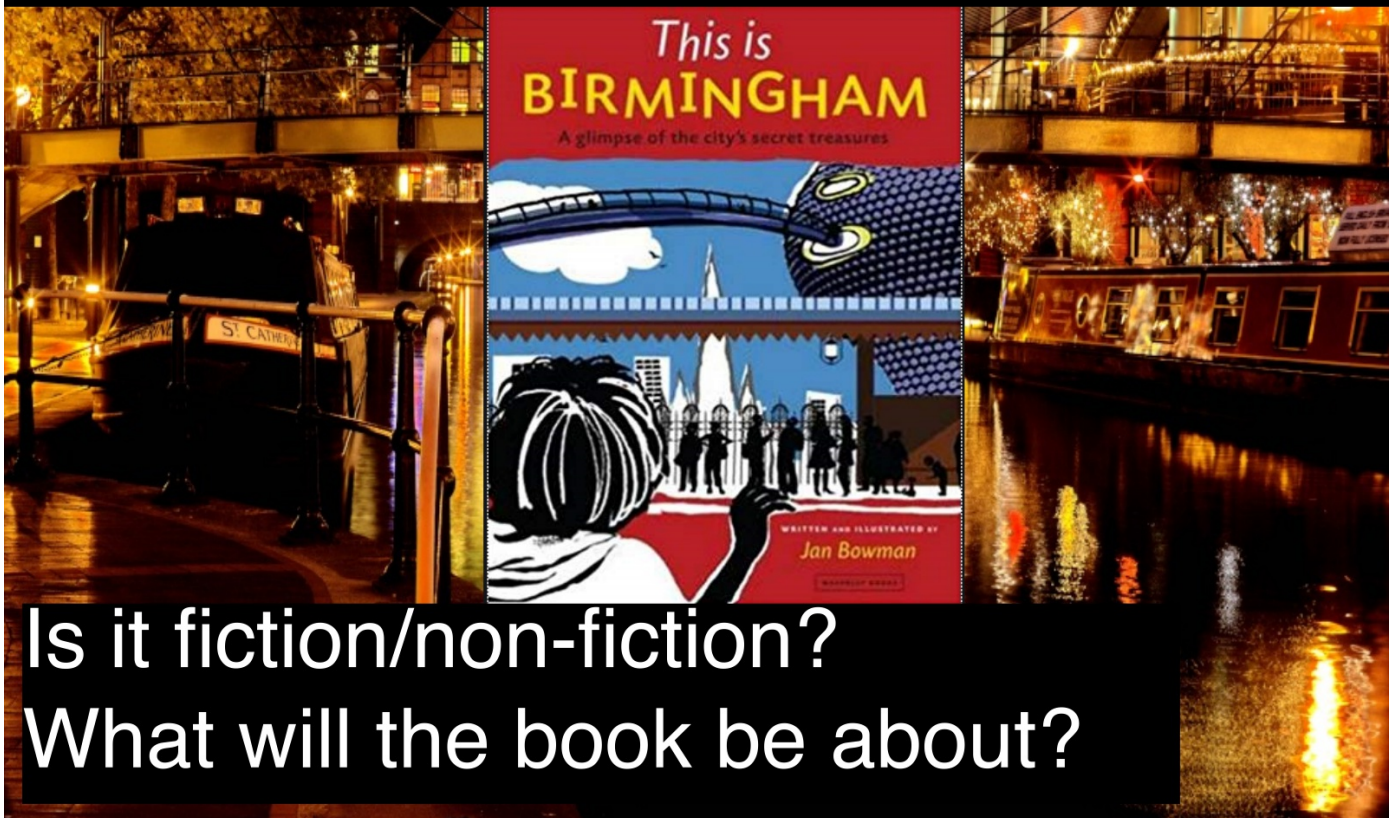




Day 1

This is the book we will be reading this week. Have a look at the front cover.



Is it fiction/non-fiction?
What will the book be about?

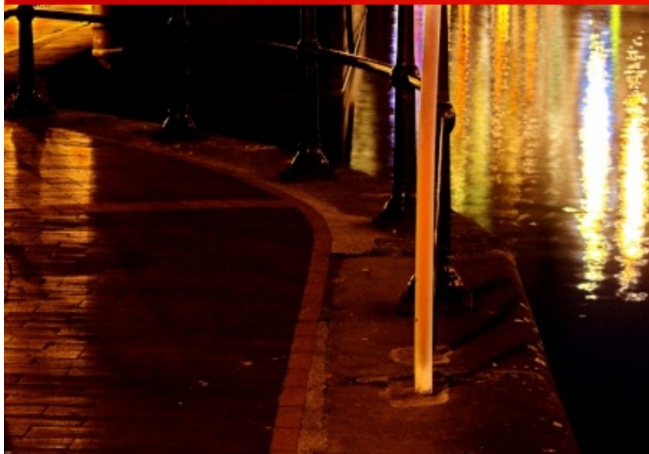
Let's read the blurb. Were you right?

IN THE 18TH CENTURY BIRMINGHAM AND ENGLAND were very different from the places we see and know today. Our cities did not exist, the population was much smaller, and there were no machines. Most people worked in the fields, or did craftwork at home, and made their own wool.

Then, quite suddenly, in a burst of ideas and energy, a massive change began that we call the Enlightenment. Machines were invented and a period of great inspiration and ingenuity led to the Industrial Revolution.

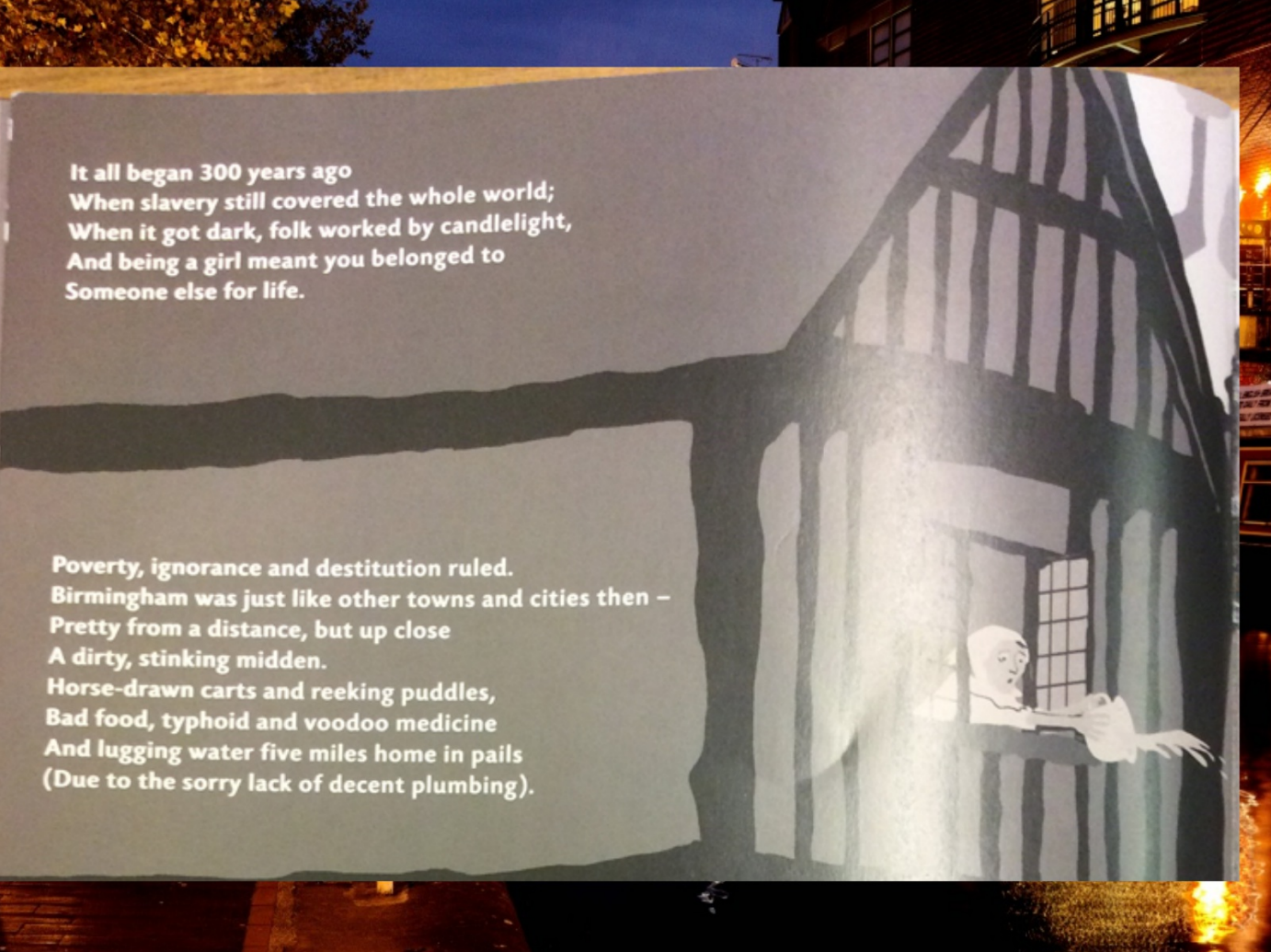
Birmingham was key to Britain's Enlightenment.

A group of people – the Lunaticks – met in the city



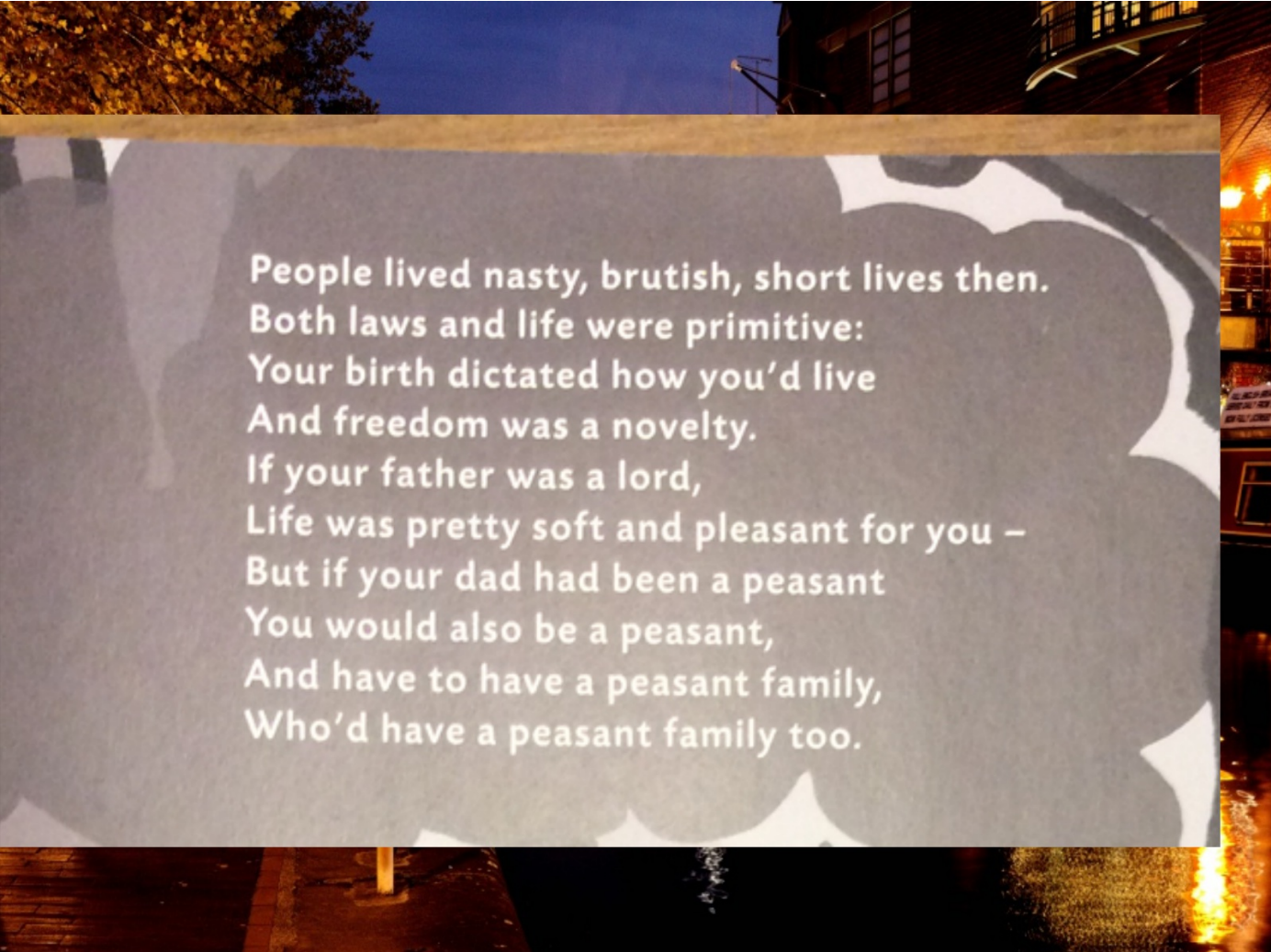
regularly to discuss ideas – how to end slavery; how to put light into the city; how to cure diseases; how to help James Watt fund his steam engine. Without the Lunaticks, Britain's great leap forward to become the first industrial nation would not have happened. The energy Birmingham shows today – its art, its music, its business, and the fact the city is home to people from all over the world – is built on the dynamism it first showed 250 years ago.

This inspiring, beautifully illustrated book reveals some of the city's secrets, and celebrates them. Welcome to *This is Birmingham*.



It all began 300 years ago
When slavery still covered the whole world;
When it got dark, folk worked by candlelight,
And being a girl meant you belonged to
Someone else for life.

Poverty, ignorance and destitution ruled.
Birmingham was just like other towns and cities then –
Pretty from a distance, but up close
A dirty, stinking midden.
Horse-drawn carts and reeking puddles,
Bad food, typhoid and voodoo medicine
And lugging water five miles home in pails
(Due to the sorry lack of decent plumbing).

A photograph of a street scene at night. The scene includes a brick building on the right, trees on the left, and a street with a sidewalk and a street lamp. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text. The text is white and reads:

People lived nasty, brutish, short lives then.
Both laws and life were primitive:
Your birth dictated how you'd live
And freedom was a novelty.
If your father was a lord,
Life was pretty soft and pleasant for you –
But if your dad had been a peasant
You would also be a peasant,
And have to have a peasant family,
Who'd have a peasant family too.




Vocabulary

'Poverty, ignorance and destitution ruled.'




destitution

Destitution is an unfortunate state in which a person lacks something important — like money, food, companionship, or even hope. Everyone is down on their luck sometimes. Most people will get seriously sick at some point, lose a job, or have a marriage fall apart. However, most people won't fall into *destitution*, which is a truly hopeless state.



In the text destitution ruled because lots of people were poor - they lacked food, money or hope.





destitution

Examples

Homeless people are destitute.

People starving are in a state of destitution.

Can you think of any more?





destitution

Examples

Homeless people are destitute.

People starving are in a state of destitution.

Can you think of any more?

Which of these is an example of being destitute?

A) A fire which leaves your house and all of your belongings destroyed.

B) Being late for school.




destitution

Examples

Homeless people are destitute.

People starving are in a state of destitution.

Can you think of any more?

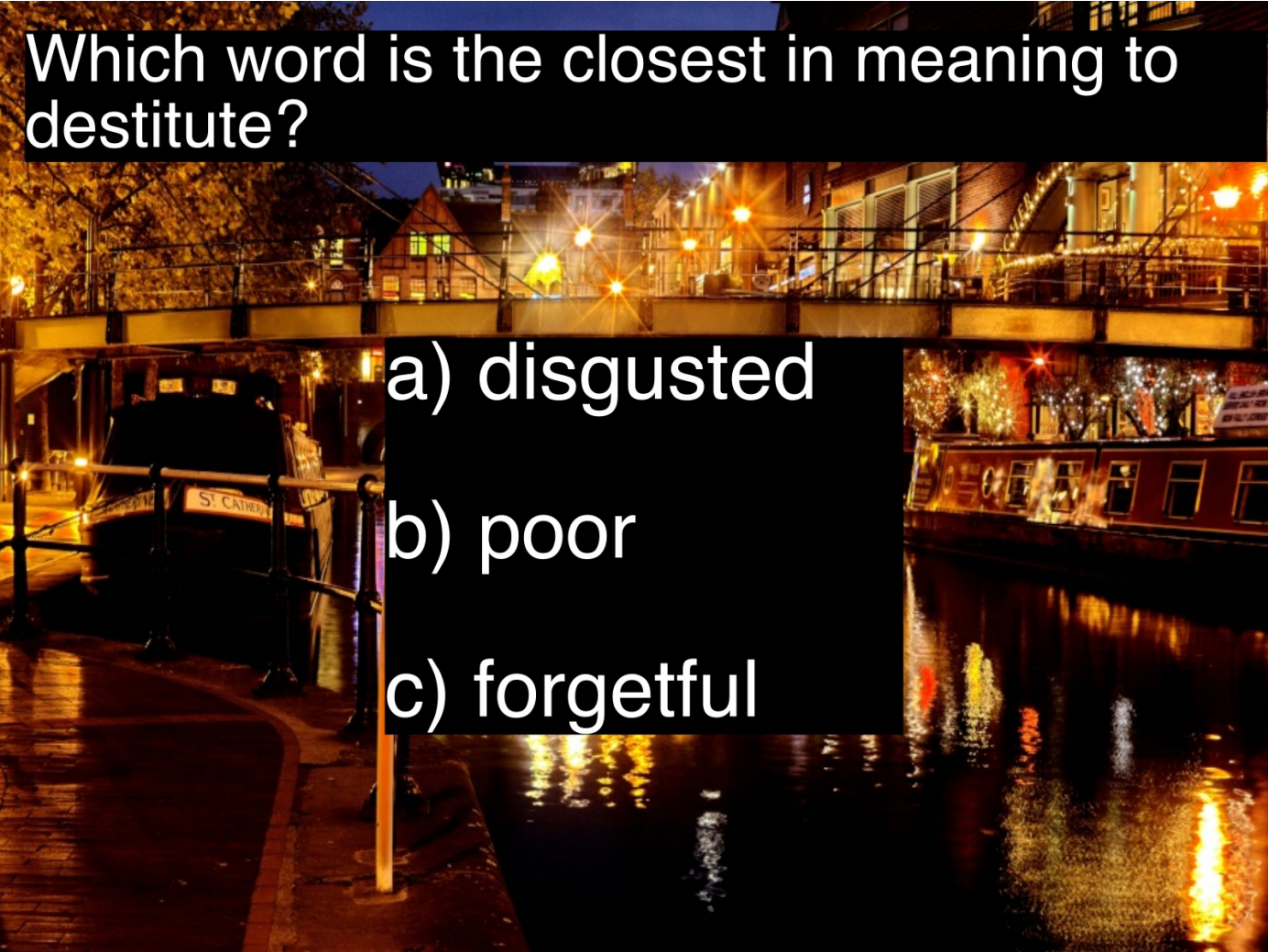


Which of these is an example of being destitute?

A) A fire which leaves your house and all of your belongings destroyed.

B) Being late for school.



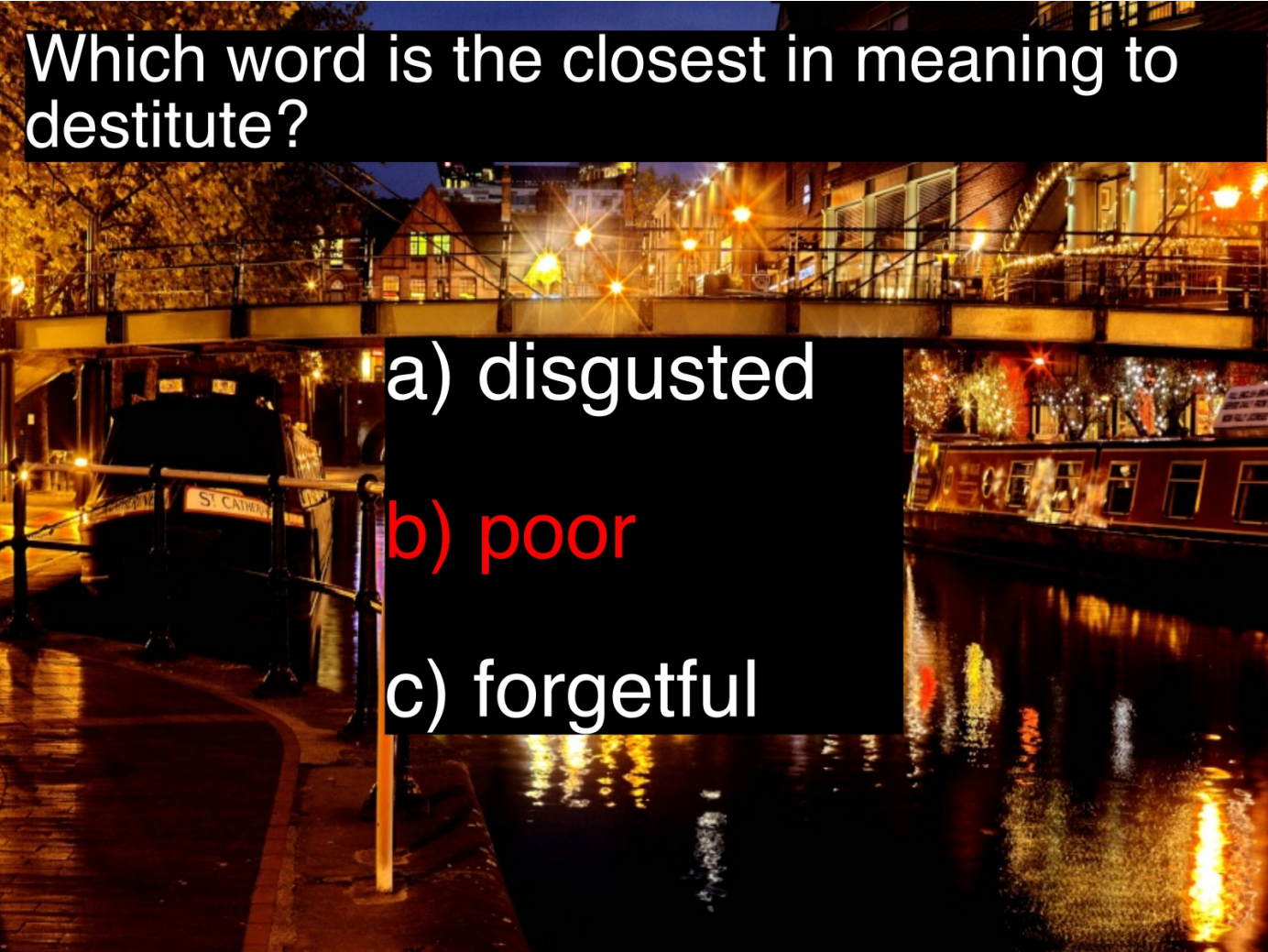
A night scene of a canal with a bridge and a boat. The bridge is illuminated with warm lights, and the water reflects the lights. A boat is visible on the canal, and the background shows buildings and trees.

Which word is the closest in meaning to destitute?

a) disgusted

b) poor

c) forgetful

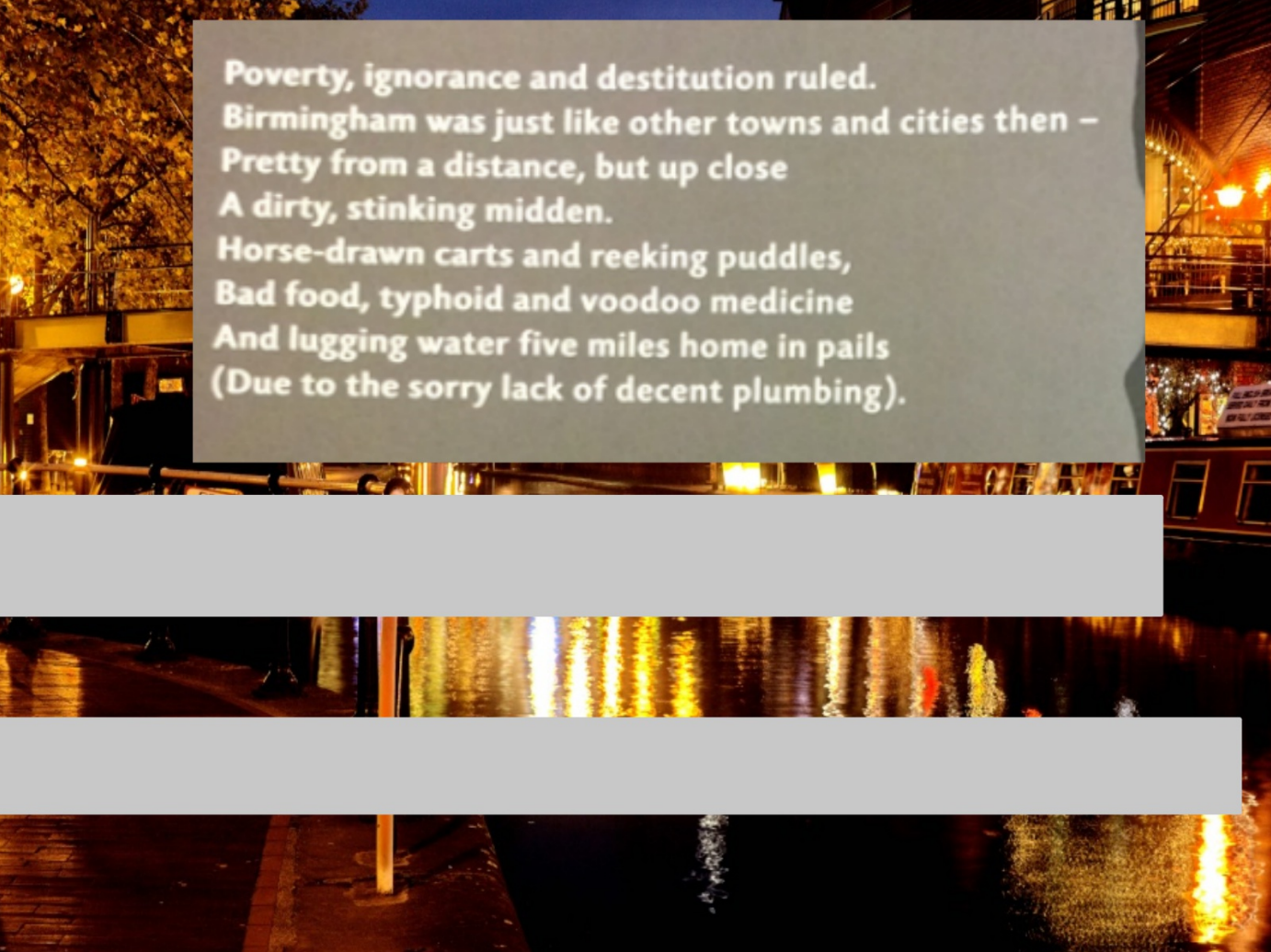
A night scene of a canal with a bridge and a boat. The bridge is illuminated with warm lights, and the water reflects the lights. A boat is visible on the canal, and the background shows buildings and trees.

Which word is the closest in meaning to destitute?

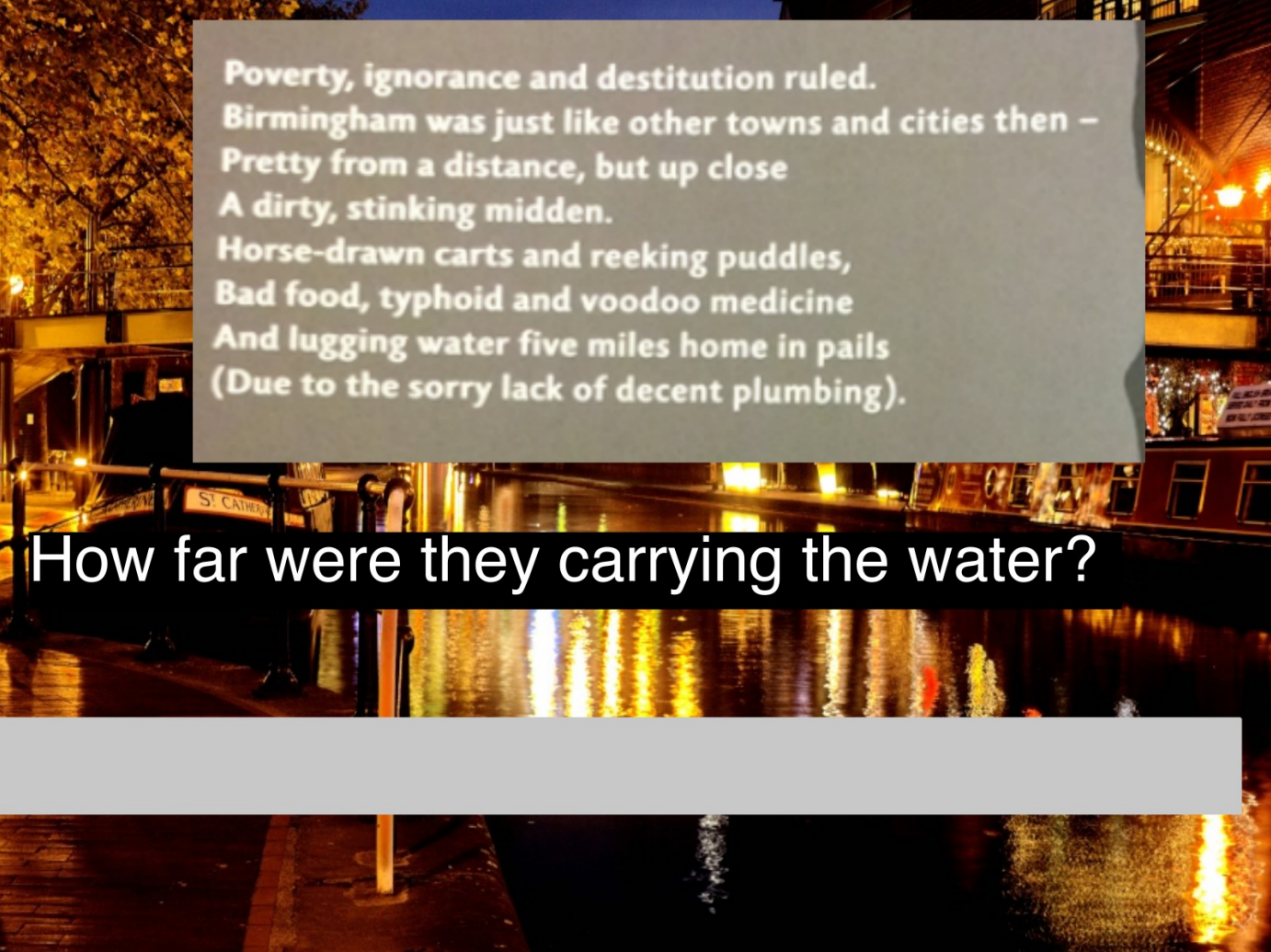
a) disgusted

b) poor

c) forgetful

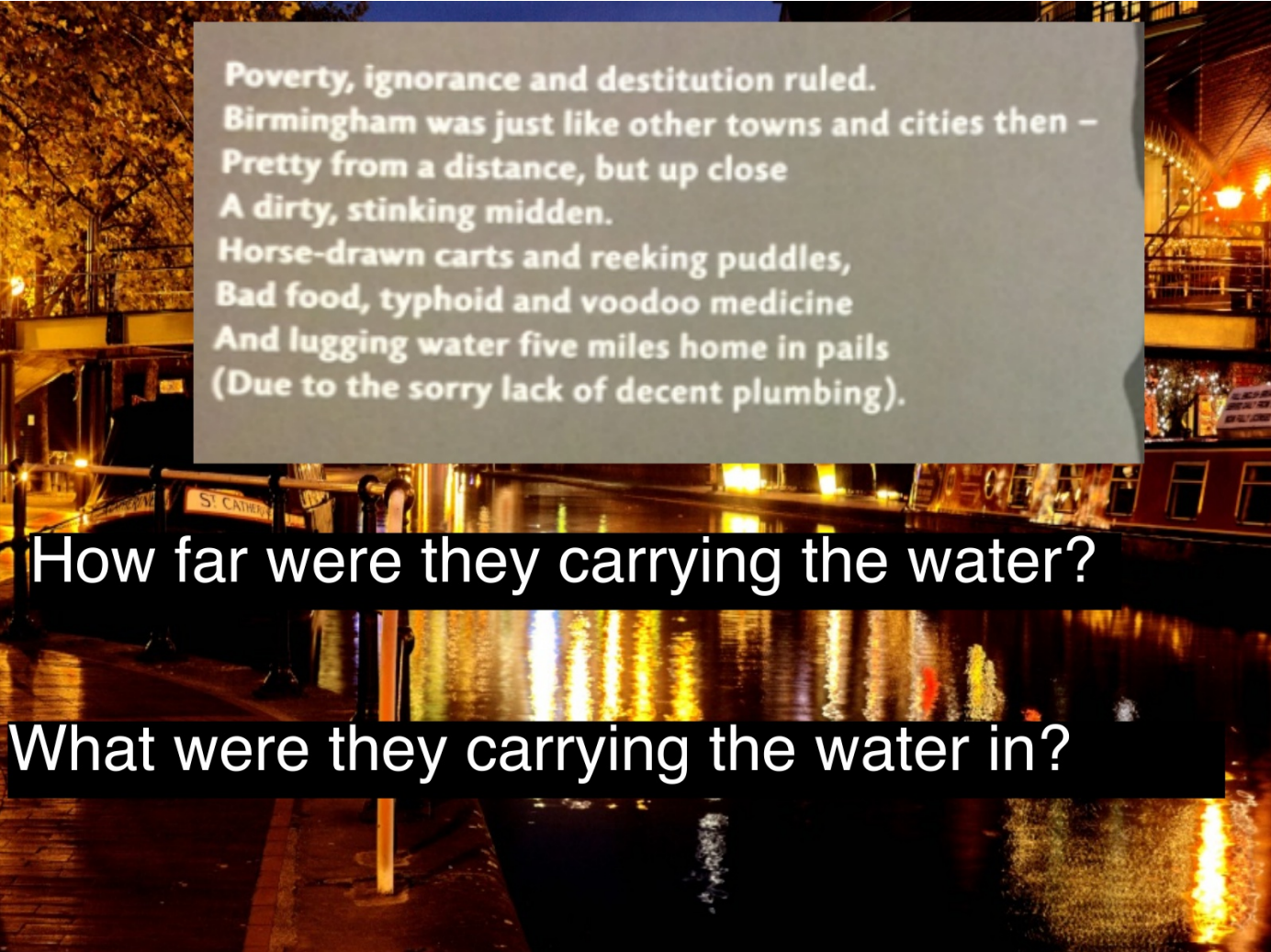
A photograph of a canal at night, likely in Birmingham, England. The water is dark, reflecting the warm, golden lights of street lamps and buildings along the banks. The scene is framed by a dark sky and the silhouettes of trees and structures. A large, semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing white text. Below the text box, there are two horizontal grey bars that partially obscure the canal's surface.

Poverty, ignorance and destitution ruled.
Birmingham was just like other towns and cities then –
Pretty from a distance, but up close
A dirty, stinking midden.
Horse-drawn carts and reeking puddles,
Bad food, typhoid and voodoo medicine
And lugging water five miles home in pails
(Due to the sorry lack of decent plumbing).

A night scene of a canal in Birmingham, England. The water is dark, reflecting the warm yellow lights of buildings and street lamps along the banks. On the left, a black metal railing runs along the canal, with a sign that reads "ST. CATHERINE". In the background, there are trees and buildings, some with lights on. A large, semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the upper part of the image. Below the text box, a black banner with white text asks a question. At the bottom of the image, there is a solid grey horizontal bar.

Poverty, ignorance and destitution ruled.
Birmingham was just like other towns and cities then –
Pretty from a distance, but up close
A dirty, stinking midden.
Horse-drawn carts and reeking puddles,
Bad food, typhoid and voodoo medicine
And lugging water five miles home in pails
(Due to the sorry lack of decent plumbing).

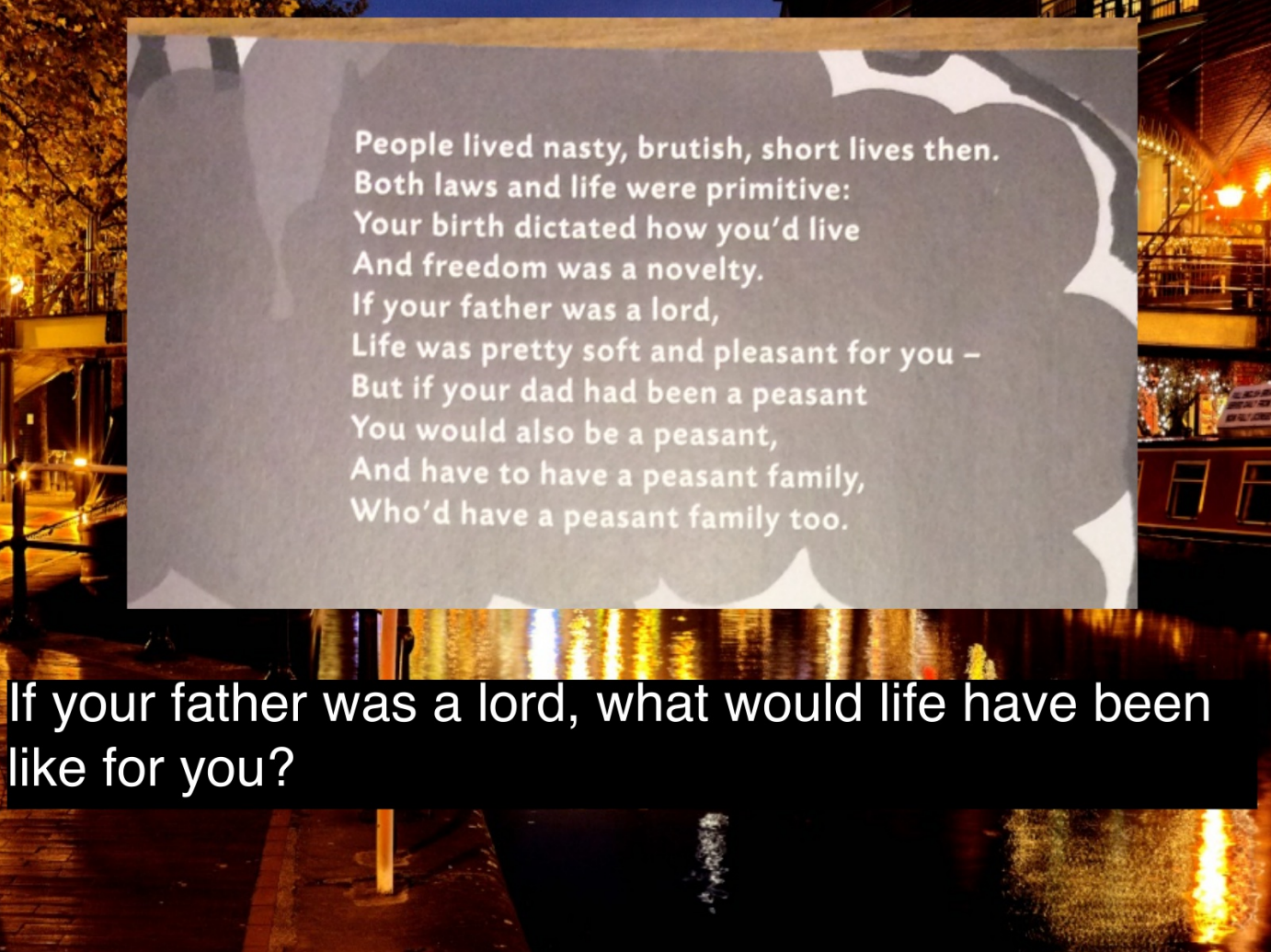
How far were they carrying the water?

A night scene of a canal in Birmingham, England. The water is dark, reflecting the warm yellow lights of buildings and street lamps along the banks. On the left, a stone bridge with a railing is visible, with a sign that reads "ST. CATHERINE". The background shows the silhouettes of trees and buildings. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

Poverty, ignorance and destitution ruled.
Birmingham was just like other towns and cities then –
Pretty from a distance, but up close
A dirty, stinking midden.
Horse-drawn carts and reeking puddles,
Bad food, typhoid and voodoo medicine
And lugging water five miles home in pails
(Due to the sorry lack of decent plumbing).

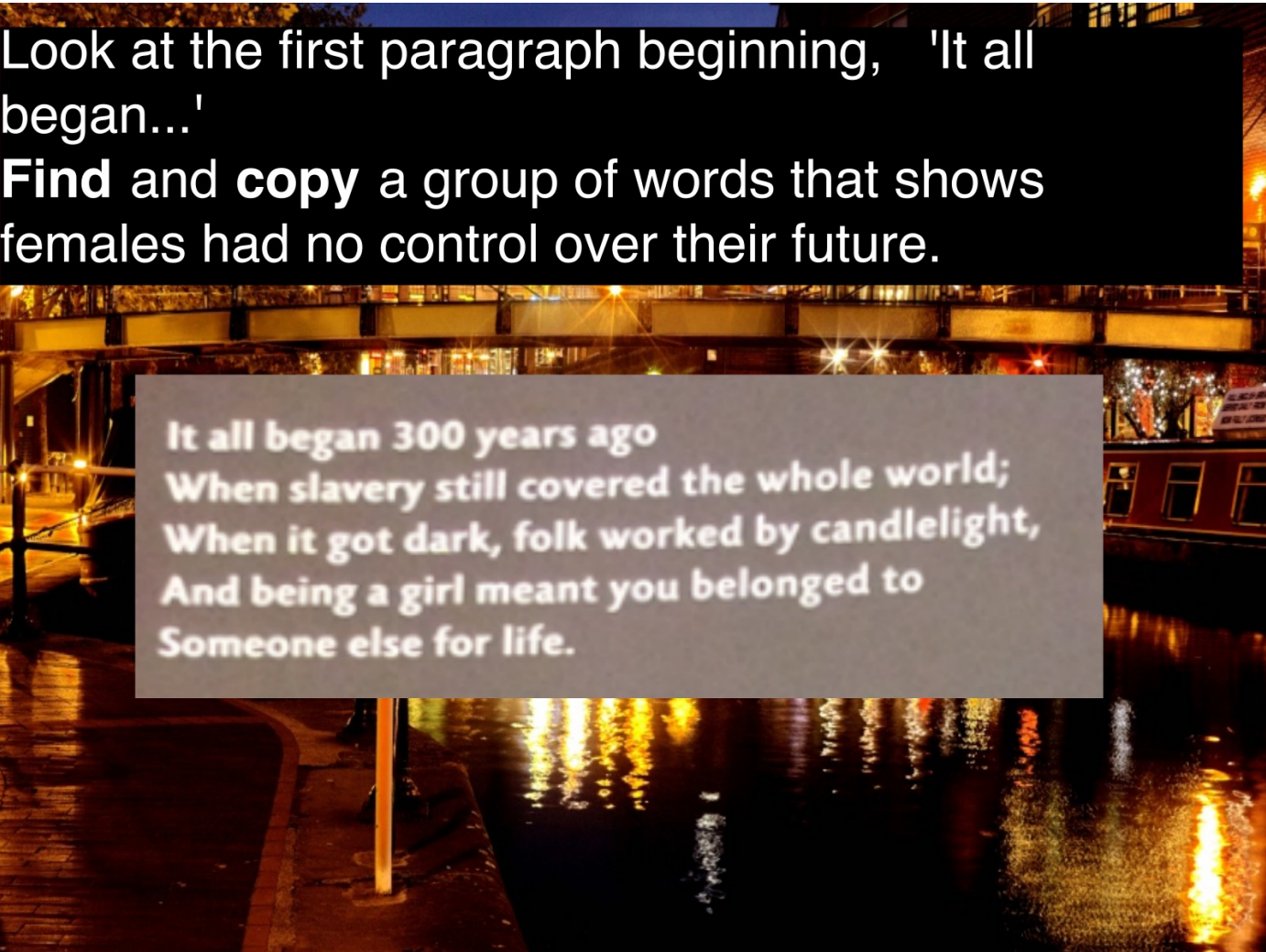
How far were they carrying the water?

What were they carrying the water in?

A photograph of a night scene featuring a canal with a boat. The scene is illuminated by warm, golden lights, likely from street lamps or buildings, which are reflected in the water. A grey, semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing a poem. The background shows a brick building on the right and trees on the left.

People lived nasty, brutish, short lives then.
Both laws and life were primitive:
Your birth dictated how you'd live
And freedom was a novelty.
If your father was a lord,
Life was pretty soft and pleasant for you –
But if your dad had been a peasant
You would also be a peasant,
And have to have a peasant family,
Who'd have a peasant family too.

If your father was a lord, what would life have been like for you?

A night scene of a canal with a bridge and a boat, with a text overlay. The scene is illuminated by warm lights, and the water reflects the lights. A bridge with a railing is visible in the background, and a boat is docked on the right side. The text is overlaid on a dark rectangular area at the top and a semi-transparent grey area in the middle.

Look at the first paragraph beginning, 'It all began...'

Find and copy a group of words that shows females had no control over their future.

It all began 300 years ago
When slavery still covered the whole world;
When it got dark, folk worked by candlelight,
And being a girl meant you belonged to
Someone else for life.



Name two ways Birmingham was similar to other towns and cities.

1. _____

2. _____





What three things ruled in Birmingham?

ords

poverty

typhoid

destitution

ignorance

slavery





What three things ruled in Birmingham?

ords

poverty

typhoid

destitution

ignorance

slavery



And lugging water five miles home in pails

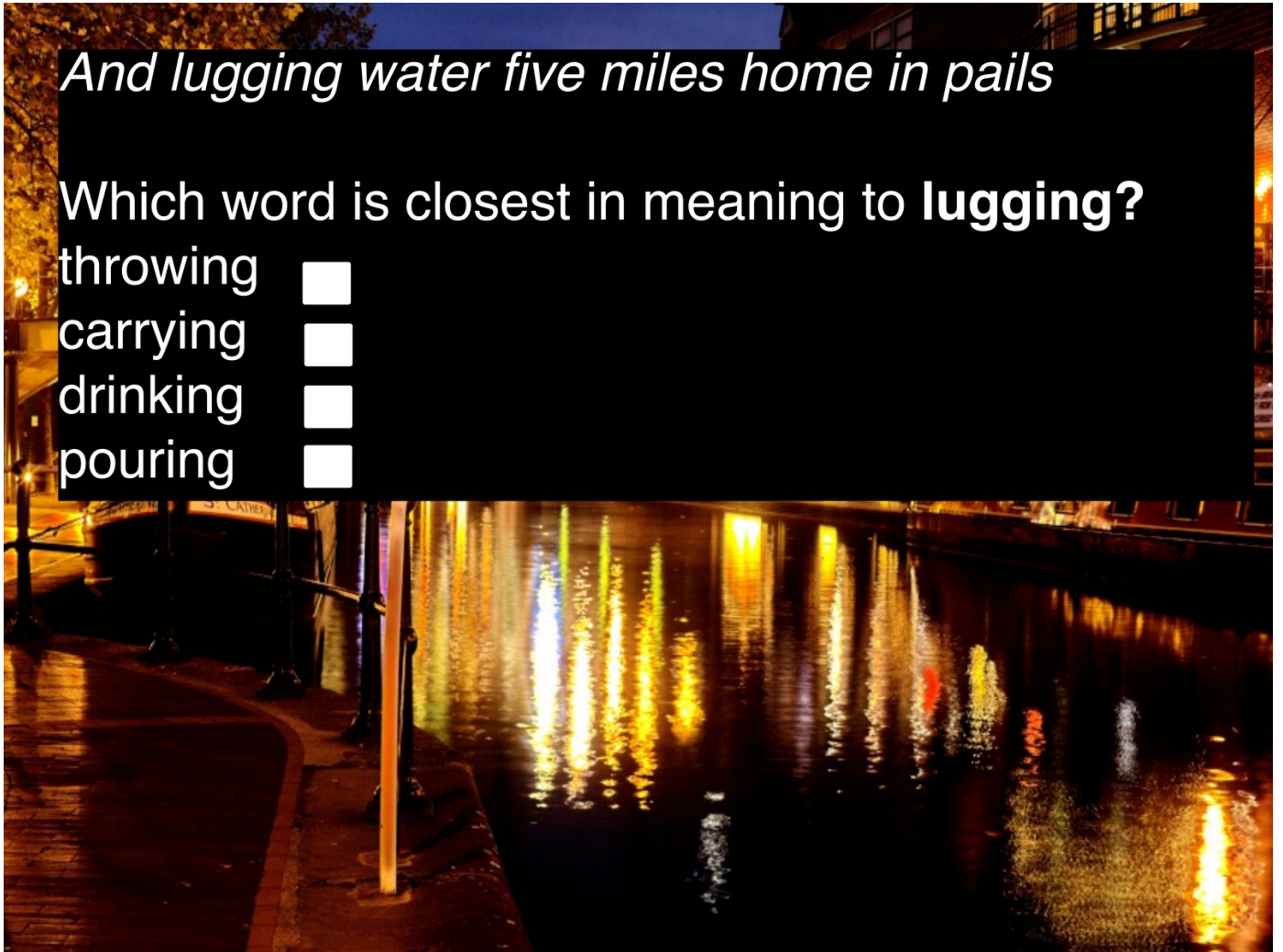
Which word is closest in meaning to **lugging**?

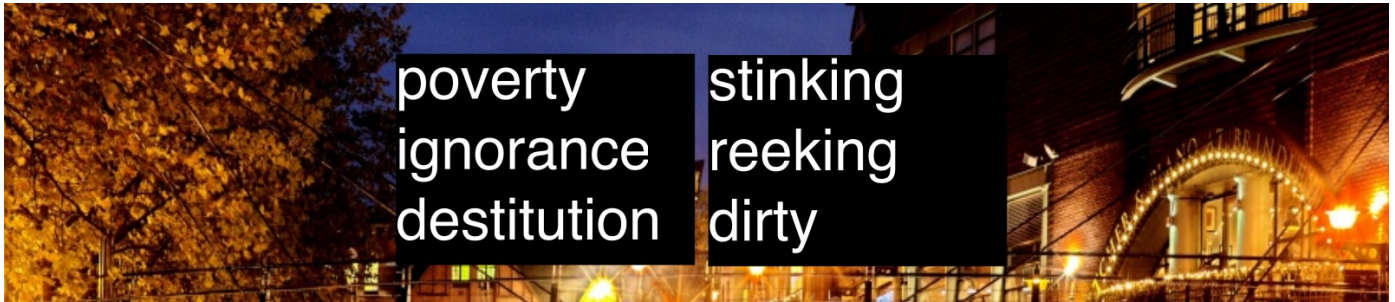
throwing

carrying

drinking

pouring





poverty
ignorance
destitution

stinking
reeking
dirty

What do these words suggest about Birmingham at that time?

