The Family from One End Street Comprehension

(Eve Garnett)

The Ruggles lived at No. 1 One End Street, which was in the middle part of the town, nearest Woolworth’s and the cinemas and farthest from the fields. From Monday till Friday morning the house, which was very old and very small, was full of steam and the smell of damp and drying clothes, but on Friday afternoon and Saturday it got aired a bit, and by Sunday was as clean and tidy as any other in the Town. Outside hung a blue board on which was painted in large white letters, ‘The Ideal Laundry. Careful Hand Work’, and underneath, in smaller letters, the mysterious words ‘Bag-wash’.

There was a small yard at the back where the washing was hung to dry on fine days, and where Mr Ruggles did a little landscape and kitchen gardening in his spare time, kept three hens in an old soap-box, had dreams of a Pig, and at times, being a Dustman, nightmares of a Sanitary Inspector.

(Sanitary means hygiene/cleanliness)

Questions:

1. Whereabouts in town did the Ruggles live?

2. Describe the house.

3. When is the laundry open for business?

4. Why do you think ‘Bag-wash’ is described as ‘mysterious’?

5. Why is the washing only hung out on particular days?

6. Describe the character of Mr Ruggles.