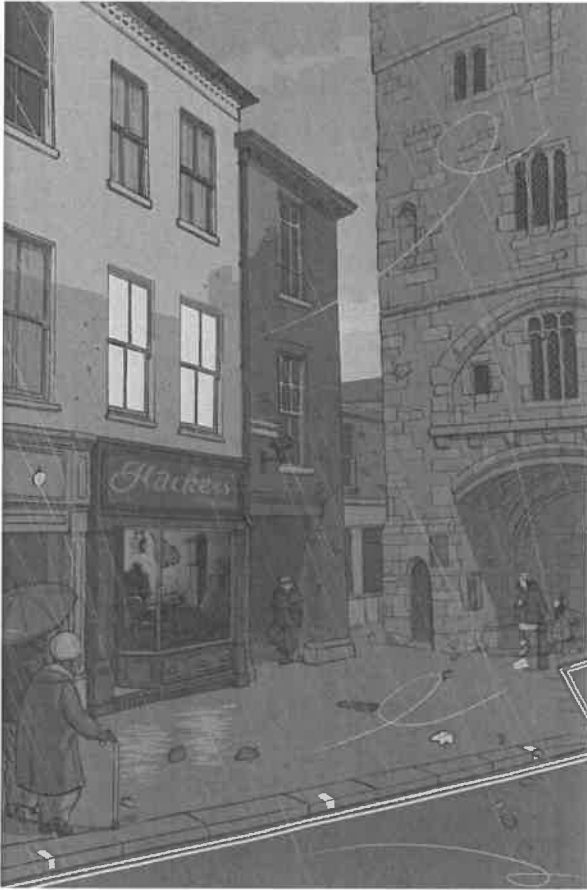


# Viking Voyage

Fattened raindrops peppered the first-floor window like tiny stones, reminding Tilda and Charlie Hacker that the freshness of spring was still several months away.

At ground level beneath them was Hackers' Antiques. On the busy street outside, the icy winter weather pushed York's shoppers straight past the family's shop with barely a second glance. Most had their faces protected against the biting chill by snug hoods; others shielded themselves from the relentless downpour beneath large, colourful umbrellas. It seemed that nobody had time for a browse today.



None of this mattered, though, to the two siblings in the lounge above the shop. A warm and crackling fire kept the winter cold at bay, bathing them both in orange light and heat as they sat across from each other on the floor.

The pink tip of ten-year-old Charlie's tongue looked like it was trying to escape from his mouth as he focused on scrubbing the last bits of dirt from his goalkeeper boots.

"Do you *have* to do that in here?" Tilda eventually asked. "There's muck everywhere!"

Charlie scrunched up his face. "I don't *want* to do it at all but Mum says they need cleaning before the next match and I'm not doing them outside in this weather."

Tilda's freckled nose wrinkled as she sighed. "Well, you could try and be more careful about it. You're flicking dirt all over my stitching. I want to get this finished today and I don't want it ruined before it's even done."

Charlie peered down at the handmade item nestled on his eleven-year-old sister's knee. Several days ago, he'd watched Tilda use a paper pattern to cut shapes from



a single sheet of fabric. He was amazed to see that those shapes had now been transformed into quite an impressive satchel, although he'd never admit that to her.

"What's the rush?" he asked. "Hoping to sell it at the next car boot sale?"



Tilda's creased forehead told him she wasn't pleased with the suggestion. "Car boot sales are for selling junk. Does this look like junk?"

"No! Of course not!" Charlie shook his head. "I just..."

"Mum says she might be able to sell this in the shop," Tilda interrupted. "We found a Viking pattern online."

Tilda and Charlie lived above their family's shop, Hackers' Antiques, which was located in York's city centre. York was a city with a rich history and tourists loved to come and hear about all the different cultures that had made a home there over the centuries. The Viking period was just one of the past eras that added to stories of the city's background. The siblings couldn't help but hear lots about it – whether it was at school, in their parents' shop or from the many historical attractions they'd visited over the years.

Charlie snorted, "A Viking pattern? Did Vikings even make satchels? Weren't they too busy burning villages down and stealing people's gold and silver?"

Now, it was Tilda's turn to shake her head, sending her blonde hair swishing like a horse's tail. "You're only thinking of the warriors. I'm talking about the normal Vikings who settled in York. Most of them were ordinary people who made things to use and sell."



# Questions

1. How much older is Tilda than Charlie?

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2. Which of these statements best describes Tilda's feelings in the text? Tick **one**.

- She is cross that she has to do some stitching.
- She is unhappy that it is raining.
- She is annoyed that Charlie is cleaning his dirty football boots in the house.
- She is amazed that she has made a satchel.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning '**Tilda and Charlie lived above their family's shop**'. Find and copy **one** word that could be used instead of 'brother and sister'.

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4. What job do Charlie and Tilda's parents do? Tick **one**.

- They work in a school.
- They run an antiques shop.
- They are cleaners.
- They organise car boot sales.

5. **He was amazed to see that those shapes had now been transformed into quite an impressive satchel, although he'd never admit that to her.**

Why do you think Charlie would never admit to Tilda what he thinks about the satchel?

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6. Explain why tourists love coming to visit York.

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7. What **two** things does Charlie think that Vikings did?

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8. **Charlie snorted, "A Viking pattern? Did Vikings even make satchels?"**

What impression do you think the author is trying to create by using the word 'snorted'?

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