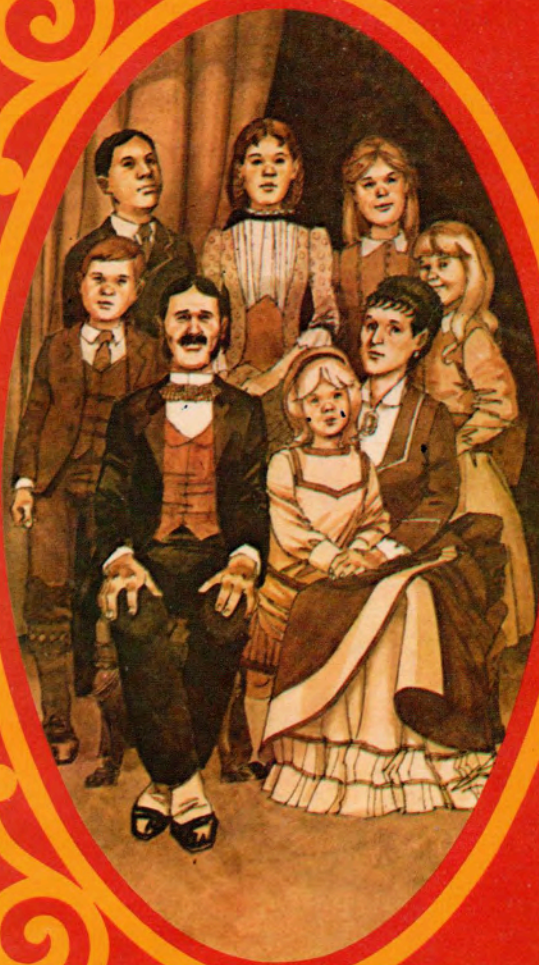
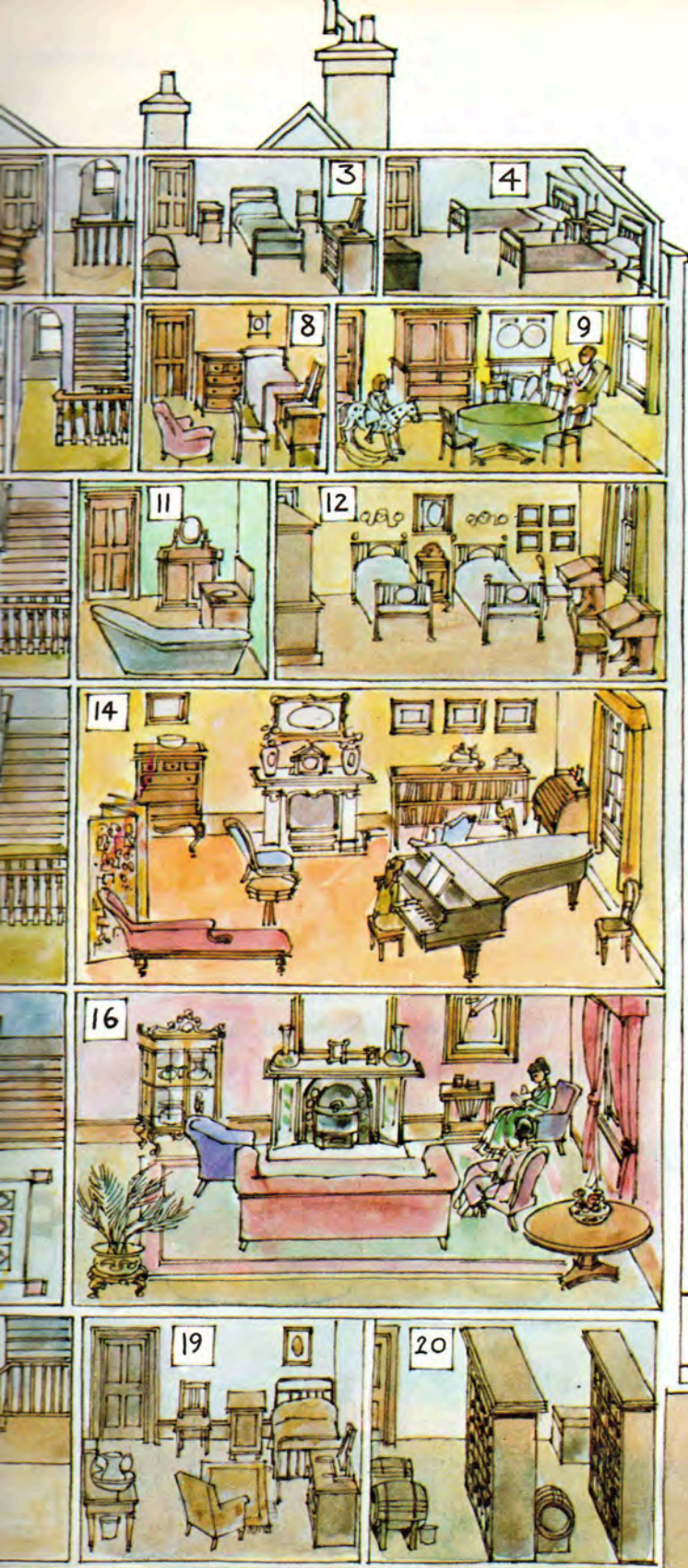


# Two Victorian Families



Sue Wagstaff





3 Parlourmaid's bedroom  
 4 Housemaid's and under housemaid's bedroom

8 Governess's bedroom  
 9 Nursery and schoolroom

11 Toilet  
 12 The boys' bedroom

14 Drawing room

16 Morning room

19 Butler's room  
 20 Wine cellar



Here is the inside of  
the Fisher's house.  
The Fisher family lives  
here with their servants.

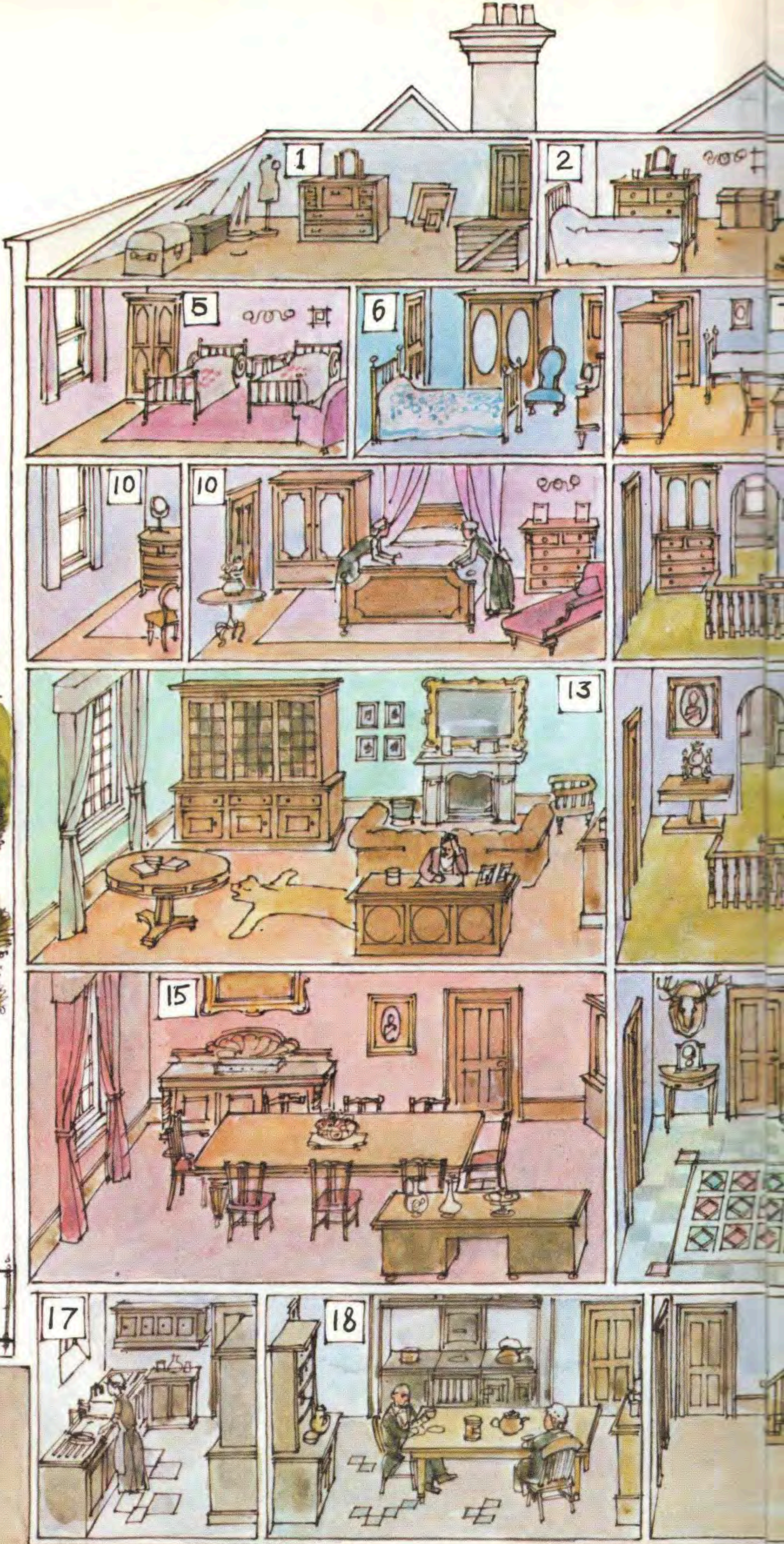
- 1 Attic
- 2 Cook's bedroom
- 5 Laura and Beth's  
bedroom
- 6 Louise's bedroom
- 7 Fan's bedroom

- 10 Mr and Mrs Fisher's  
bedroom and  
dressing room

- 13 Study

- 15 Dining room

- 17 Scullery
- 18 Kitchen







**Mrs Fisher**



**Laura**  
12 years old



**John**  
10 years old



**Beth**  
7 years old



**Mary**  
The parlourmaid



**Annie**  
The housemaid



**Meg**  
The under housemaid



Here is the Fisher family.  
Mr and Mrs Fisher had two more children,  
but they died when they were babies.  
The Fishers are rich.  
They can pay servants to look after them.

You can see by looking at this picture  
how the people in the Fisher family are  
related to one another.  
This picture is called a family tree.



**Mr Fisher**



**Fan**  
18 years old



**Conrad**  
16 years old



**Louise**  
14 years old

Here are all  
the servants  
who live in  
the house with  
the Fisher  
family.



**Miss Flynn**  
The governess



**Mr Brown**  
The butler



**Mrs Hartley**  
The cook





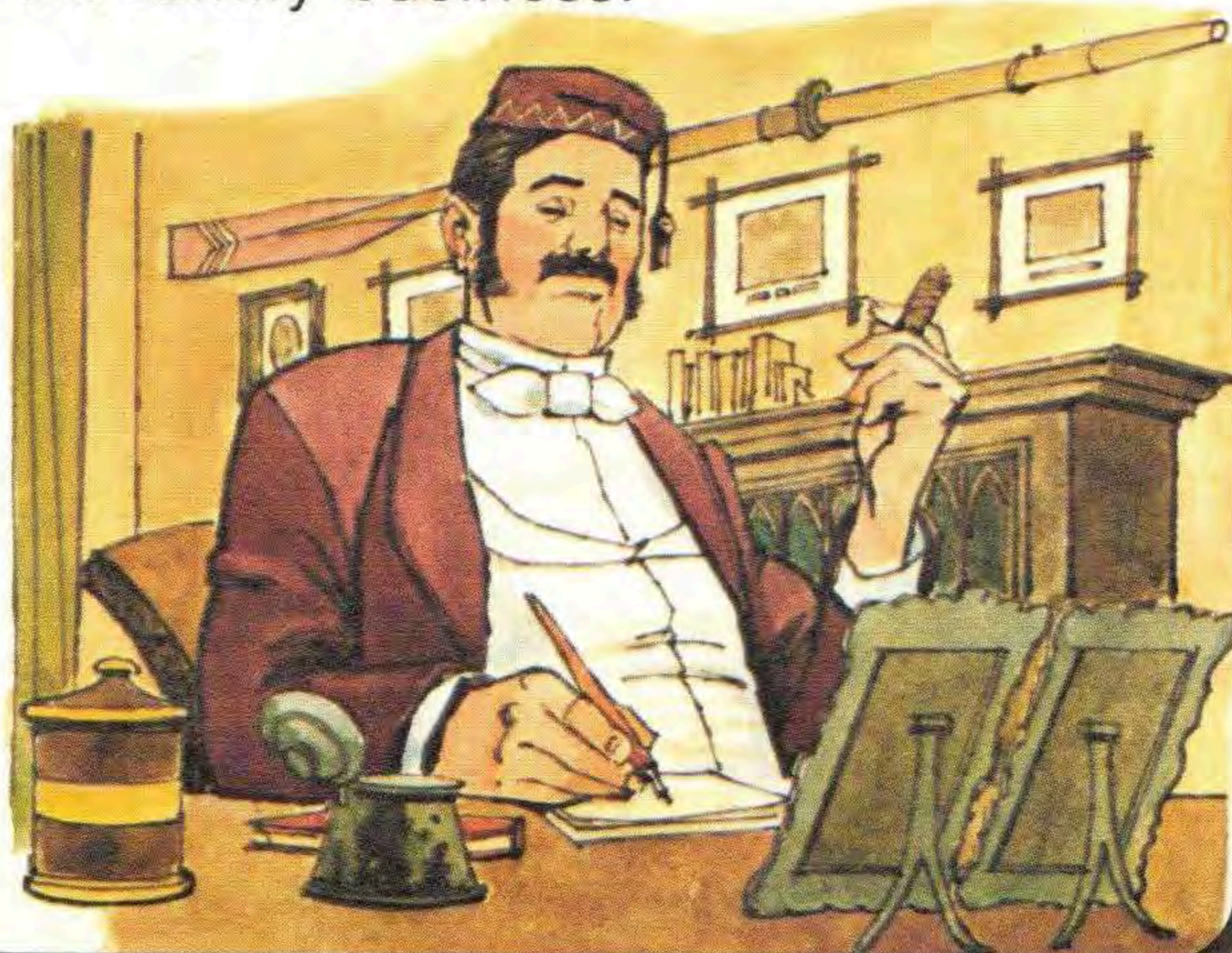
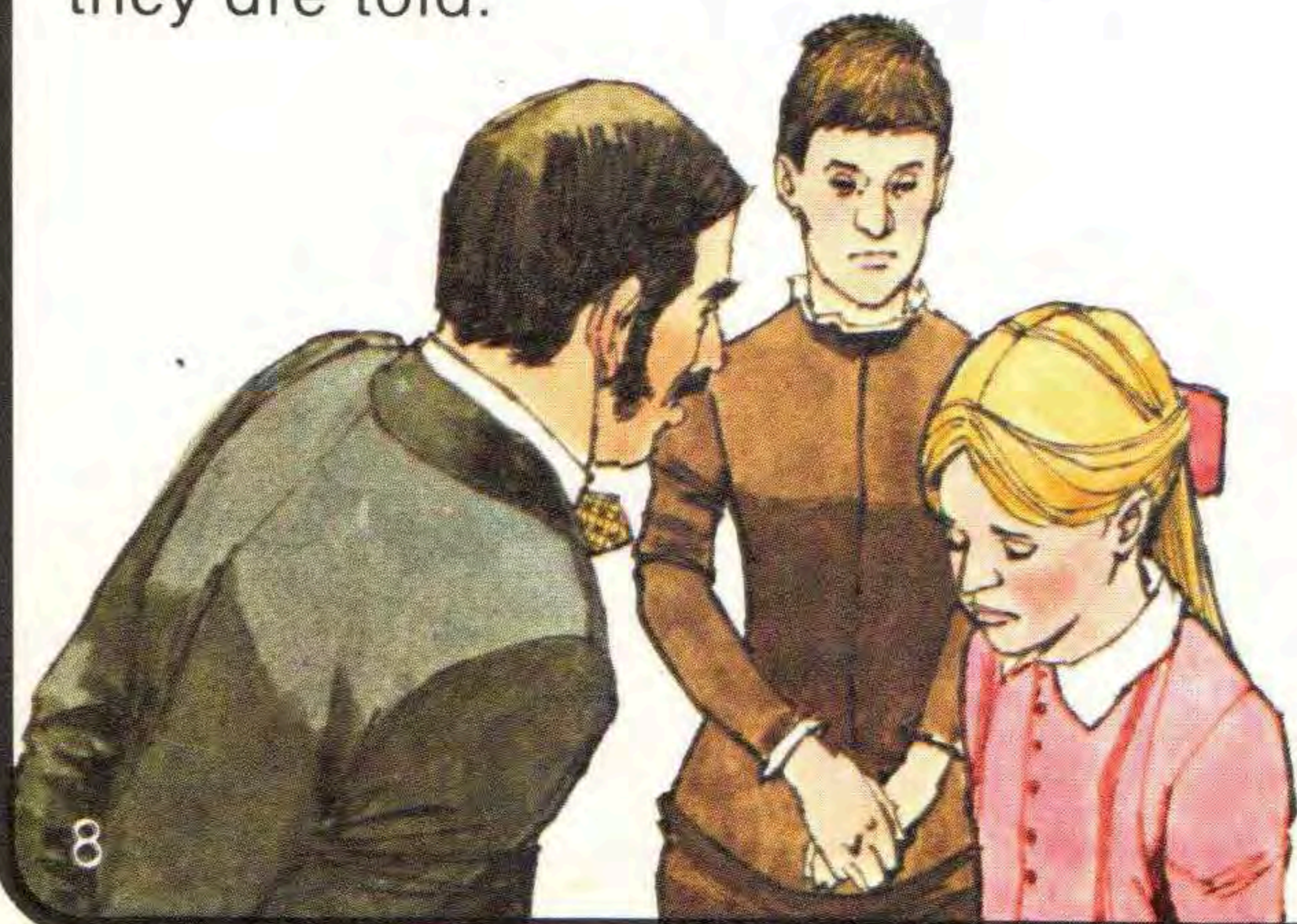
Mr Fisher is the head of the family.

Here he is at work.  
Mr Fisher works all day at his office.  
He employs lots of people to work for him.  
He earns £40 a week.  
He pays the servants to work for the family.



Louise is usually a polite girl.  
But today she has been cheeky to Miss Flynn, her governess.  
She has been sent to her father.  
He is angry with her because he believes children should do as they are told.

Mr Fisher is writing a letter to his sons, who are at boarding school.  
He thinks it is very important for boys to have a good education.  
Mr Fisher expects his sons to join the family business.







Mrs Fisher looks after the house.

Mrs Fisher does not go out to work.

Mr Fisher believes that his wife's place is in the home.

Mrs Fisher does not do any housework but she has to make sure all the servants do their jobs.



Mrs Fisher also checks that her daughters are working hard at their lessons.

One day, they will have to run a house just like she does.



In the afternoons, Mrs Fisher sometimes goes out to visit her friends.

She does not take the children with her.

Miss Flynn looks after them.

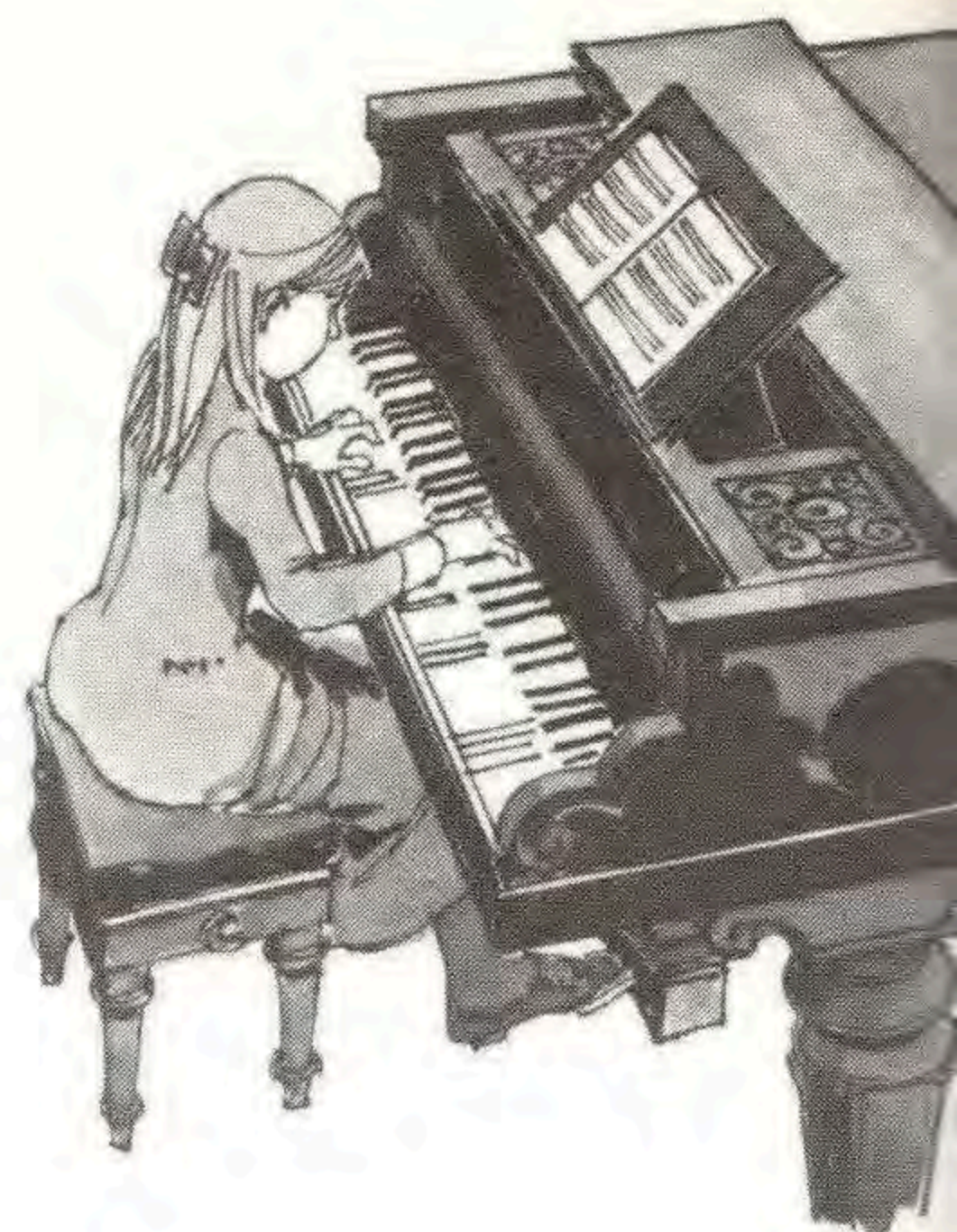






## Louise's day

Louise is one of Mr and Mrs Fisher's daughters. She is 14 years old. She gets up at 7.30 every day.



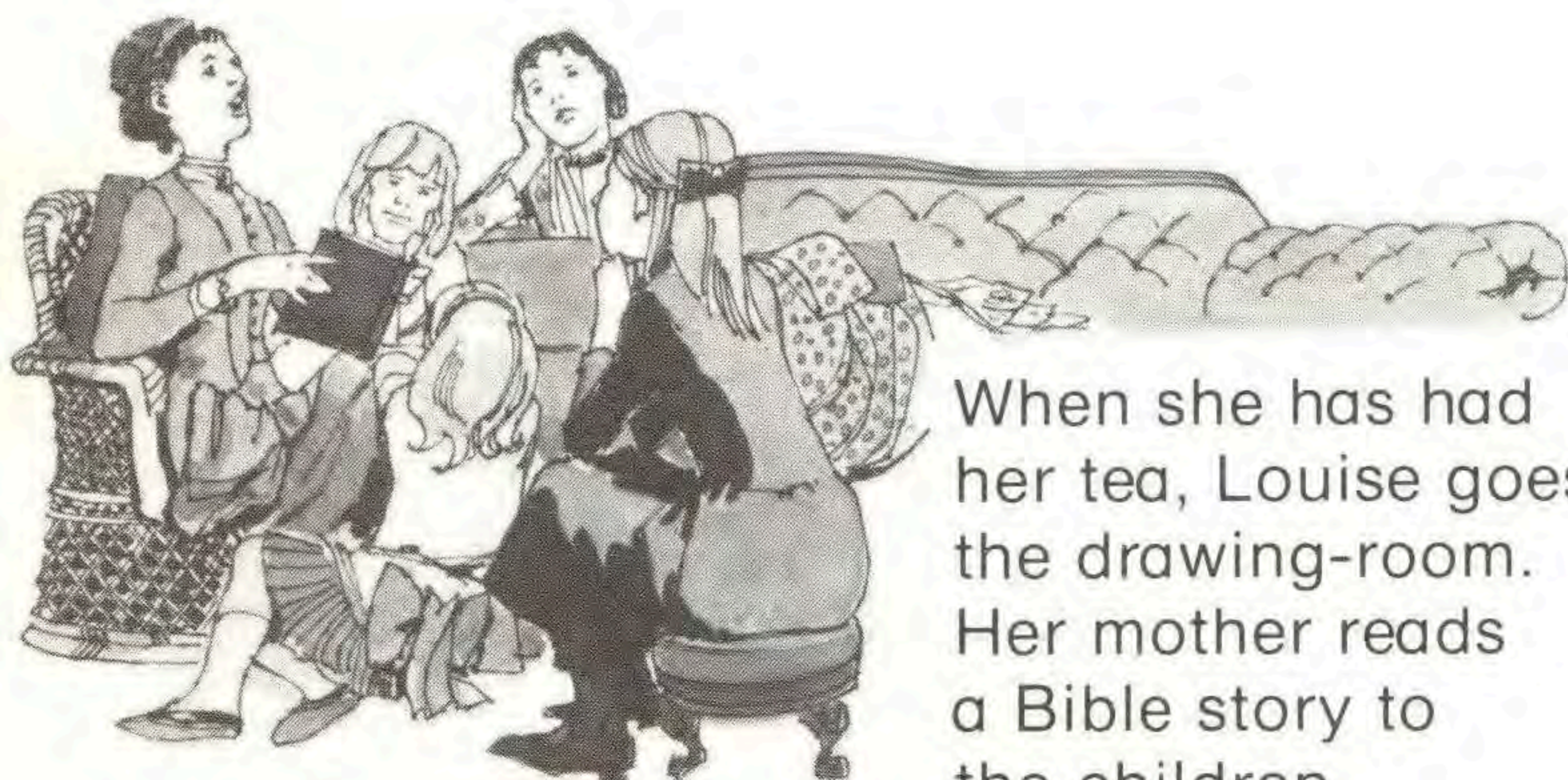
**8.00am**



Louise and her sisters, Laura and Beth, go off to the schoolroom with their governess, Miss Flynn, for their morning lessons. The girls learn French, history, geography a little arithmetic, drawing, singing and needlework.



**9.30am**



When she has had her tea, Louise goes to the drawing-room. Her mother reads a Bible story to the children.

**1.30pm**



**5.30pm**

**6.30pm**





Every morning, Louise practices at the piano for half an hour before breakfast.



Louise has to join the rest of the family and the servants for morning prayers just before breakfast. Mr Fisher says the prayers. At breakfast, the family help themselves to kidneys, bacon, sausages, as well as toast and marmalade.

**8:30am**

Louise and her sisters are waited on by the butler and parlourmaid at lunchtime. Mrs Fisher sometimes lunches with her children, and teaches them good table manners. Mr Fisher does not come home from work at lunchtime.

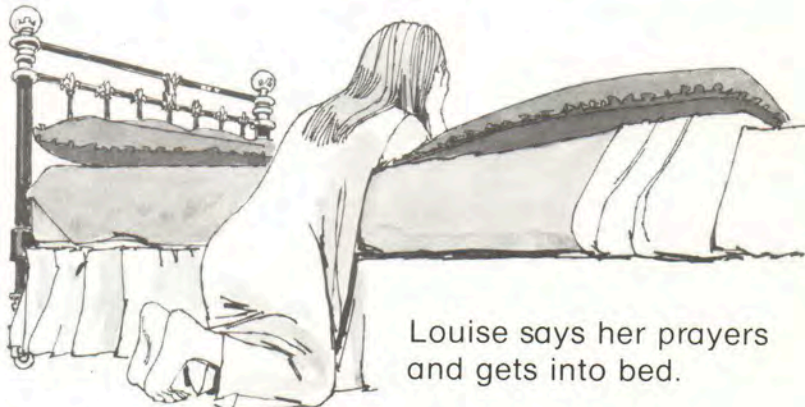


In the afternoon, the girls go out for a walk in the park with Miss Flynn. They are not allowed to run around in the park. They have to stay close to Miss Flynn.

**2:30pm**



After supper, Meg brings up the hot water from the kitchen so that Louise can wash.



Louise says her prayers and gets into bed.

**8:00pm**

**8:30pm**



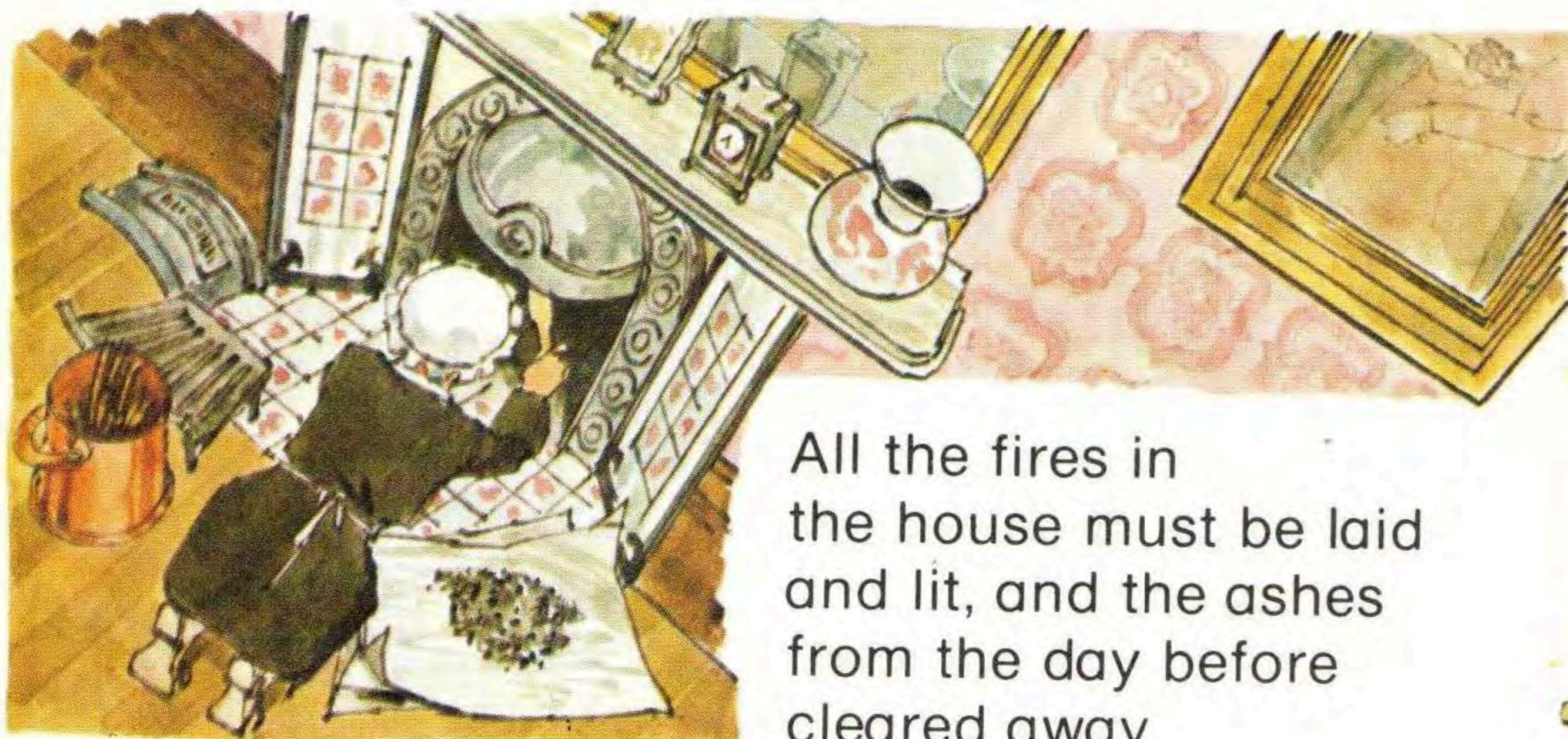


## Meg's day

Meg is the under housemaid at the Fisher home. She has to work every day. She has one afternoon off each week. Meg is 14 years old. She is paid 20p a week.



**4.30am**



All the fires in the house must be laid and lit, and the ashes from the day before cleared away.



**6.30am**

**7.30am**



Meg has to clean all the silver, the knives and forks and the salt and pepper pots. She also has to clean the brass candlesticks. This is the only time of the day when she can sit down.



**3.00pm**

**5.00pm**





Time to get up!  
Meg and Annie share  
a room in the attic.  
They have to get up  
at 4.30 every morning  
even on Sunday.  
They both have to wear  
a special uniform.



Meg has to clean  
the brass door-knocker  
and letterbox  
every morning.  
Then she has to scrub  
the doorstep.  
She is not allowed  
to wear a coat over  
her uniform even  
on the coldest days.

→ → → **6:00am** → →



Meg has to carry  
heavy cans of hot water  
upstairs from the kitchen,  
so that the Fisher family  
can wash before  
breakfast.



The servants eat  
their lunch together  
in the kitchen.  
During the morning,  
Meg has helped the cook  
get the food ready  
for the family and  
for the servants.

→ → → **12:30 pm** → →



Meg has to help  
Mrs Hartley with  
the evening meal for  
the Fisher family.  
Meg is always given  
the jobs like  
peeling potatoes  
and scrubbing carrots.

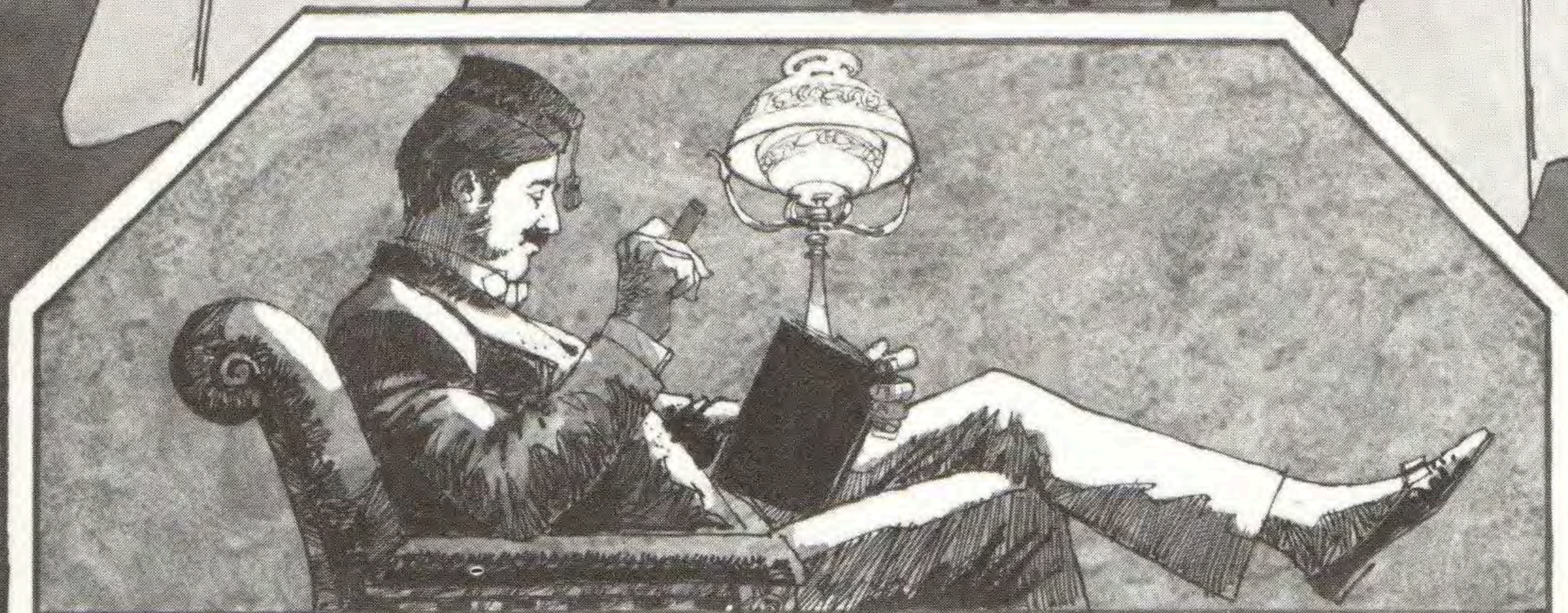
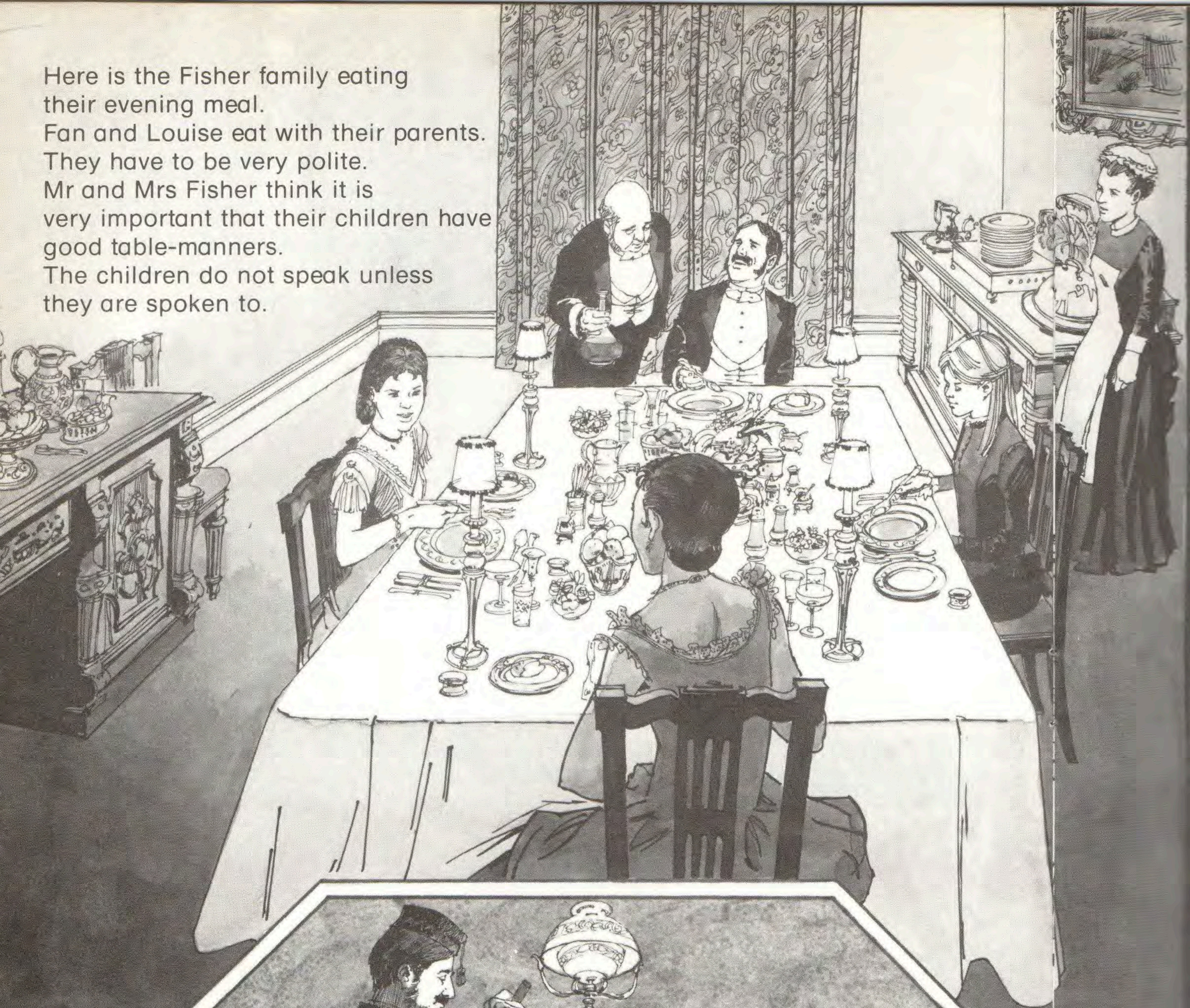


Meg has to help with  
the washing up after  
every family meal.  
She is never in bed  
before 10 o'clock.

→ → → **9:00 pm** → → **10:00 pm**

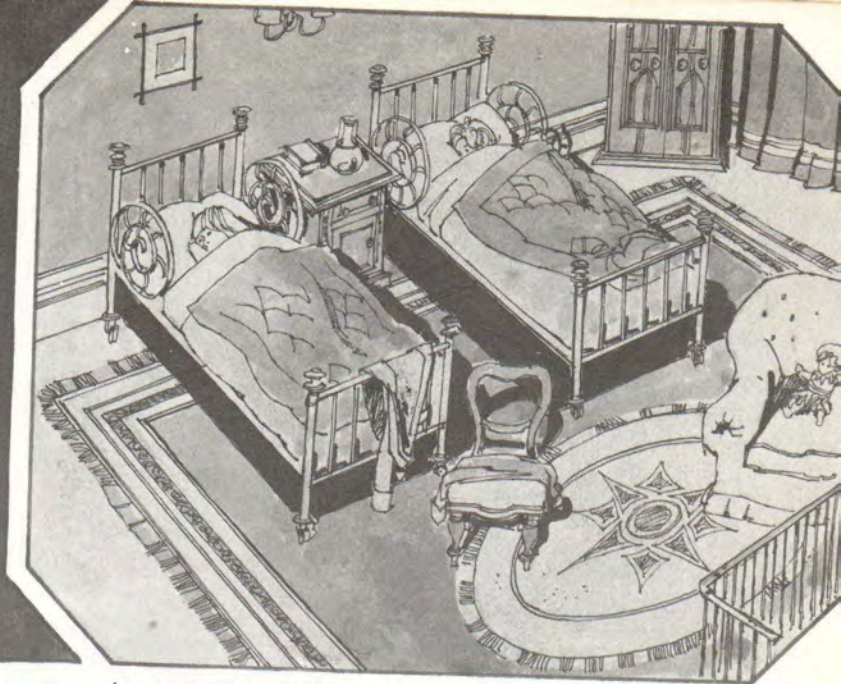


Here is the Fisher family eating their evening meal. Fan and Louise eat with their parents. They have to be very polite. Mr and Mrs Fisher think it is very important that their children have good table-manners. The children do not speak unless they are spoken to.



After dinner, Mr Fisher goes to his study to smoke a cigar. Mrs Fisher does not like him to smoke at the dinner table.





Laura and Beth are asleep in the bedroom.  
They are not allowed to eat evening meals  
with their parents.  
They are too young.

Here is Mrs Hartley dishing out  
the food for the family.  
Meg is helping her.  
Annie has to take the food upstairs.  
Mary and Mr Brown serve the food  
to the family.





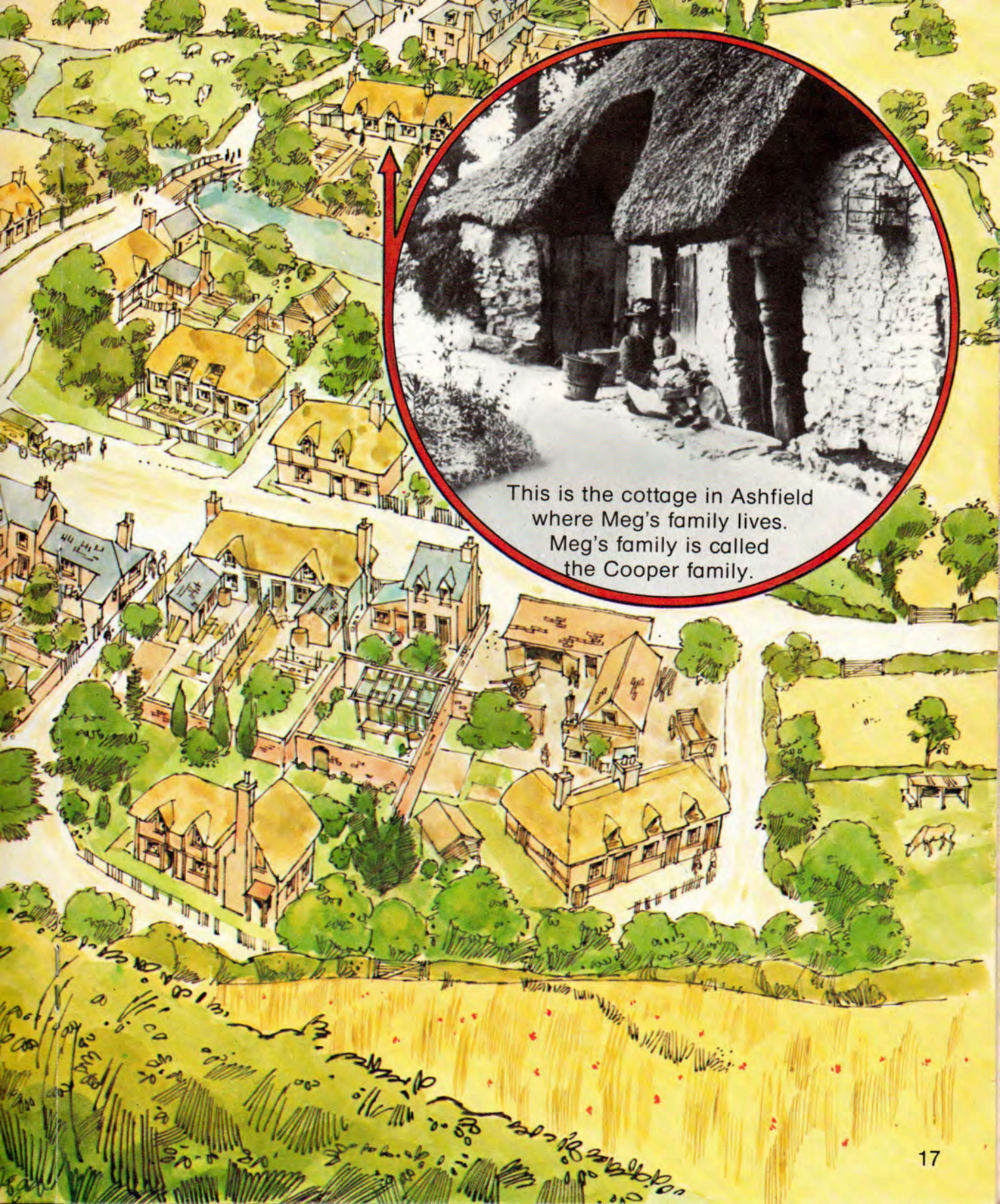
Meg is going home for her holidays.  
She lives in a village called Ashfield.

Meg has to catch a train from London  
to Foxford, a town three miles away  
from Ashfield. She has to walk from  
Foxford to Ashfield.

Meg gets two weeks holiday a year.  
She is very excited.  
She wants to see her family again.





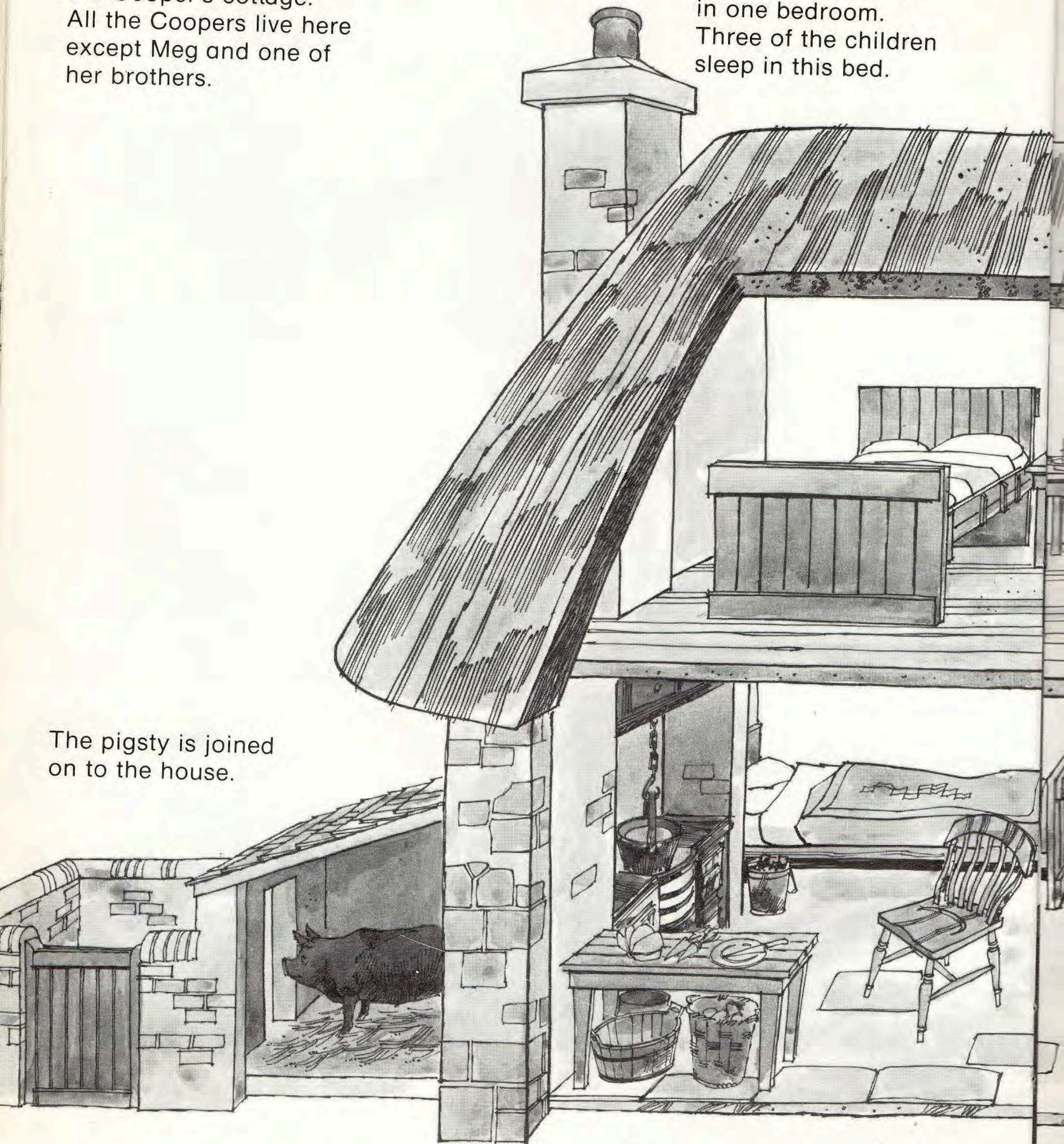


This is the cottage in Ashfield  
where Meg's family lives.  
Meg's family is called  
the Cooper family.



This is the inside of  
the Cooper's cottage.  
All the Coopers live here  
except Meg and one of  
her brothers.

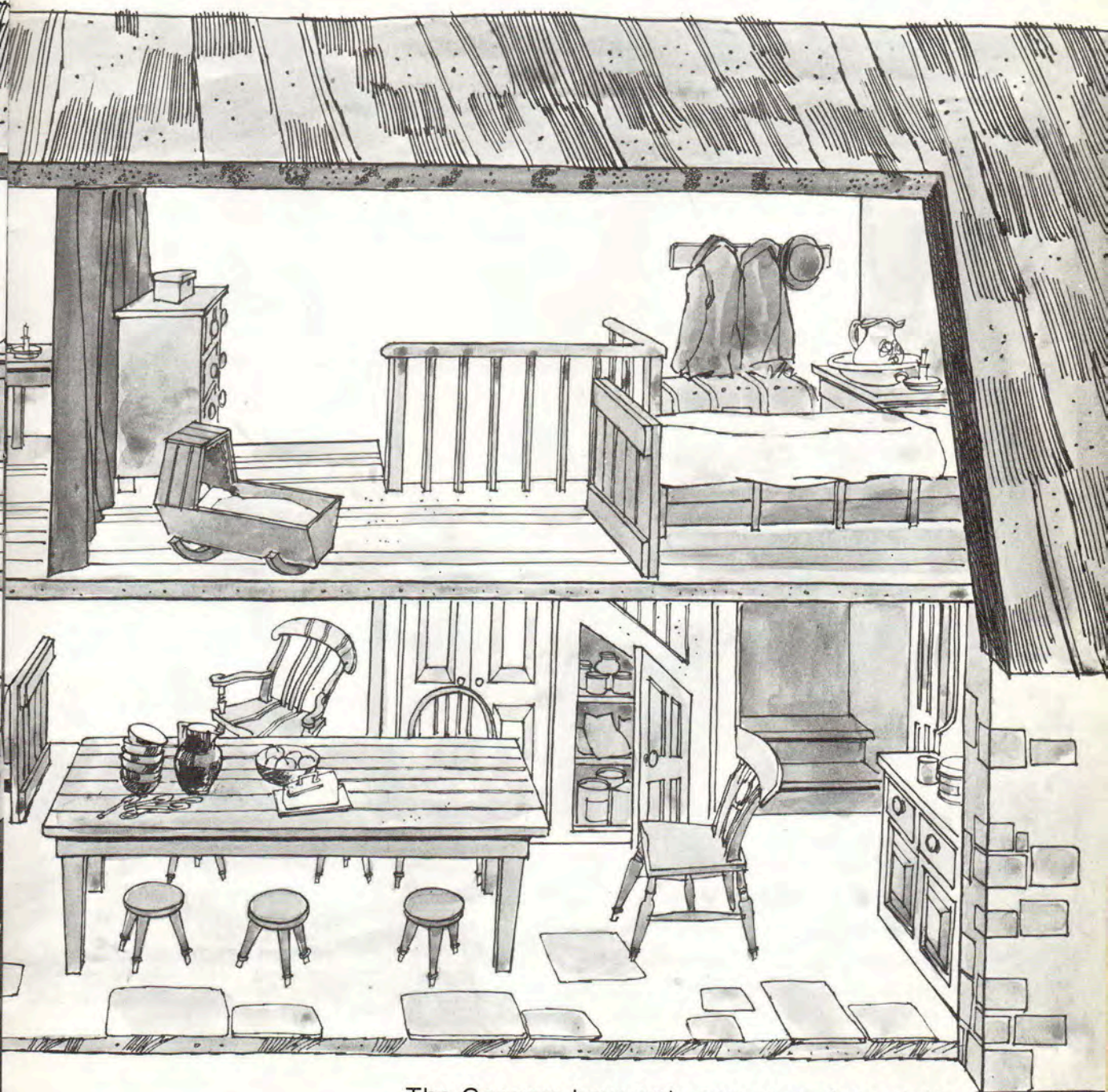
All the family sleep  
in one bedroom.  
Three of the children  
sleep in this bed.



The pigsty is joined  
on to the house.

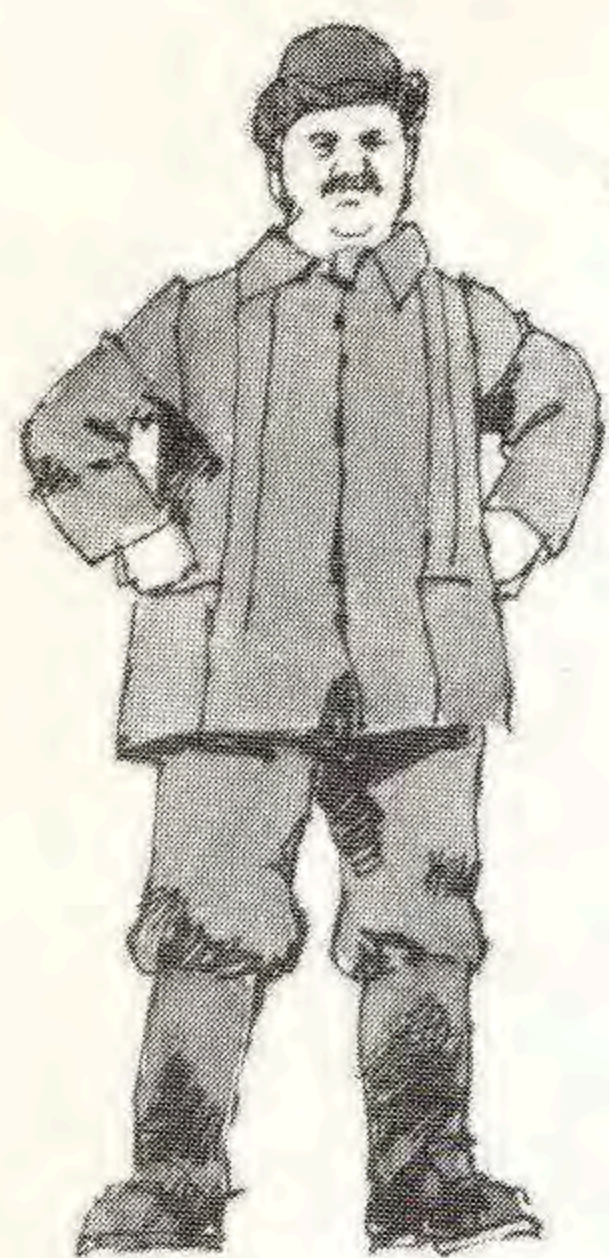


Mr and Mrs Cooper's bedroom  
is on this side of the curtain.  
The baby sleeps with them.



The Coopers have only one room downstairs.  
Freddy sleeps here.





Mr Cooper is the head of the family.

Mr Cooper gets up at 5 o'clock every morning. He works as a ploughman for a rich farmer who owns most of the land in Ashfield.

If the weather is too bad to plough the fields, Mr Cooper has to do other jobs on the farm. Then he does not get paid as much money. On Sundays Mr Cooper does not go to work.

When he comes home from the fields, Mr Cooper has to chop logs for the fire and dig up the vegetables for the next day's meal. Freddy helps him.



In the evenings, Mr Cooper likes to go to the village pub and meet his friends. Mrs Cooper and the other wives never go to the pub with their husbands. They stay at home and look after the children.







Mrs Cooper works all day in the cottage.

Mrs Cooper gets up with her husband at 5 o'clock. In the mornings, she does the housework. She scrubs the floors with soap and water. She does all the washing and ironing.



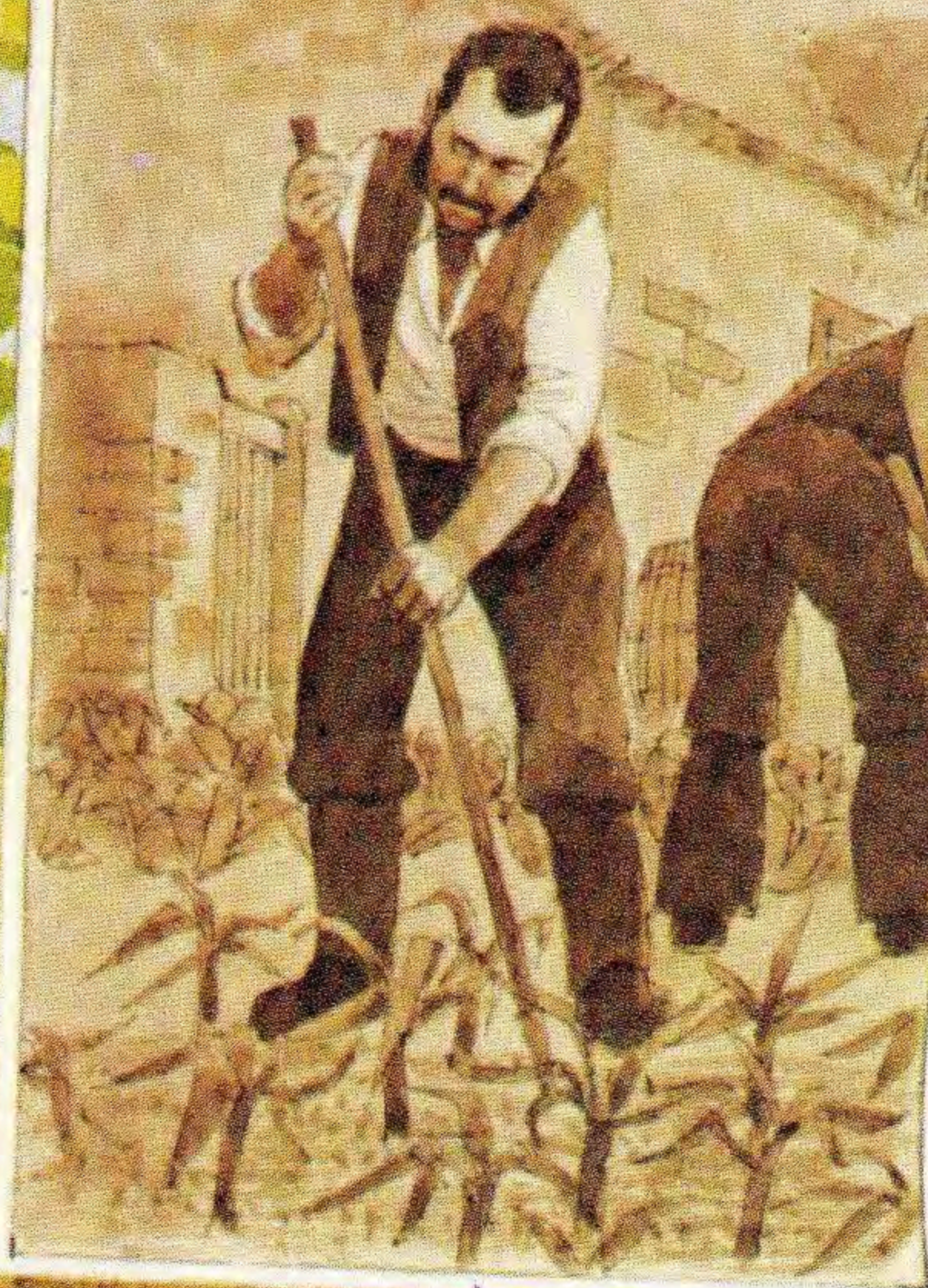
Every afternoon, she gets the evening meal ready for the family. When Meg comes home for her holidays, she has to help her mother.

Mrs Cooper has to look after Alfred and Winnie all day. Sometimes she goes out to visit a friend. She has to take the children with her.



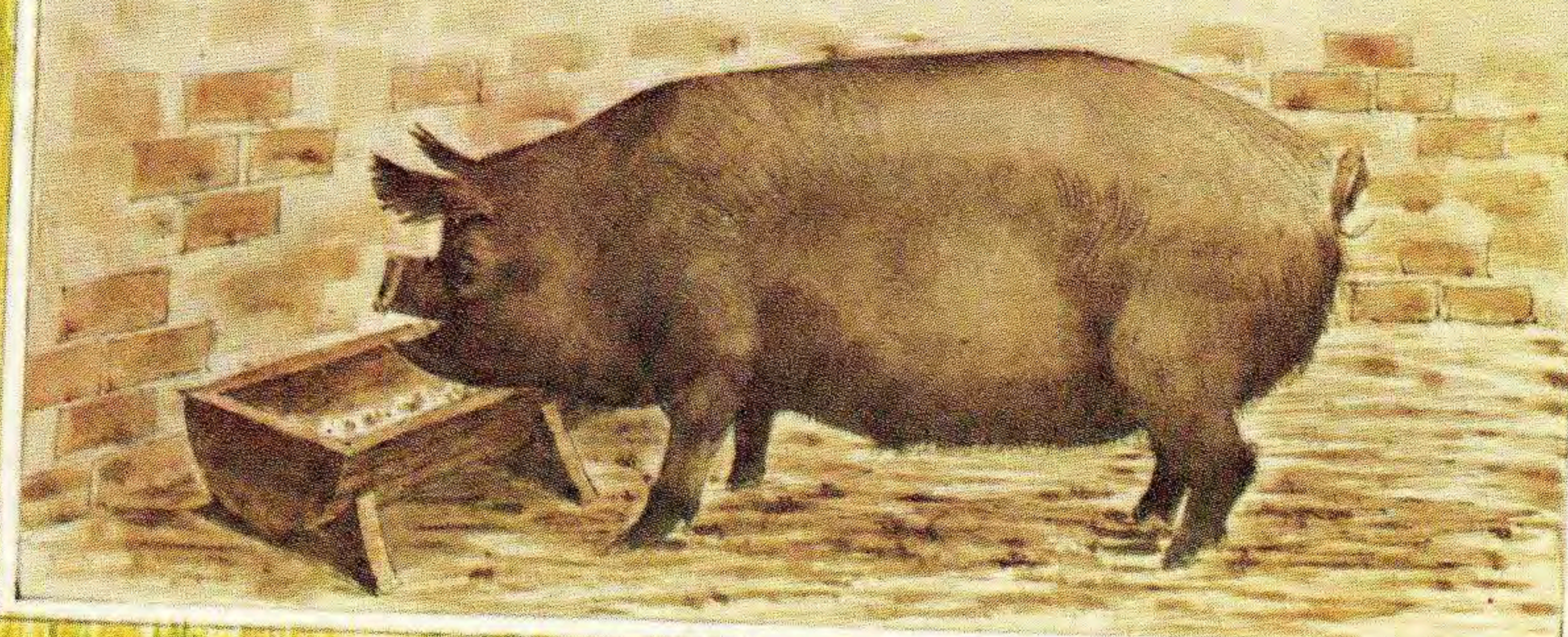


Mr Cooper grows all the vegetables for his family, cabbages, sprouts, carrots, onions, leeks and potatoes. His vegetable garden is outside the cottage. Only Mr Cooper and his sons are allowed to work in the vegetable garden.



Mrs Cooper has a little herb garden. She uses the herbs for cooking. She looks after all the flowers in the garden, too.

Every family in Ashfield has a pig. Mr Cooper keeps his family pig in a pigsty built on to the side of the cottage. Mrs Cooper saves all her scraps of food for the pig. The pig is important to the family because after it is killed there is enough meat to eat for most of the winter.





The Coopers are having their evening meal. They are eating a few bits of bacon, bread and lots of vegetables. The Coopers cannot always afford to eat meat. Sometimes the family has only vegetables for supper.





Everybody in Ashfield works hard at harvest-time.

Mr Cooper helps the men to cut the corn.

Women also help with cutting the corn  
and gathering it.



Cutting the corn





After the corn is cut, Mrs Cooper and Meg go gleaning with the other women from the village. They go round the cornfields picking up the left-over ears of corn. The farmer lets them keep these bits of corn to grind into flour to make bread.

At other times of the year, Mrs Cooper and the other wives can get jobs in the fields which the men would never do. Sometimes they clean turnips for the cows to eat. In the spring, they pick out all the weeds from the fields so that the crops can grow. The farmer pays the women to do these jobs.



Cleaning turnips



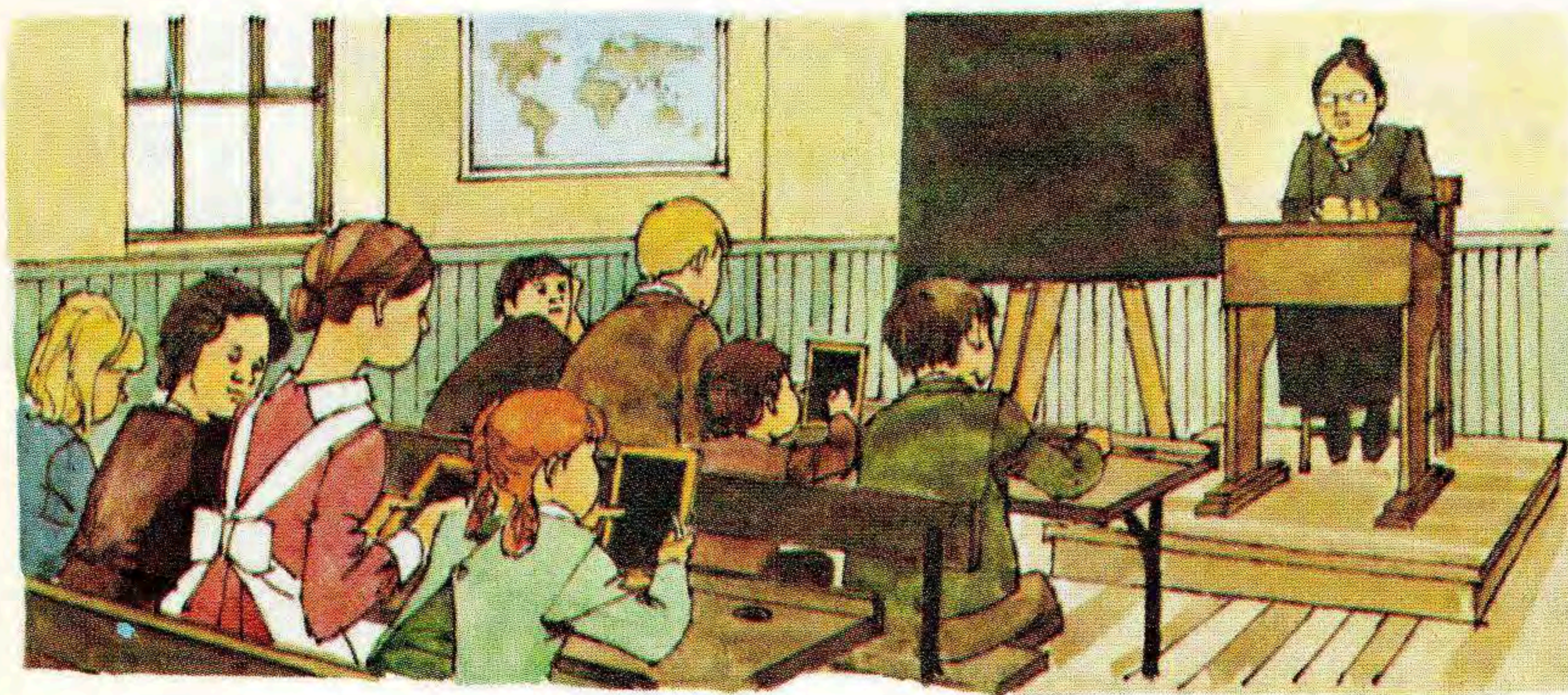


### Tom's day

Tom, one of Mr and Mrs Cooper's sons, is 8 years old. He gets up at 7 o'clock every morning.



**7.30am**



School starts. There is only one big classroom where all the children work. In the morning, the children learn reading, writing and sums. They are quite frightened of their teacher.

**9.00am**

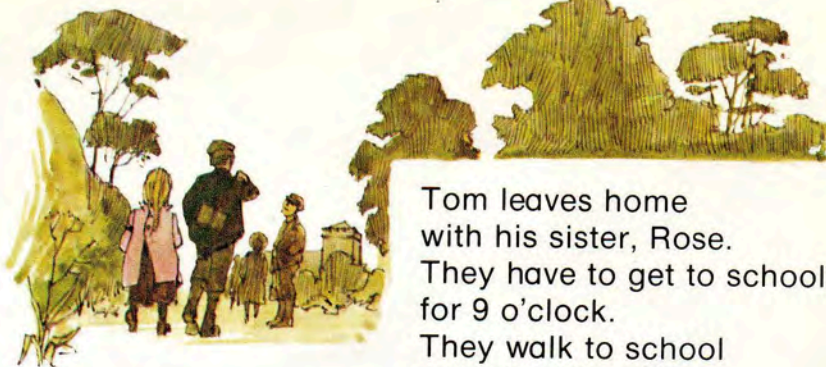


School is over. Tom walks home slowly with all his friends. They play games in the fields and by the stream. Rose has to hurry home to help her mother. She picks some dandelions for the pig on the way home.

**3.30pm**



Tom eats his breakfast with his brothers and sisters. Mr Cooper and Freddy have already gone to work.



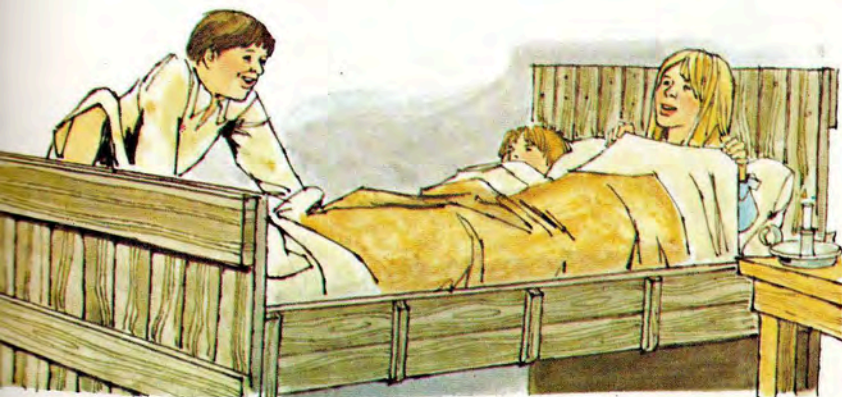
Tom leaves home with his sister, Rose. They have to get to school for 9 o'clock. They walk to school with their friends.

→ → **8.30am** → →



Some afternoons the boys play marbles in the playground. The girls do needlework.

→ **2.00pm** → → →



Supper is over, and it is time for bed. Tom and Rose share the big bed with Alfred. Alfred is already asleep. Tom and Rose have to be careful not to wake him up. Tom is very tired. He is soon fast asleep.

→ **8.30pm** → → **9.00pm**





All too soon, Meg's holiday is over. She must leave Ashfield and go back to her job with the Fisher family in London.

Mrs Cooper and some of the village children walk with Meg to Foxford railway station.

Meg and her mother are very sad. It seems a long time until next year.



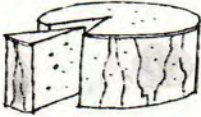
Here are some of the things Mrs Cooper had to buy for her family every week:



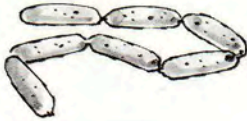
**Butter** 7½p per 1lb (17p per kilo)



**Margarine** 4p per 1lb (9p per kilo)



**Cheese** 3p per 1lb (7p per kilo)



**Sausages** 4p per 1lb (9p per kilo)



**Tea** 1½p per ¼ lb (13p per kilo)



**Eggs** 6p per dozen.



**Milk** 1p per pint (2p per litre)



**Paraffin** 4p per gallon (1p per litre)



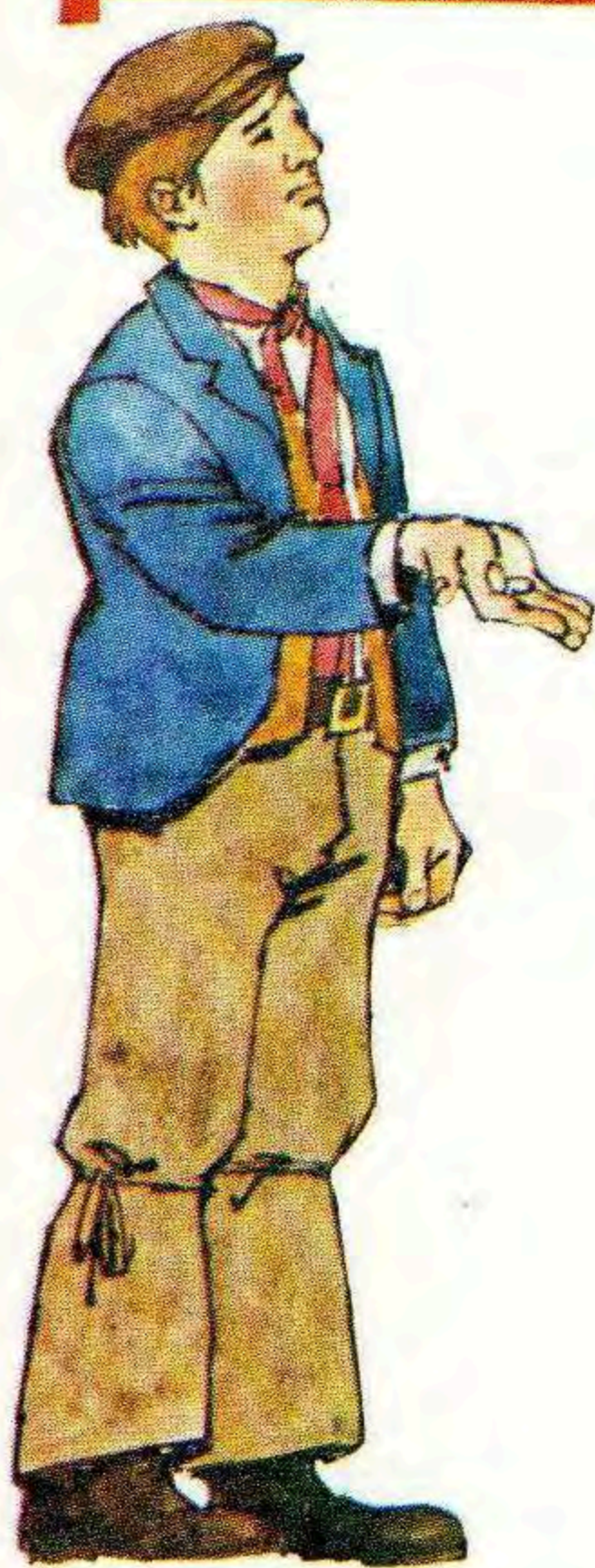
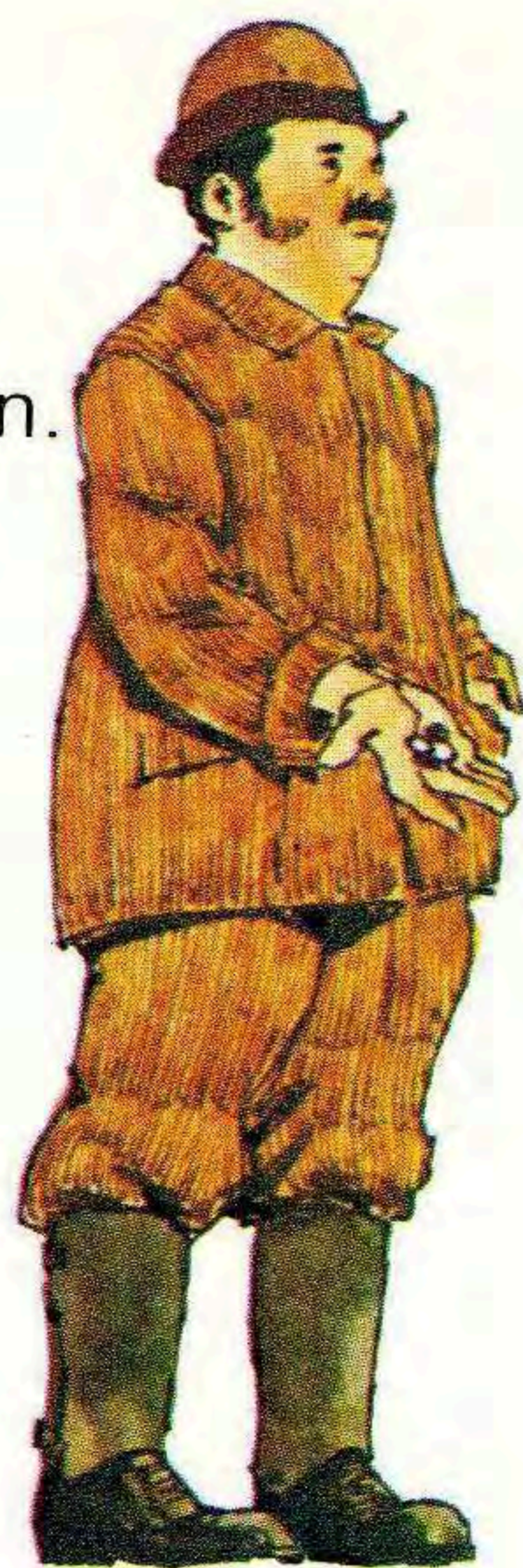
**A large loaf of bread** 1½p

She also had to pay 8p a week rent for their cottage.



Here is the Cooper family.  
Mr and Mrs Cooper had  
three more children,  
but they died when  
they were babies.  
The Coopers are poor.  
They do not have  
any servants.

Mr Cooper is a ploughman.  
He works for a farmer  
in Ashfield.  
He earns 50p a week.  
He gives all his wages  
to his wife.  
She gives him back  
his beer money.



### **Freddy**

19 years old.

Freddy is a farm worker.  
He earns 40p a week.  
He gives his mother  
35p a week to help her  
feed the family and  
pay the rent.  
He buys beer and  
tobacco with the  
rest of the money.



### **Matt**

17 years old.

Matt is away in the army.  
He does not live at home.  
He earns 14p a week.  
He sends his mother 8p  
a month to help her  
feed the family and  
pay the rent.



### **Meg**

14 years old.

Meg is the under  
housemaid with  
the Fisher family  
in London.  
She earns 20p a week.  
She sends her mother  
15p a week.  
Sometimes she sends  
home clothes that  
the Fishers used to wear.





Mrs Cooper works all day in the cottage and looks after the children. She needs all Mr Cooper's money to buy food and clothes, and to pay the rent.



**Tom**  
8 years old.  
Tom goes to school in Ashfield.



**Rose**  
6 years old.  
Rose goes to school in Ashfield.



**Alfred**  
3 years old.  
Alfred stays at home all day with his mother.



**Winnie**  
6 months old.  
Winnie stays at home all day with her mother.

You can see by looking at this picture how the people in the Cooper family are related to each other.

This picture is called a family tree.