Number #3 Victorian Day to Day Living

Do Not Write On This Paper

(It will be used in other class periods)

Source 1: <http://www.victorianchildren.org/victorian-children-in-victorian-times/>

**Wealthy Victorian Children**

While the wealthy children may have been spoiled and had a much better life than the poor children, they also had what would seem to be a sad, redundant and affection-less existence. Children were mostly raised by a nanny who would teach the child what was proper and what was not. Day to day living was nothing more than a lonely monotonous routine and very formal. Wealthy Victorian Children rarely communicated with their parents except for a specified time each day. Winston Churchill once said that he could “count the times he had been hugged by his mother” as a child. Parents would hire a nanny or nurse to do the brunt of the child rearing. They would instruct the nanny what they wanted to have instilled into their children such as manners, education, propriety, how to dress and so on. The nanny was in effect a substitute parent. When we think of nannies in Victorian times it is only natural to think of a cheerful loving young lady who went to the local community college and got a degree in child development. For the most part this was not the reality for wealthy Victorian Children. Nannies were usually older women that had never been married. You can imagine that there might have been a chip on their shoulder towards children since in those days not being married meant no children. Many times nannies were intolerant and very strict and sometimes plain mean.

**Poor Victorian Children**

The poor Victorian Children lived a very different life than the children of wealthier families. They didn’t have the nice houses to live in or the extravagant toys, clothes or fine foods that the rich kids had. They lived in much smaller houses or even single rooms. Living in these tight quarters caused the family to be much closer. Without the presence of a nanny the parents raised the children and were the guiding force in their lives. This did not always translate to a more loving atmosphere though. Since a large part of the poor children had to work public jobs to help support their families many parents thought of children as income, and having more children who worked raised the income of the home. Many parents had 10 or 12 or even more children for this reason alone.

**What types of jobs did they do?**

Victorian children would be made to go to work at a very young age. As unbelievable as it sounds, sometimes even 4 or 5 years old. Because they were considered cheap labor Victorian children were in high demand for many types of jobs including mining, factory work, street sweepers, clothing and hat makers, chimney sweeps, farming, textile mills, servants, and sadly, prostitution. As you may have already noticed, the British had very little regard for children. 5 to 9 year old Chimney sweeps would come out of a chimney covered from head to toe with soot. Their arms, legs, elbows and knees would be bleeding, only to be washed off with salt water and sent up another chimney.

Children working in factories worked in dangerous situations for long hours, 14 to 18 hours a day. Occupational death was not uncommon for working Victorian children. There small size made them ideal for crawling into the tight spaces in, around or under machines, sometimes while the machines were still running since it would hinder production if a machine were turned off.

Street children in Victorian times were found in abundance living in alleys or side streets. Many were orphans but a large part of the street children were from neglectful, alcoholic families where abuse was the norm. Faced with the choice of living in these conditions or living on the street some children chose the street. Many of these children fell prey to prostitution and thieving to support themselves. Others became street sellers or actually worked public jobs like other children.

Source 2: <http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/fun-victorian-era-7613.html>

**Fun Facts About Victorian England**

The Victorian Era was filled with the development of new inventions. In 1876 the telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell and the radio was invented in 1895 by Guglielmo Marconi. The camera, toilet, sewing machine, vacuum, train and stamp were all created during the Victorian Era. Factories began to be powered by steam, and the police force was created during this period.

During the Victorian Era, there were extremely strict codes of morals and conduct. Children were not allowed to be loud and did not spend much time with their parents. A lady did not where a dress that would show her ankles. Men did not call a single women by her first name unless they were engaged.

The Victorian Era included the upper class, the middle class, and the working class. The households that had the most money, had servants during this era. The Industrial Revolution occurred during the Victorian Era, which made the division of classes not as large. In particular, the middle class earned much more income after the Industrial Revolution and were considered wealthy by many. Great Britain's population doubled during the Victorian Era.