



Key Stage 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives
Year 9 Pack 1

Insert

The Sources that follow are:

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

McDonalds fined for exploiting child labour

An article from *The Guardian* newspaper published in 2001.

Source B: 19th Century literary non-fiction

It is a journal entry by Sidney Smith written in 1819, incorporating a chimney sweep's evidence to a Parliamentary Committee.

**Please turn the page over
to see the Source**

Source A

21st century non-fiction: an article from *The Guardian* called *McDonald's fined for exploiting child labour* in which the writer reports on the problem of McDonald's illegally employing school-aged children.

McDonald's fined for exploiting child labour

An investigation shows that school-aged children are being exploited, even in the UK.

- 1 A McDonald's restaurant has been fined more than £12,000 for employing schoolchildren illegally, forcing them to work overtime and late on school nights.

A franchise¹ of the fast-food restaurant in Camberley, Surrey, was found guilty of working teenagers late into the night on school days, often without rest breaks. Child employment officers from Surrey county council found more than 50 breaches of the law.

The firm that runs the franchise, Ikhya Enterprises, was fined £12,400 by magistrates at Woking after being found guilty of 20 offences.

- 10 The breaches of regulations involved schoolchildren aged 15 and 16. One 15-year-old had worked 16 hours on a Saturday, seven hours over the legal limit. Another 16-year-old had worked from 5pm until 2am on a school day, when legally she should not have worked after 7pm.

- 15 Ian Hart, the council's child employment officer, said: "This is one of the biggest prosecutions in the illegal employment of schoolchildren and it is refreshing that the court has taken such a tough stance. Employers have to be aware that we will not compromise our statutory duty to protect the children of Surrey and that we will take appropriate action."

- 20 Mr Hart visited two McDonald's restaurants in Camberley earlier this year after a complaint from a parent and found that none of the young employees had work permits. McDonald's said in a statement that it only hired workers above school-leaving age.

The owner of the franchise in Camberley, Kevin Izatt, has been told to stop employing children under school leaving age.

- 25 A McDonald's statement said: "We expect our franchisees and managers to maintain the highest standards in all restaurants. We are deeply disappointed that this was not the case in this instance.

"In court, Kevin Izatt explained that he did have a manual system in place to prevent infringements, however there had been a lack of follow up. He has children of his own and seriously regrets this lapse."

The TUC², which earlier this year said up to 500,000 schoolchildren could be working
30 illegally, said a firm like McDonald's had a special responsibility to ensure that
youngsters were not distracted from school work.

Glossary:

franchise¹ – a business run by different people or organisations under the same name.

TUC² – Trades Union Congress, a body representing trades unions across the UK.

Turn over for Source B

Source B

In this Source, a journal entry by Sydney Smith from 1819, the writer introduces his views on the subject of child labour and chimney sweeps. He then proceeds to provide evidence heard by a Parliamentary Enquiry on the subject.

1 An excellent and well-arranged dinner is a most pleasing occurrence, and a great triumph of civilised life. The hour of dinner, in short, includes everything of gratification which a great nation glories in producing.

In the midst of all this, who knows that the kitchen chimney caught fire half an hour before dinner! And that a poor little wretch¹, of six or seven years old, was sent up in the midst of the flames to put it out? We could not, previous to reading this evidence, have formed a conception of the miseries of these poor wretches, or that there should exist, in a civilised country, a class of human beings destined to such extreme and varied distress. We will give here a short
 10 account of what is developed in the evidence before the two Houses of Parliament.

Boys are made chimney sweepers at the early age of five or six.

'Little boys for small flues²', is a common phrase on the cards left at the door by itinerant chimney sweepers. Flues made to ovens and coppers are often less
 15 than nine inches square; and it may easily be conceived, how slender the frame of that human body must be, which can force itself through such an aperture³.

The following is a specimen of the manner in which they are taught this art of climbing chimneys:

Questions are asked by a member of the Parliamentary Committee set up to investigate how boys are being mistreated when forced to work as chimney sweeps. The answers are in the boy's own words.

MP⁴: Do you remember being taught to climb chimneys?

20 Boy: Yes.

MP: What did you feel upon the first attempt to climb a chimney?

Boy: The first chimney I went up, they told me there was some plum pudding⁵ and money up at the top of it, and that is the way they enticed me up; and when I got up, I would not let the other boy get
 25 from under me to get at it, I thought he would get it; I could not get up, and shoved the pot and half the chimney down into the yard.

MP: Did you experience any inconvenience to your knees, or your elbows?

Boy: Yes, the skin was off my knees and elbows too, in climbing up the

30 new chimneys they forced me up.

MP: How did they force you up?

Boy: When I got up, I cried about my sore knees.

MP: Were you beat or compelled to go up by any violent means?

35 Boy: Yes, when I went to a narrow chimney, if I could not do it, I durst⁶ not go home; when I used to come down, my master would well beat me with the brush.

In addition the Parliamentary Committee interviewed an adult (a master⁷) who employed the boy chimney sweeps:

MP: Have you known, in the course of your practice, boys stick in chimneys at all?

40 Master: Yes, I have assisted in taking boys out when they have been nearly exhausted.

MP: Did you ever know an instance of its been necessary to break open a chimney to take the boy out?

Master: O yes.

MP: Frequently?

45 Master: Monthly, I might say; they often say it was the boy's neglect.

MP: Why do they say that?

50 Master: The boy's climbing shirt is often very bad; the boy coming down, if the chimney be very narrow, and numbers of them are only nine inches, gets his shirt rumped underneath him, and he has no power after he is fixed in that way with his hand up.

MP: Does a boy frequently stick in the chimney?

Master: Yes; I have known more instances of that the last twelve month than before.

MP: Do you ever have to break open in the inside of a room?

55 Master: Yes, I have helped to break through into a kitchen chimney in a dining room.

MP: Do you know how the Boys are generally treated along with the Chimney Sweepers?

Master: Very badly indeed in some Places; in other places, they are very well.

- 60 MP: For the most Part are they ill or well lodged⁸?
- Master: Very bad indeed; some have no more than One Blanket, some a Bit of Straw⁹, and some a few Sacks to lie on.
- MP: What Sort of Clothing are they generally allowed?
- 65 Master: According to the Masters; some Masters use the Boys pretty well as to giving them Clothes, other Masters altogether keep them Months and Months before they are washed to the Skin.

The MP's questioning then alternates between the Boy and the Master.

- MP: During the Winter-time, when the Boys go out on their Duty, have they Shoes and Stockings?
- 70 Boy: If I go out with a Journeyman¹⁰ in the Morning, if I have got bad Chilblains¹¹, and if I cannot get on fast enough, I must off with my Shoes, or they will knock me down with their Hand, an I must run through the snow without Shoes, which I have done many times.
- MP: Do you know of the Boys being subject to any Accidents?
- 75 Master: Yes, I have known one at Temple Bar¹²: I came myself, and went up to him, but it was too late; the Boy was lost through a woman forcing him up, it was his Mistress; he was not thoroughly learned, and he stuck himself in, and it was the Death of him; it was up Devereux Court, Temple Bar; he was dead.

Glossary:

wretch¹ – a very poor child

flues² – a chimney

aperture³ – an opening/hole

MP⁴ – a Member of Parliament

plum pudding⁵ – a dark, fruit pudding

durst⁶ – dare not

master⁷ – an old name for an employer

well lodged/ill lodged⁸ – well looked after or badly looked after.

a Bit of Straw⁹ – straw was used for bedding

Journeyman¹⁰ – a workman/tradesman who travels around the country looking for work.

Chilblains¹¹ – a common complaint for people who cannot keep their feet warm enough in winter.

Temple Bar¹² – part of the City of London.

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Source A: *McDonalds fined for exploiting child labour* TheGuardian.com 31 July 2001 © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2001

Source B: Sidney Smith – *Journal*

National Archives: The plight of 'climbing boys' Evidence to parliamentary committee by William Cooper, Chimney Sweep 1818

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