

 b) Why was it special? Was it as good as you hoped? Talk about it with a partner.

2 A London street

a) Describe this picture of a London street.



I can see ... • there's/there are ... • It's ... • on the left/right • gas lamps • carriages • grand buildings • carts • ...

b) The picture in a) shows a street in London in the 1830s. How is it different from today?

bedtime ['bedtaɪm] Schlafenszeit • **carriage** ['kærɪdʒ] Kutsche • **grand** [grænd] vornehm • **cart** [ka:t] Karre

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1 Holly is in trouble

1 Holly was very excited about the class play at the end of school year. It was “Oliver” and she had a big role in the play. She sat up in bed and read the play once more so that she could remember all her lines. It was late and she
5 was tired. She looked at the alarm clock and yawned. It was twenty minutes past her normal bedtime. “Just ten more minutes.” The words on the page were now difficult to read and her eyelids felt heavy.

Suddenly Holly was very, very cold. She looked around
10 her and it was in the very early hours of the morning. It was a typical winter morning in London, cold and foggy. Then she heard a voice.

“Holly?”

Holly!

could [kʊd] konnte, konnten • to yawn [jɔ:n] gähnen • eyelid [ˈaɪlɪd] Augenlid • voice [vɔɪs] Stimme

1 She turned and saw Luke with his black cap on.
He walked up to her and called out, "You're not usually out and about so early."

"Hi Luke," said Holly. "No, but Mum asked me to take
5 some special pies to my aunt's."

"Pies? Yummy," said Luke. "Let's see what ..."

"Sorry, Luke. I'm already on my way back. I'm cold and I'm hungry too – I really need some breakfast."

10 "Me too. Hey, let's have breakfast together. I know where we can get some really great food, and get out of the cold."

"Oh really? Where's that?" asked Holly.

"In a very grand house. It belongs to this rich lord.

The house is near an orphanage."

15 Holly looked puzzled.

"Olivia now works in the kitchen there.

I help her with the heavy work. Then

I can help myself to any left-overs.

Don't worry. You won't have to do any heavy work."

1 "But Luke, I don't want to take the food you've done all the work for. That's not fair."

"There's always lots of food left over. That's what friends are for!"

5 "Thanks, Luke, I'm very grateful. Look, I'm shivering."

"The house is about two miles away, but if I can get my plan to work, then we can get there very soon."

"What plan?" asked Holly.

"We can get a ride on a post carriage."

10 Just then they heard church bells.

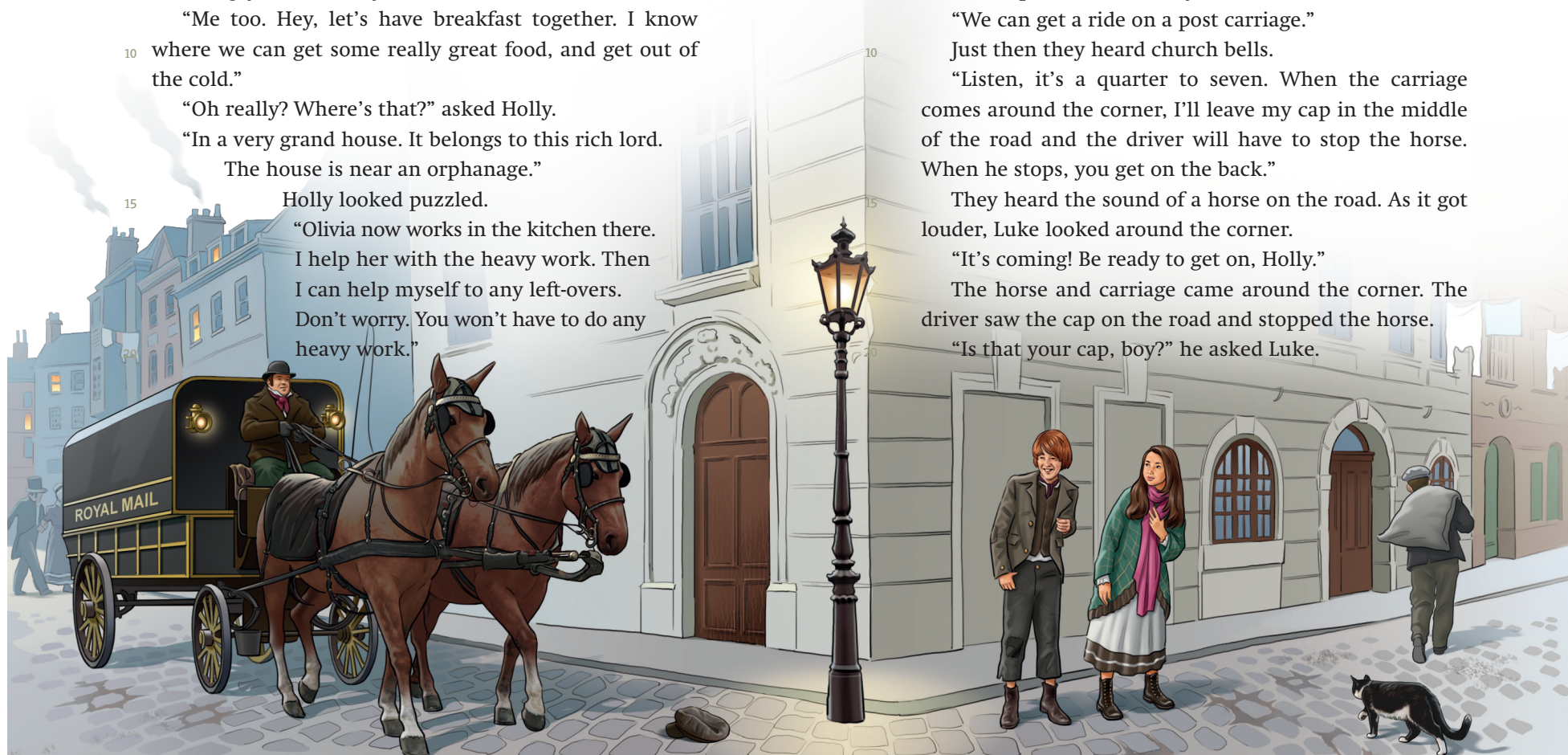
"Listen, it's a quarter to seven. When the carriage comes around the corner, I'll leave my cap in the middle of the road and the driver will have to stop the horse. When he stops, you get on the back."

They heard the sound of a horse on the road. As it got louder, Luke looked around the corner.

"It's coming! Be ready to get on, Holly."

The horse and carriage came around the corner. The driver saw the cap on the road and stopped the horse.

15 "Is that your cap, boy?" he asked Luke.



lord [lɔ:d] Lord, adliger Herr • orphanage ['ɔ:fnɪdʒ] Waisenhaus

grateful ['grɛɪtfl] dankbar • to shiver ['ʃɪvə] zittern