

NUFFIELD PRIMARY HISTORY

VICTORIAN BRITAIN: CHILD LABOUR IN TEXTILE FACTORIES

Examples of children's statements given in the class debate on child labour

My name is *George Cardwell* and I am against child labour because my family was forced into the workhouse in Bristol. One night, without my mother's knowledge, I was taken to work in *Cressbrook Mill* in Derbyshire. My mother came to Derbyshire after walking for many days with my little sister *Sarah*. *Mrs Newton*, the wife of our overseer, made a great fuss of my mother. But once my mother had left, I was sorely beaten. I was told to take the shilling binding money. I took the shilling but this meant I had to stay at *Cressbrook Mill* until I was 21.

I am the honourable *Dr Charles Fox*, and I am for child labour. I think children should work because it is more harmful to them if they don't. They will die of hunger if they don't work as they need the money they earn to live. In the factory they are protected from the cold and damp winter air and they will not be attacked by the thugs who wander through the streets looking to hurt people. The children have a chance of learning how to do a job which they can then continue to do as they get older.