A Day in a Past Life Charles was taking a stroll down the village, when suddenly out of nowhere came a man. Charles was a curious man and a detective who kept that a secret. (an interesting plot already!) He knew that the man was narrowing his eyes at him. Charles slowly strode on, pretending not to notice this peculiar man. “Get on with it you Tommy Tug! My trouble (lovely use of Cockney rhyming slang here!) is waiting for me!” shouted the man. “Your trouble what do you mean trouble? Who are you?” Asked Charles politely. “My trouble and strife! She said that if I don’t get a move on my Ruby (Ruby Murray means curry) (wonderful!) will get cold!” With the last exclaimation, he walked off in a huff. Charles was quite interested in people like this. Very rude and abrupt and uses lots of slang. So, he decided to disguise himself as a ragamuffin and follow the man. (the theme of criminal activity linked with Cockney rhyming slang is very accurate to the times, well done!) Surely, he would do something. He went home and found some cold tea and fish. He scoffed it down until he could stand up. He was about to fall into a deep sleep when suddenly a phone rang. Charles snapped awake and instantly picked up the phone.(careful, phone’s wouldn’t have been invented then) “CHARLES HAVE YOU BEEN ON DUTY? ANOTHER MAN HAS BEEN ROBBED NEAR YOU! DID YOU PAY ATTENTION!” Exclaimed the voice. “Yes master, I have been on duty. I found someone suspi-'' His master cut him off. “WELL, THAT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FIND OUT MORE OR YOU WILL BE SACKED WITH ZERO SHILLINGS!” (a nice historically accurate detail here) With that the master cut off. Charles, feeling sorry for himself, immediately began to start work again. He didn’t want to be shouted at nor sacked. He disguised himself and limped down the street pretending he was homeless. He walked up to a very expensive house and sat by the doorstep, hoping the same man would come. The sun slowly began to ~~rise down~~ (set) and Charles became very tired indeed. He had never gone this far without an afternoon nap. His eyelids felt heavier and heavier, until he found himself in a world full of wealthiness and nobody was homeless. “OY YOU! CLEAR ORF!” shouted a familiar voice. Get off my doorstep I will call the police!”

“Please sir, you look kind sir. Am I allowed to stay for one night sir?” Charles said in a ~~foriegn~~ (foreign) voice. (I really like your use of dialogue throughout) The man thought about it for a second, smiled at himself and said, “You can stay for a night and even get paid if you are willing to do it we need to go now, but if not I will leave you here to freeze.” The inspector thought this was very suspicious so he decided to chime in with the man's idea. “That will be a real pleasure, I will obey you Mr-”

“Dick call me Dick.”

“Thank you so much Dick!”

They rode on Dick’s motobike (motorbike) (again, careful! This doesn’t quite fit with the setting) to what Charles thought was a small apartment. They went through a small hallway and entered the last room's door.

“Sit on this chair and hold on tight you will go on a ride.” said Dick. The inspector, unsure what will happen next, sat on the blue, comfortable chair. Dick put his hand on a scanner; the chair suddenly fell so fast, that before Charles knew it he was on another ground. Suddenly, a voice behind him yelled, “OY! WHO ARE YOU? DID SOMEBODY TELL A RAGAMUFFIN LIKE YOU TO SPY ON US?” Before Charles could answer Dick came and explained everything. “We have a helper today. If he helps us through today. I told him that I will let him have shelter for a night, alright let's start the meeting James!” (I love where the plot has come to here)

James began to talk about what they had to do “ Alright we need a rook someone to take the spangle, this is a flammet job.”

“Sorry. Can you run through that again? I didn’t quite get that.” said Charles, pretty interested.

“Well we need a rook. It means a crowbar. Someone to take the spangle, and this is a flammit, dangerous job.” (great use of slang, so amusing!)

“What does spangle mean?”

“It means money!” At the exact same time when James said that there were sirens outside getting louder and louder.

“What is happening?! Did someone ring the police?!” James sounded angry and confused at the same time. The doors were broken into and everyone there around the table was arrested, except from Charles. Charles was very clever and clipped a camera to his tie so that the ~~policies~~ (police) would see what was happening. Dick scowled at Charles, Charles smiled at Dick politely. Charles knew that he would be getting his promotion very soon. (a wonderful, entertaining ending line!)

**What Went Well:**

-I love your storyline here, Thea, and the way that the idea of cops and robbers fits in with the Victorian society you’ve created here. The idea of disguise is also very entertaining, and I love how cheeky the last line is!

-Your use of Cockney rhyming slang is fantastic, and I love that Charles doesn’t quite understand it, setting him apart from the criminals who used it to avoid police interference!

-You have some lovely historical accuracies throughout, such as the dialect and mention of shillings. These little details make all of the difference in creating a historical scene.

**Even Better If…:**

**-**Make sure that, if you’re writing in the Victorian era, you don’t mention modern technology such as phones, cameras and motorbikes. These seem incongruous and don’t fit with the scene around them, causing a jarring feeling in the story. Just be hyper aware of this when writing about the past!

-I would love to see you challenging yourself to use some imagery, such as similes, metaphors or personification. These would elevate the standard and atmosphere of your writing considerably!

-Since this is set in Victorian London, I would love to see more description of the physical setting. It can be brief, but a nod to the filthy streets or smoggy weather would be perfect! This would also allow for easy use of imagery :D