

Source 1

Sarah Carpenter was interviewed about her experiences in *The Ashton Chronicle* (23rd June, 1849)

"The master carder's name was Thomas Birks; but he never went by any other name than Tom the Devil. He was a very bad man - he was encouraged by the master in ill-treating all the hands, but particularly the children. I have often seen him pull up the clothes of big girls, seventeen or eighteen years of age, and throw them across his knee, and then flog them with his hand in the sight of both men and boys. Everybody was frightened of him. He would not even let us speak. He once fell poorly, and very glad we were. We wished he might die. There was an overlooker called William Hughes, who was put in his place whilst he was ill. He came up to me and asked me what my drawing frame was stopped for. I said I did not know because it was not me who had stopped it. A little boy that was on the other side had stopped it, but he was too frightened to say it was him. Hughes starting beating me with a stick, and when he had done I told him I would let my mother know. He then went out and fetched the master in to me. The master started beating me with a stick over the head till it was full of lumps and bled. My head was so bad that I could not sleep for a long time, and I never been a sound sleeper since.

There was a young woman, Sarah Goodling, who was poorly and so she stopped her machine. James Birch, the overlooker knocked her to the floor. She got up as well as she could. He knocked her down again. Then she was carried to the apprentice house. Her bed-fellow found her dead in bed. There was another called Mary. She knocked her food can down on the floor. The master, Mr. Newton, kicked her where he should not do, and it caused her to wear away till she died. There was another, Caroline Thompson. They beat her till she went out of her mind.

We were always locked up out of mill hours, for fear any of us should run away. One day the door was left open. Charlotte Smith, said she would be ringleader, if the rest would follow. She went out but no one followed her. The master found out about this and sent for her. There was a carving knife which he took and grasping her hair he cut it off close to the head. They were in the habit of cutting off the hair of all who were caught speaking to any of the lads. This head shaving was a dreadful punishment. We were more afraid of it than of any other, for girls are proud of their hair."

Source 2

William Bolling, speech, House of Commons (Parliament) (9th May, 1836)

"I mistrust interference on behalf of the poor which the poor are themselves to pay for. Let the question be presented honestly and fairly. Let the parents of factory children know that the diminishing the hours of daily **toil** (work) must **diminish** (reduce) the amount of weekly pay. Certainly, there are cases of hardship and oppression, but I dislike all cases of legislative interference between master and man - between parent and child. And, moreover, all such interference would be unsuccessful. Your laws to regulate wages, and hours of labour, and conditions of contract for work - they are merely cobwebs broken through at will - because it is the interest of master and servant that they should be broken. Cultivate commerce with all the nations of the world; this will raise wages and will prevent the necessity for exhausting labour."

Source 3

On the 26th April, 1816, Robert Owen appeared before Robert Peel's House of Commons Committee (part of Parliament) about New Lanark (a factory he owned).

"Seventeen years ago, a number of individuals, with myself, purchased the New Lanark establishment from Mr. Dale. I found that there were 500 children, who had been taken from poor-houses, chiefly in Edinburgh, and those children were generally from the age of five and six, to seven to eight. The hours at that time were thirteen. Although these children were well fed their limbs were very generally deformed, their growth was stunted, and although one of the best schoolmasters was engaged to instruct these children regularly every night, in general they made very slow progress, even in learning the common alphabet. I came to the conclusion that the children were injured by being taken into the mills at this early age, and employed for so many hours; therefore, as soon as I had it in my power, I adopted regulations to put an end to a system which appeared to me to be so injurious."

SOAPStone - Child Labor in the Industrial Revolution

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S	<p>Who is the <u>S</u>peaker (Artist)? The voice that is speaking. Identification of the historical person (or group of people) who created the primary source. What do we know about this person?</p>			
O	<p>What is the <u>O</u>ccasion? What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created?</p>			
A	<p>Who is the <u>A</u>udience? The readers to whom this document is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group.</p>			
P	<p>What is the <u>P</u>urpose? What is the reason behind the text? Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?</p>			
S	<p>What is the <u>S</u>ubject? What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? Summarize in a few words or phrase.</p>			
tone	<p>What is the <u>T</u>one? What is the attitude of the speaker? Examine the choice of words, emotions expressed, imagery used to determine the attitude.</p>			

1. Describe the working conditions children such as Sarah Carpenter experienced.

2. According to William Bolling, why should the Parliament not make any laws about the working conditions for children in England?

3. What is unusual about Robert Owen's testimony before Parliament?

4. Please explain how the three documents you studied are connected.
