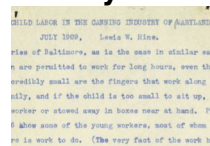


Teaching with Primary Sources Assessment

Grade Level: High School (9-10)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Lewis Hine, 1909 Report (Child Labor in the Canning Industry of Maryland)

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/static/data/nclc/resources/images/canneries3.pdf>

Topic Background:

The Industrial Revolution took place over more than a century, as production of goods moved from home businesses...to machine-aided production in factories. This revolution...involved major changes in transportation, manufacturing, and communications...

For millions of working Americans, the industrial revolution changed the very nature of their daily work. Previously, they might have worked for themselves at home, in a small shop, or outdoors...When they took factory jobs, they were working for a large company...the work was often dangerous and performed in unsanitary conditions. Some women entered the work force, as did many children. Child labor became a major issue.

Excerpted from: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/industrial-revolution/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf

Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment includes excerpts from Lewis Hine's 1909 report on the working and living conditions of children in Maryland's canning industry. He asserts that the working conditions are too intense for small children, and that their lives and educations suffer from their employment. He shares evidence that the canning and agricultural industries endanger children and force families to live in sub-standard conditions, often exposing them to disease and indecency.

Answer Key:

Question 1 – D

Question 2 – C

Child Labor in the Canning Industry of Maryland, July 1909 Lewis Hine

In the canneries of Baltimore...children are permitted to work for long hours, even though they may be very young. Incredibly small are the fingers that work along with those of the rest of the family, and if the child is too small to sit up, it is held on the lap of the worker or stowed away in boxes near at hand...most of [them help] regularly when there is work to do. (The very fact of the work being so intermittent makes it difficult to ascertain just how deep-seated is this custom...)

Miss Rife of the Federated Charities, told me it is a general rule, at these canneries, to have the children get their jobs first and then have them apply for permits. (The weakness of this system is obvious). A working woman told Miss Rife that one cannery requires no permits and that there are lots of children there.

There are several dangers connected with this work when children do it. On every hand, one can see little tots toting boxes or pans full of beans, berries or tomatoes, and it is self-evident that the work is too hard. Then there are machines which no young persons should be working around. Unguarded belts, wheels, cogs and the like are a menace to careless children.

Questions:

1. Lewis Hine states:

“The very fact of the work being so intermittent makes it difficult to ascertain just how deep-seated is this custom...”

The use of the word “intermittent” indicates...? (CCSS. RI.9-10.4)

- a. The work is unrelenting and constant.
- b. The work is beyond the capacity of small children.
- c. The work disrupts the children’s regular, every day life.
- d. The work is irregular or has frequent stops and starts.

2. Which statement best describes the central idea of the passage? (CCSS. RI.9-10.2)

- a. Parents must neglect their children in order to find employment.
- b. The hands and strength of children are too small and weak to work well.
- c. The canning industry’s methods are unsafe for child workers.
- d. It is unclear just how bad the working conditions are for young children.