

Name _____

Read this passage from the end of chapter 8 and answer the questions below.

For a long time that night, Oliver lay awake, thinking about Bill's threats. Weary with watching and anxiety, he fell asleep at last. When he awoke, the table was covered with tea-things, and Sikes was thrusting various articles into the pockets of his coat, which hung over the back of a chair. Nancy was busily engaged in preparing breakfast. It was not yet daylight, for the candle was still burning, and it was quite dark outside. A sharp rain, too, was beating against the window-panes, and the sky looked black and cloudy. "Now, then!" growled Sikes, as Oliver started up, "half-past five! Look sharp, or you'll get no breakfast, for it is late." Nancy, scarcely looking at the boy, threw him a handkerchief to tie round his throat. Sikes gave him a large rough cape to button over his shoulders. He gave his hand to the robber, who, merely pausing to show him with a menacing gesture that he had that same pistol in a side-pocket of his coat, clasped it firmly in his, and, exchanging a farewell with Nancy, led him away.

1. Why can't Oliver sleep?
 - a) He is anxious and worried about what is going to happen.
 - b) He is excited and looking forward to the next day.
 - c) He is concerned for Nancy's health and safety.
2. The author includes the descriptions of the dark morning, rain and the "black and cloudy sky" primarily to...
 - a) show the distrust existing between two characters.
 - b) emphasise the beauty of the natural world.
 - c) foreshadow the dangerous events that are coming.
3. "Sharp" most nearly means
 - a) stinging.
 - b) extreme.
 - c) fast.
4. In the context of the passage, the author's use of the phrase "pausing to show him with a menacing gesture that he had the same pistol in a side-pocket of his coat" is primarily meant to convey the idea that
 - a) Oliver and Bill Sikes are going to hurt other people.
 - b) Oliver's life is in danger while he is with Bill Sikes.
 - c) Oliver is going to try to put Bill's life in danger.