

## 5. Evidence of Jack's Appearance

Although the identity of Jack the Ripper remains shrouded in mystery, many witnesses claimed to have seen the victims with suspicious-looking men shortly before they were murdered.

### Task 1

**The following extract is taken from a London newspaper. Read it and answer the questions which follow:**

"A **Mrs. Pannier**, a young woman who sells roasted chestnuts at the corner of Widegate street, a narrow thoroughfare, about two minutes' walk from the scene of the murder, told a reporter a remarkable story. She says that about twelve o'clock (noon) on Friday, a man, dressed like a gentleman, came to her and said, 'I suppose you have heard about the murder in Dorset-street.' She replied that she had, and the man grinned and said, 'I know more about it than you.' He then stared into her face, and went away down Sandes-row, another narrow thoroughfare which cuts across Widegate-street. When he had got some way off, however, he looked back as if to see whether she was watching him, and then vanished. Mrs. Pannier says that the man had a black moustache, was about five feet six inches high, and wore a black silk hat, a black coat, and speckled trousers. He carried a black shiny bag about a foot in depth, and a feet and a half in length. Mrs. Pannier states further that the same man accosted three young unfortunates in Dorset-street on Thursday night, and they chaffed him, and asked him what he had in the bag, and he replied, 'Something that the ladies don't like.' Mrs. Pannier told her story with every appearance of truthfulness".

a. Mrs. Pannier was never interviewed by the police. Why do you think this is?

### Task 2

- Overleaf is a summary of the witness reports recorded by the police.
1. In pairs, discuss the following two questions and then report back to the class:
    - a. What do most of the witnesses seem to agree about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. What are the most obvious disagreements?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. As a class, brainstorm answers to this question:
    - c. What reasons can you come up with to explain the disagreements between the witnesses?

Witness	Which scene?	Time	Appearance of the Suspect
Emily Walter	Annie Chapman	2:00 A.M.	• Foreigner aged 37, dark beard and moustache. Wearing short dark jacket, dark vest and trousers, black scarf and black felt hat.
Elizabeth Long	Annie Chapman	5:30 A.M.	• Dark complexion, brown deerstalker hat, possibly a dark overcoat. Aged over 40, somewhat taller than the victim. A foreigner of "shabby genteel" (i.e. good clothes, but worn out)
J. Best and John Gardner	Elizabeth Stride	11:00 P.M.	• 5'5" tall, English, black moustache, sandy eyelashes, weak, wearing a morning suit and a hat. • They saw the man kissing Stride in a doorway: "... they did not appear willing to go out. He was hugging and kissing her, and as he seemed a respectably dressed man, we were rather astonished at the way he was going on with the woman"
William Marshall	Elizabeth Stride	11:45 P.M.	• Small, black coat, dark trousers, middle aged, round cap with a small sailor-like peak. 5'6", stout, appearance of a clerk. No moustache, no gloves, with a cutaway coat. • Both the man and the woman he was with seemed sober and were kissing. Marshall heard the man remark to the woman, "You would say anything but your prayers."
Matthew Packer	Elizabeth Stride	12:00 - 12:30 P.M.	• Aged 25-30, 5'7", long black coat buttoned up, soft felt hat, broad shoulders. Maybe a young clerk, frock coat, no gloves. Well spoken and dressed ("... I am certain that he wasn't what I should call a working man or anything like us folks that live around here." • Came up to Packer, a fruit seller, with a woman resembling Stride and said, 'I say, old man, how do you sell your grapes?'. Turning to the woman, the man asked, 'Which will you have, my dear, black or white? You shall have whichever you like best'
P.C. William Smith	Elizabeth Stride	12:30 A.M.	• Aged 28, cleanshaven and respectable appearance, 5'7", hard dark felt deerstalker hat, dark clothes. Carrying a newspaper parcel 18 x 7 inches.
James Brown	Elizabeth Stride	12:45 A.M.	• 5'7", stout, long black diagonal coat which reached almost to his heels.
Israel Schwartz	Elizabeth Stride	12:45 A.M.	• <b>First man:</b> Aged 30, 5'5", brown haired, fair complexion, small brown moustache, full face, broad shoulders, dark jacket and trousers, black cap with peak. <b>Second man:</b> Aged 35, 5'11", fresh complexion, light brown hair, dark overcoat, old black hard felt hat with a wide brim, clay pipe. • Schwartz believed he was witnessing a domestic attack on the woman by the first man, while the second was an accomplice. 15 minutes after he passed by, Stride was found dead in the same spot.
Joseph Lawende	Catharine Eddowes	1:30 A.M.	• Aged 30, 5'7", fair complexion, brown moustache, salt-and-pepper coat, red neckerchief, grey peaked cloth cap. Sailor-like.
Mary Ann Cox	Mary Jane Kelly	11:45 P.M.	• Short, stout man, shabbily dressed. Billycock hat, blotchy face, carrot moustache, holding quart can of beer • She saw Mary Kelly entering Kelly's room with the man. Mrs Cox called out "good night Mary Jane," but Kelly, who was "very drunk," could scarcely answer, although she did manage to say "good night."
George Hutchinson	Mary Jane Kelly	2:00 A.M.	• Aged 34-35, 5'6", pale complexion, dark hair, slight moustached curled at each end, long dark coat, collar cuffs of astrakhan, dark jacket underneath. Light waistcoat, thick gold chain with a red stone seal, dark trousers and button boots, gaiters, white buttons. White shirt, black tie fastened with a horseshoe pin. Dark hat, turned down in middle. Red kerchief. Jewish and respectable in appearance. Seemed surprising that such a man was with Mary Kelly. • In his statement to the police he said: "Kelly said to me: 'Hutchinson, will you lend me sixpence?' When I refused, she said: 'I must go and find some money' and headed off. A man coming in the opposite direction tapped her on the shoulder and said something to her. They both burst out laughing. I heard her say: 'All right' to him and the man said: 'You will be alright for what I have told you'. He then placed his right hand around her shoulder. He also had a kind of small parcel in his left hand with a kind of strap around it. She said: 'All right, my dear. Come along. You will be comfortable'. He then placed his arm on her shoulder and she gave him a kiss. They both went to her room"
Sarah Lewis	Mary Jane Kelly	Day previously	"I was going along Bethnal Green Road with another female and a Gentleman passed us he turned back & spoke to us, he asked us to follow him, and said if we would follow him he would treat us – he asked us to go down a passage – he had a bag he put it down saying what are you frightened of – he then undid his coat and felt for something and we ran away – He was short, pale faced, with a black small moustache, about forty years of age – the bag he had was about a foot or nine inches long – he had on a round high hat – he had a brownish long overcoat and a short black coat underneath – and pepper & salt trousers".

3. Use your findings to complete the worksheet on the following page.

## 5. POLICE WARNING – “JACK THE RIPPER” AT LARGE!

A full length artist impression of the suspect (below)

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Approximate age:

Physical appearance:

Favoured clothing:





Social Background:

Nationality:

Any other points:


**The Depiction of Jack the Ripper in the "Penny Dreadfuls"**

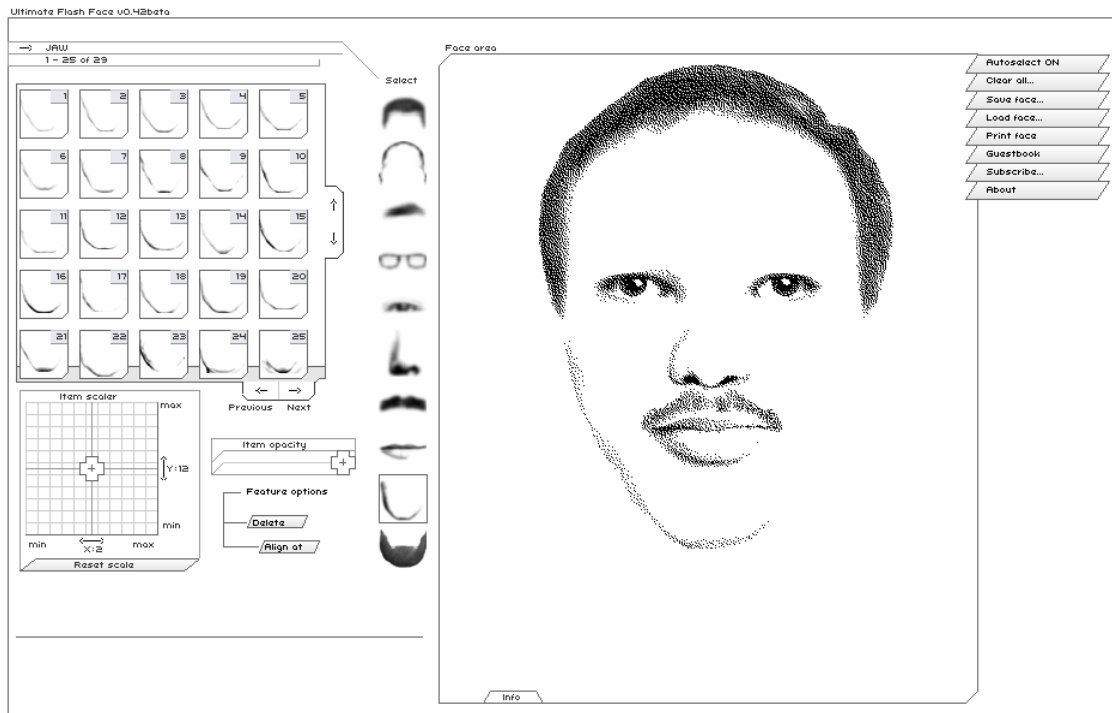
- One reason why "Jack the Ripper" became so infamous is because he was the first serial killer whose crimes were publicised in newspapers (which had only become popular during the Victorian period as more and more people learned to read).
- The cheapest and most popular of these newspapers were packed with shocking stories and gained the name "Penny Dreadfuls".
- Using the witness reports issued by the police, the newspapers produced their own impressions of what the killer looked like.

	<p>Which witness report does this depiction of "Jack" seem to be based on? Explain your answer.</p>
	
	
	
	

Of the pictures shown above, which one of them do you think provides the most accurate depiction of "Jack the Ripper"? Explain your answer.

## Extension Task: Design your own "Identikit" picture of Jack the Ripper

- Go to this site: <http://flashface.ctapt.de/>
- Use the site to put together your own "Identikit" picture of Jack the Ripper's face.
- When you have finished, use your PRINT SCREEN function to take a copy of the image. Then, paste it into this document in place of this image:



As a **further task**, your teacher may ask you to produce a "Wanted" poster of Jack the Ripper using this image and your physical description as the text underneath.