



Year Group: Year 3-6

Length: 24 mins

Set up: Lie down in your own space on the floor

Learning Intentions:

To know about...

- The Industrial Revolution (e.g. mining, factories, trains - and children's roles in those)
- Life in Victorian country vs city
- Victorian London
- Social & economical inequality (and the struggle against it)

Synopsis:

- It's the annual egg and spoon race in 1869 in your mining village in Yorkshire.
- Your Dad is injured in the mine, and won't work again. You're sent to the mine.
- In the mine, you stop for lunch, put your head down and wake up six hours later. You're fired.
- Your parents go to the workhouse but you stowaway on a train to London to save your family
- You meet Lady Dogood who gives you a shilling and her card.
- In London a pickpocket takes all your possessions. You have nowhere to sleep.
- A man called John gets you a job at Botley's Button Factory.
- John is whipped unconscious in the factory. You ring the alarm and start a strike.
- You march to Parliament, but Prime Minister Gladstone ignores you.
- You find Lady Dogood and show her John's injuries. She talks to Gladstone.
- Gladstone promises better conditions for workers.
- Your family appear, very proud of you. Lady Dogood invites you all to live with her.

Characters:

- **Mayor** - mining village mayor and overseer of the Annual Egg and Spoon race
- **Timmy** - your younger brother
- **Mum & Dad**
- **Mine Shaft Owner** - a nasty boss
- **Lady Dogood** – well-spoken lady with connections in high places
- **John** - worker at Botley's Button Factory
- **Mr Botley** - owner of the factory
- **Prime Minister Gladstone** – Liberal politician and Prime Minister of Britain four separate times

Locations:

- **Village**
- **Mine** - miners could choke on gas, die from explosions, collapsing mines, trench foot...
- **Train**
- **London** – London was a crowded, dirty and dangerous place with high levels of poverty.
- **Botley's Button Factory** – the Industrial Revolution led to lots of factories (also dangerous places!)
- **Houses of Parliament** - where the government and the opposition debate

Glossary:

- **Workhouse** - many poor people worked in workhouses in return for meagre accommodation & food
- **Coal** - was needed to drive factories and trains.
- **Shilling** - before our current system, there were 20 shillings to the pound. A ha'penny was a half penny

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- What was it like down the mine?
- What was the Industrial Revolution? (*factories, mechanisation, demand for mines...*)
- Who goes to a workhouse and what happens there?
- What were the differences between your parents and Lady Do Good?
- How were the streets of London different from today?
- What hardships did workers at Botley's Button Factory suffer?
- How did you work to change the working conditions in the factory?
- Who was Prime Minister?

PSHE & Philosophical

- How did you feel when Timmy arrived to say your Dad had been hurt?
- What do you imagine life was like for children who worked in the mines?
- Should all children go to school today? Should children leave school and start jobs before 16?
- Victorian society had a big split between rich and poor. Has this improved?
- Would you like to be a politician? Or Prime Minister? Why?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**