



Classroom role play



The Child

You live at Number 4 Francis Street with your family.

Your father was killed in a mining accident and your mother does laundry, quilting and rug making to make ends meet. Your older brother works down the pit which means you still live in a colliery cottage.

You attend Beamish Board School, where you learn reading, writing and arithmetic. You stay off school on Monday afternoons to help with the laundry.

At school you are expected to be sensible, smart and silent. Your teacher is very strict, with a cane for when children misbehave.

On the whole you enjoy learning and being with your friends at playtime. After school you play with your friends in the back lane. Marbles, skittles, football, skipping games and boulders are all popular. On Sundays, you play with quiet indoor toys.

Chapel takes up most of the day on Sunday. You go to Sunday School where you sing hymns, listen to bible stories and learn parts of the bible off by heart.

Some children get bored but others enjoy meeting up with their friends.

The highlight of the year is the Sunday School Anniversary, when you recite poetry and sing hymns to a chapel full of parents. You look very smart, as everyone gets new clothes for the Anniversary.

Your favourite event is the summer Sunday School Outing. All the children travel by cart to a field out of town. Here the miners fix ropes up into the trees to make swings and you play games before lots of tea and cake.