

# CHILD LABOR DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



A girl named Mary Richards, who was thought remarkably pretty at the workhouse, and was not quite 10 years of age, worked at a drawing frame. Below the machine, and about a foot from the floor, was a horizontal shaft, by which the frames above were turned. It happened one evening, when her apron was caught by the shaft. In an instant the poor girl was drawn by an irresistible force and dashed on the floor. She uttered the most heart-rending shrieks! The floor manager ran towards her, an agonized and helpless beholder of a scene of horror. He saw her whirled round and round with the shaft - he heard the bones of her arms, legs, thighs, etc. successively snap asunder, crushed, seemingly, to atoms, as the machinery whirled her round, and drew tighter and tighter her body within the works, her blood was scattered over the frame and streamed upon the floor, her head appeared dashed to pieces - at last, her mangled body was jammed in so fast, between the shafts and the floor, that the water being low and the wheels off the gear, it stopped the main shaft. When she was extricated, every bone was found broken - her head dreadfully crushed. The poor girl was carried off quite lifeless.

1. Which adjective best describes the factory in which the girl works?
  - a. Safe
  - b. Hazardous
  - c. Bright
  - d. Fun
2. At what factory machine did the girl work?
  - a. Spinning jenny
  - b. Spinning mule
  - c. Water frame
  - d. Drawing frame
3. Which group would most likely use this story for their cause?
  - a. Factory owners
  - b. Anti-child labor groups
  - c. Abolitionists
  - d. Activists for a higher minimum wage
4. What would make the best title for this story?
  - a. Why You Should Work in a Factory
  - b. The Perils of Child Labor
  - c. Achievements of the Industrial Revolution
  - d. The Ugly Side of Labor Unions

