

1 Why did the family have to have a strange supper at the start of the chapter?

At first they think it's because Mrs Viney stole the money they gave her to buy them food, but it turns out she left it in another room that they couldn't find in the dark.

2 Why do the children change their mind about Aunt Emma?

Because she packed food from the cupboard for them.

3 When the children get up early and try to make themselves useful, are they actually helpful? If not, why not?

No - they let all the water boil off in the kettle, they let the fire go out and they don't wash any of the cutlery before putting it out.

4 Why does Bobbie think the passing train is like a "great dragon"?

Because it is hot and because it passes with a "shriek and a snort"

5 Why do the children decide to go to the station?

Because they want to know if the trains from the station go to London because that is where their father is

6 Do you think the children are happy living in the new house?

Reasons they are - they still have food and nice clothes, they think the house is pretty and they like the countryside.

But, they can't have jam and butter together anymore and they aren't allowed to have a fire when it's cold.

7 Do the children miss their father much?

No - they are distracted by the "new and pleasing" things about their new lives, like nature and the railway.

8 Why does Peter not want to tell the girls about his coal mine idea at first?

He doesn't want to drag them into it in case it is a bad idea - this suggests that he really knows it's stealing from the start

9 Why did Peter think it was okay to steal the coal from the middle of the heap but not the outside?

He thought that it would take them a really long time to reach the coal in the middle, so they wouldn't miss it basically

- 10 When the Station Master asks if the children had been stealing the coal “for a lark” what does he mean?  
He’s asking if they were just doing it for the fun of it
- 11 Why do you think the Station Master changes his mind about getting the children in trouble?  
Because Peter explains that they are too poor to have a fire at home and he took pity on them.