



Classroom role play



The Widow

You live at Number 4 Francis Street with your family.

Your husband was killed in an accident down the mine and now your teenage son works as a pony putter.

Mining is a dangerous occupation with regular accidents and injuries in the pits. It is a relief when your son comes home safe each day. Whilst he is employed by the mine, you can live in a pit cottage, but money is tight.

You are the main breadwinner, earning money by taking in laundry, quilting and making rugs.

You attend the Methodist chapel and your children go to Sunday School. You always go to the Sunday evening meeting, where you enjoy singing hymns.

Although you have little money, you do your best to make sure your children have a set of smart Sunday clothes.

You and your children support the Band of Hope. You do not drink alcohol and are bringing your children up to do the same. People can lose everything because of alcohol.

Your favourite event of the year is the Sunday School Anniversary. You feel very proud when your children stand up and recite their verses in front of the full chapel.

Being a member of the chapel has given you a network of support and friendly faces which has been a great help since the death of your husband.