In this chapter George really explains what it is like to live in London during the Second World War. He knew quite a lot about it before this experience, but he now has first hand knowledge of it.

Re-read this short chapter carefully and then, in the box below, list the things that he finds really difficult about it.

‘I’m fed up feeling hungry all the time’

George says that ‘the biggest downer’ is that ‘there are people who’ll go through the pockets of the dead to get ration books and other valuable papers... Their own people’

In pairs, with one of you taking the role of George and the other playing someone else, try to explain why someone might act that way. Is there ever a good reason for going through the pockets of the dead?

If you were to have the same experience as George, based on your reading of the whole novel so far, what would you find the most difficult or upsetting aspects of life at that time? Try to explain your answer fully.