

Streets of London

by Ralph McTell

5	<p>Have you seen the old man in the closed-down market Kicking up the paper with his worn-out shoes? In his eyes you see no pride, Hand held loosely at his side – Yesterday's paper telling yesterday's news.</p>
10	<p><i>So how can you tell me you're lonely And say for you that the sun don't shine? Let me take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of London, I'll show you something to make you change your mind.</i></p>
15	<p>Have you seen the old girl who walks the streets of London Dirt in her hair and her clothes in rags? She's no time for talking, She just keeps right on walking, Carrying her home in two carrier bags.</p>
	<p><i>Chorus</i></p>
20	<p>In the all night café at a quarter past eleven, Same old man is sitting there on his own, Looking at the world Over the rim of his tea-cup – Each tea lasts an hour, and he wanders home alone.</p>
	<p><i>Chorus</i></p>
25	<p>And have you seen the old man outside the seaman's mission Memory fading with the medal ribbons that he wears. In our winter city, The rain cries a little pity For one more forgotten hero, and a world that doesn't care.</p>
	<p><i>Chorus</i></p>

Vocabulary: worn-out = 'abgetragen; erschöpft'; rags = 'old clothes'; carrier bag = 'shopping bag'; rim = 'Rand'; to fade = 'to lose one' colour, to (make sth) become pale'; ribbon = 'strip of cloth'; pity = 'Mitleid'.

Questions on metaphors in the first verse:

1. Why does the old man live in a "closed-down" market?
2. What do the "worn-out" shoes stand for?
3. "Hand held loosely at his side": What does this posture mean?
4. Why are only "yesterday's papers" mentioned?
5. Which grammatical mistake is there in the chorus?