

Labor & Factory Workers

EXAMPLE #1

The Bitter Cry of the Children

Close Reading (pg. 50):

Fill out the rubric as you silently read the excerpt

Answer the questions under the rubric, using specific evidence from the reading



Life as a Factory Worker

How did life as a factory worker differ from life working in a small shop?

- Relationship with boss
- Relationship with product



The Work Environment

Factory workers worked by the clock – up to 16 hours a day, sometimes 7 days a week.

Workers could be fired for being late, talking, or refusing to do a task.

Workplaces were often unsafe.

Children often performed unsafe work and worked in dangerously unhealthy conditions.

Thinking of Complaining?

Many companies required workers to take oaths or sign contracts promising not to join a union.

They hired detectives to identify union organizers.

Workers who tried to organize were fired and placed on a blacklist, and no one would hire them.



Working Families

In the 1880s, children made up more than 5% of the industrial labor force.

Children often left school at the age of 12 or 13 to work

Girls sometimes took factory jobs so their brothers could stay in school.

If an adult became too ill to work, children as young as 6 or 7 had to work.

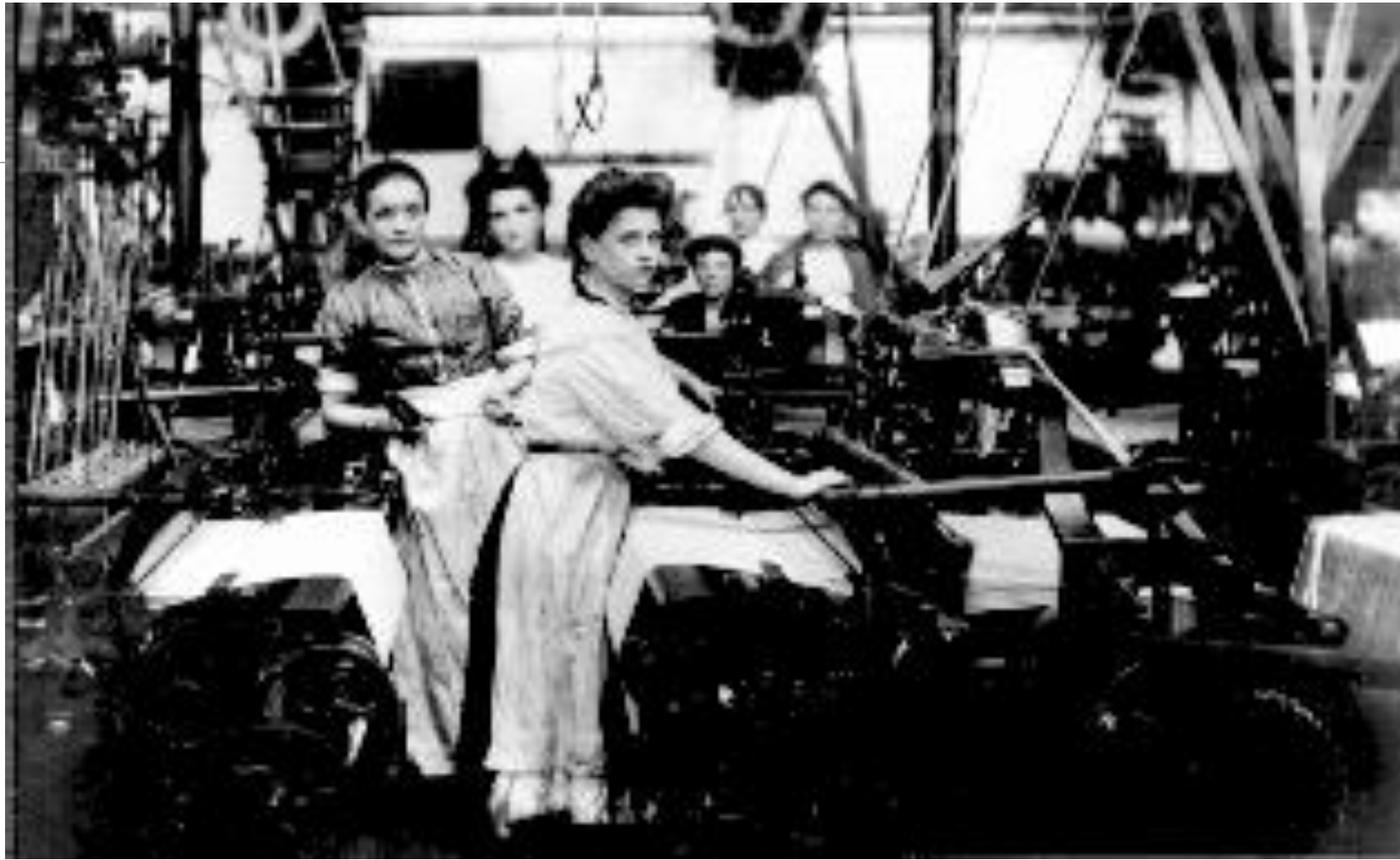
Working Families

Rarely did the government provide public assistance, and unemployment insurance didn't exist.

The theory of Social Darwinism held that poverty resulted from personal weakness. Many thought that offering relief to the unemployed would encourage idleness.









EXAMPLE #2

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

The Story:

<https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Triangle-Shirtwaist-Fire>



Spoiler Alert:
Not an “awesome story”











Thos. Stue













14. Viewing the unfortunates at the Morgue

The Aftermath

March 25, 1911

146 died

Max Blanck and Isaac Harris
acquitted

Their factory with the exact
same conditions opens
several months later



EXAMPLE #3

Meat Packing Plants

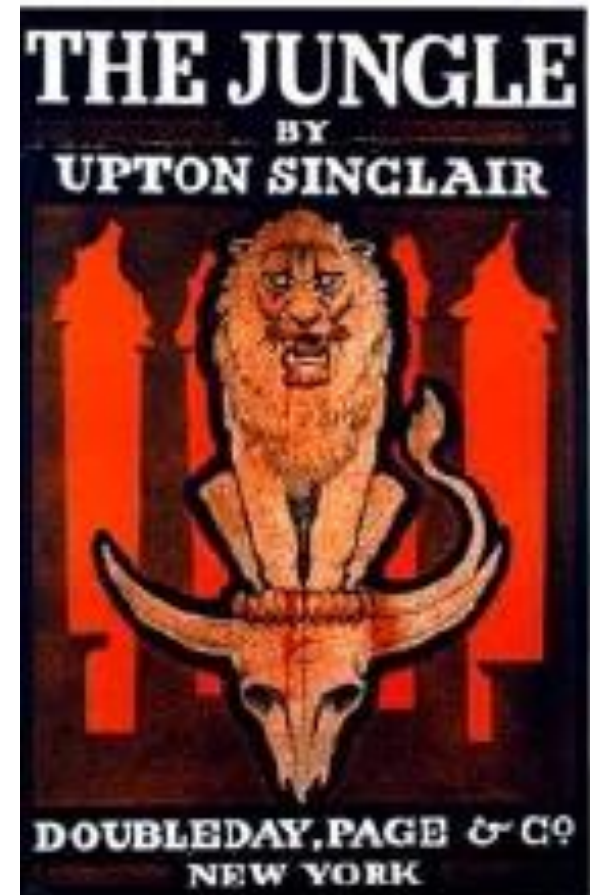
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2ppaJwQ9UM>

Upton Sinclair

Wrote The Jungle

Exposed the unsanitary
meat-packing industry

Exposed harsh working
condition too





265 Splitting backbones and final inspection — hogs ready for cooler, Swift & Co., Chicago, U.S.A. Copyright 1908 by H. O. White Co.



“The Jungle”

Read the excerpt from “The Jungle”

Answer the questions associated with the text

