

LIVING IN THE PAST

VICTORIAN CHILDREN AT WORK

How did you do? You'll find all the answers you need below:

How old is Charlie? **6 years old.**

Why did Charlie have to go to work? **Because his family is poor.**

Where does Charlie work? And what is his job? **The coal mine and he has to hold the lamp for the getter.**

He would also collect all the coal that the getter was picking.

What is a 'getter'? **They are usually strong men , who use a pick axe and pick for coal for the children to collect into trucks.**

What animal and bird does Charlie mention that help him to work? **A pit pony and a yellow canary.**

Why does Charlie have to leave the crusts of his sandwich lunch? **Because he has coal dust all over his hands so they are very dirty.**

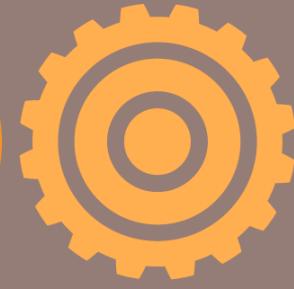
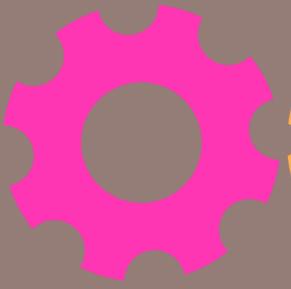
Can you list two possible accidents that could happen to Charlie whilst at work in the mine? **He could get hit by a pick axe if he wasn't careful, there could be a gas explosion, he could develop a really bad cough.**

What is a hurrier and thruster? And why does Charlie want to be one? **They pull and push the trucks of coal along the mines and they get paid more.**

Why does Charlie dream of working on a farm? **He knows it would be hard work but at least he gets fresh air and sunshine.**

Can you list four jobs you may have had to do when working on a farm? **You would be employed to scare the birds from the crops, guard the livestock from straying, pick hops, sow potatoes and beans, gather mushrooms and herd animals to market. They would also collect firewood, fill sacks with grain and shred turnips. With age, they would progress to ploughing and other hard physical tasks. At harvest time everyone lent a hand making hay or harvesting crops.**





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How did you do? You'll find all the answers you need below:

How old is Florence? **15 years old.**

When did Florence start work? **Florence has worked all her life. From the age of about 4 years old Florence would have helped her mother around the home doing chores. Aged 5 she went to work in the cotton mill.**

What was the cotton mill like? **The mill was a hot, noisy and a terrifying place to work.**

What are mules? **Mules were the machines that spin the cotton.**

What is a scavenger? And why was it a dangerous job? **This was the worst job of all. You would have had to keep the machinery clean and free of loose threads. When cotton fell to the floor you would crawl under the machinery and collect it. They didn't stop the machines whilst small children crawled inside and underneath. If the children stopped concentrating or mis-timed grabbing a piece of cotton they could easily get trapped in the machinery. Many children had fingers chopped off, or their hands crushed. Girls with long hair risked getting it tangled up in the machines and ripped from their heads. It happened more than you would like to believe. If you stopped the machine people would lose money, so they did not want to do that for anything. You had to keep your wits about you.**

Why did Florence want to go to school? **So she was able to learn to read and write a little, and to sew. This gave her a way out of the mills, a chance that many girls never got.**

When Florence was 12 years old what was her job? **She worked as a maid.**

What time did Florence start work and finish at the end of the day as a maid? **5am in the morning until 9pm at night! That's 16 hours.**

How many days of the week did Florence work? **7 days, she might have had a few hours off on a Sunday to go to church.**

Can you list five different things a girl would do as a maid? **Making and lighting the fire, meal preparation, washing the dishes, bed making, scrubbing and cleaning floors, clothes washing, drawing the curtains, possibly even looking after the children of the household.**

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Tameside

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Metropolitan Borough

