

# It's a Hard-Knock Life **Answers**

## **1. How do sources A and B show what life was like in the mills in 1831?**

**Source A** tells us that children suffered in the mills. It tells us this when it says...

The boy was 'weak in his knees'

The boy could 'hardly walk'

**Source B** tells us that children were treated badly in the mills. It shows us this when it says...

'the overlooker has strapped me', 'her back was beat nearly to jelly'.

**Source B** tells us that the children were afraid to complain because...

They needed the wages – 'do not complain for we will be sacked'.

## **2. With a partner, tick two things from this list that are improvements for child workers and put a cross next to two things that are still not acceptable in your opinion.**

- 1) No child workers under nine years of age.
- 2) Employers must have an age certificate for their child workers.
- 3) Children of 9-13 years to work no more than nine hours a day.
- 4) Children of 13-18 years to work no more than 12 hours a day.
- 5) Children are not to work at night.
- 6) Two hours schooling each day for children.
- 7) Four factory inspectors appointed to enforce the law (in the whole of Britain!).

**Reasons we have chosen our improvements:**

No workers under 9 – little children could stay at home.

Age certificates – made sure children were registered and their ages were honest.

Not working at night – less dangerous and children got sleep.

Schooling – this helped children better themselves and maybe leave the factory someday.

Factory inspectors – could enforce the law.

**Reasons we have chosen things that are not acceptable:**

Children of 9-13 years to work no more than nine hours a day. – Still too long.

Children of 13-18 years to work no more than 12 hours a day. – Still too long.

Two hours of schooling – not enough.

Four inspectors – not enough to be effective.