

Blenheim Square: Pupils' work

Three of the Victorian profiles written by the children in their roles as inhabitants of Blenheim Square. The imaginative reconstructions are based on evidence from the 1881 census return for Blenheim Square, the story of Mrs Walley, the video of a Victorian servants and topic books.

1. Margaret Hall

My name is Margaret Hall. I live in 11 Blenheim Square. I'm a friend of Mary Lee and I'm 59 years old.

Before we live together 2 years ago, my parents were ill so I have to look after them. When my parents died, I have nowhere to go so I live with my friend, Mary Lee. I live with her for another reason because she was a widow and she was lonely at home with nobody to talk to for around 6 or 7 years.

Both of us have no occupation and love to watch men playing archery across the road at 5pm while the servant gets ready to make the dinner. The servant is called Georgiana Dickinson. She's been with Mary for 7 years. She used to have 2 servants but the other one was sacked because she had a disease called consumption. I think the other servant was called Esther Ruth. Esther Ruth have been with Mary for 12 years. Mary doesn't want to get consumption.

By Irham

2. Rebecca McKane

My name is Rebecca. I live at 2 Blenheim Square.

I am a servant. I am 19 and unmarried. I was born in Ireland and I live with the Walleys. I have to wake up in the morning to open the windows so the children have fresh air.

One day one of the children's clothes was ripped the mistress blamed me for it so I did not eat that day. I have to help the cook, wash the clothes, dry the clothes help the guest with their coats and other things and make the fire, sweep the house, set the table and polish fireplace the head buys the mistress everything she wanted but I not think he loves her I think he loves someone in the house.

By Memuna

3. Esther Robson (15 Blenheim Square)

My name is Esther, I am unmarried, I am 23 years old, I was born in London I came to Leeds to find a job then I became a servant. And the jobs that I had to do is: cook, get the plates ready for breakfast, wash some clothes and wash the dishes. I really like to be a servant so I can get paid and take the shillings and give them to my poor family who don't have jobs I am the only one who's got a job.

By Ahmed