

Resource 4

Stop and Go - prompts

These are suggested prompts for session leaders. You may want to include other moments that you have researched and discussed with your class.

Individual images:

- A child playing with a hoop and stick.
- A child waking at 4am to set off for work in the mine.
- A child 'weigher' - pulling heavy baskets back and forth in the cotton mill. The room is full of cotton dust which gets in the eyes and lungs.
- A child working as a 'piecener' - they dodge between the machines, find the broken ends of the cotton and twist the two ends together to reconnect the strands.
- A child working as a 'doffer' - taking the empty bobbins off and putting new ones on.
- A child crawling under the machines to clear away the dirt and fluff that has collected.
- A child 'trapper' - sitting alone in the dark, deep down in the pit, ready to open the doors for coal trucks to pass through.
- A child walking home at the end of a 9-hour shift - it takes nearly an hour to walk back to the surface.

Pair or small group images:

Threes: children playing hop-scotch in the street after work.

Twos: children working as 'putters' - pushing and pulling the tubs or wagons of coal.

Fives: a child has caught their finger in the machinery at the mill. The machines have been stopped while the child is helped away.

Fives: a family at home in the parlour after the day's work, having their evening meal.

Fives: a family group approaching the workhouse. One of the adults has lost their job so the family can no longer pay their rent and they have had to come to the workhouse. They know the family will be split up, with the children and adults housed in different dormitories.