

Teacher's Notes

Answer and possible follow-up discussions

Tudor Cook

Cookie is lower status. She works long hours, working for the wealthy Hurst family. Her clothes are simple, rather than keeping up with Tudor fashion trends, and are made for durability and practicality. Her food is more simple than the Hurst family's and she only has the chance to eat when they have. She has far fewer freedoms and doesn't have free time. She doesn't get paid very much for all of her hard work.

Cookie's clothes have to be durable as she is unable to afford many dresses and cannot easily replace hers if it wears out. She also works a very demanding job, and more delicate clothes would easily become damaged. Think about the durability of materials and clothes for different jobs - comparing the clothes of physically demanding jobs (eg. farmers, mechanics, archaeologists etc) to less physically demanding jobs. Maybe discussion of specialist uniforms and materials for certain roles (fire resistant fabric for firefighters, neoprene for divers and so on).

Cookie's kitchen has two fireplaces instead of stove-tops, no electrical appliances, it's likely bigger to accommodate more workers. There is no fridge or freezer to preserve food - this could lead into discussions about the invention of cold storage or food preservation (freezing, drying, canning, salting etc). It also means that meat had to be eaten quite quickly to keep it fresh - this made it expensive and not always available to poorer households.

Many of the objects in the kitchen are made from wood or ceramics, with some metal - there is no plastic. Highlight how the use of an object matches its function - eg. the cooking pots are metal to conduct heat, a wooden pot would burn! The cost and durability of these materials can also be discussed.

Wool Spinner

Joan is lower status. She works long hours, she didn't receive an education, she earns very little. She also started work from a very young age. Some children might notice her more 'ragged' clothing on the cover.

Steps:

1. The sheep are reared and sheared on the farm
2. Joan cleans the fleeces and spins them into yarn
3. A brogger buys the yarn and sells it to the weavers
4. Weavers turn the yarn into cloth
5. The cloth is dyed, softened and trimmed
6. A merchant sells the cloth

As Joan's work is one of the first steps in the process of woollen cloth production, she is vital to the industry. There also seems to be a lot of people doing the same work - this could be a chance to discuss (perhaps through a pyramid), ideas of labour. Many people will produce the yarn, fewer people will weave, even fewer people will be involved in finishing, and there will only be a handful of merchants. Each level of the pyramid will also earn more than the level below.

Poorer children had to begin work earlier as they had to support their families, or their families could not afford to educate them. Many children will be interested to learn that schooling was not always free and was not compulsory. This was a privilege for higher status children. This might impact their lives by giving them less of an opportunity to get better-paying jobs, or become more educated and active citizens.

Wealthy Merchant

William is higher status. He is very wealthy, can afford to send his son to school, comes from a wealthy background. He can also afford to keep up with Tudor fashions, owns the Priory and has decorated it very richly. He has servants to do all of the household chores. He also eats expensive foods, hosts guests and has time for entertainment in the evenings. He does not have to work long hours and his work is not very physically tough.

Luxuries and privileges include: servants, eating meat, wearing fashionable clothes, owning a house, decorating his house, sending his child to school, drinking wine instead of dirty water, free time in the evenings, weekends and socialising. While many people in the world would still consider all of these to be privileges, most of us in modern Britain have access to clean water, clothes and food. Worker's rights movements mean most workers have time off and get to see our friends. Education is also free and compulsory - all children in modern Britain get to go to school.

The rooms that are the most highly decorated are the ones where the Hursts would have spent their time - like the Parlour and the bedroom. The rooms that were mostly for the servants (like the kitchen) are plainer. This might also be to show off their wealth to visitors. Do they have rooms at home which are more highly decorated or kept tidier because they are more likely to be seen by visitors? Their bedrooms are probably messier than their sitting rooms, for example.

An interesting discussion might highlight how much the Woollen Cloth trade has built Exeter. A lot of children who live in the city or surrounding areas might live on roads with names related to the industry (eg. Weavers Court, Shearmens Close etc), and Devon has a high number of people with last names like Tucker, Weaver, Spinner and so on.

Merchant's Son

Nicholas is higher status as he is from a wealthy background and gets to go to school. He receives a very good education and is planning to become a merchant - a very high status job. Although he is at school for very long hours, he still has free time on Sundays to play with his friends! Unlike poorer children, he does not have to start work very early in life. He also has a lot of toys and games to play with.

Poorer children had to begin work earlier as they had to support their families, or their families could not afford to educate them. Many children will be interested to learn that schooling was not always free and was not compulsory. This was a privilege for higher status children. Girls did not get to go to school because women did not have as many rights in the Tudor period. They had a set role in society - to become wives and mothers (although many lower status women had to work to support themselves and their families). Many children already understand that girls did not have as many opportunities in the past, this can be an interesting topic for discussion and can highlight how things have changed. Now, **all** children get to attend school.

They might talk about how they are allowed to get things wrong at school, and don't get caned for misbehaving! They also have much shorter days, and don't have to come into school on Saturdays. Pupils have a lot more freedom and rights in modern schools. Key words might include: tiring, strict, difficult, long and so on.

Latin would be unfamiliar, and some might not be familiar with arithmetic. Their classes are also preparing them for life as a merchant or in industry, whereas modern schools give a more well-rounded education. There are no science, art, PE, modern languages, geography or technology lessons.