

How The Other Half Lives Answer Key

Name: _____
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Excerpt from *How the Other Half Lives*, by Jacob Riis

Be a little careful, please! The hall is dark and you might stumble over the children pitching pennies back there. Not that it would hurt them; kicks and cuffs are their daily diet. They have little else. Here where the hall turns and dives into outer darkness is a step, and another, another. A flight of stairs. You can feel your way, if you cannot see it. Close? Yes! What would you have! All the fresh air that ever enters these stairs comes from the hall-door that is forever slamming, and from the windows of dark bedrooms that in turn receive from the stairs their sole supply of the elements God meant to be free, but man deals out with such niggardly hand. That was a woman filling her pail by the hydrant; you just bumped against. The sicks are in the hallway, that all the tenants may have access—and all be poisoned alike by their summer stiches. Hear the pump-squall! It is the lullaby of tenement-house babes. Its summer, when a thousand dirty throngs pant for a cooling drink in this block, it is worked in vain. But the nation, whose open door you passed in the hall, is always there. The smell of it has followed you up. Here is a door. Listen! That short hacking cough, that dry, helpless wail—what do they mean? They mean that the soiled box of white you saw on the door downstairs will have another story to tell—Oh! a sad story—before the day is at an end. The child is dying with measles. With half a chance it might have lived; but it had none. That dark bedroom killed it.

... What if the wraith ring in your ears as we grope our way up the stairs and down from floor to floor, listening to the sounds behind the closed doors—some of quarreling, some of coarse songs, more of profanity. They are true. When the summer heats come with their suffering they have meaning more terrible than words can tell. Come over here. Step carefully over this baby—it is a baby, spite of its rags and dirt—under these iron bridges called fire-escapes, but loaded down, despite the incessant watchfulness of the firemen, with broken household goods, with wash tubs and barrels, ever which no man could climb from a fire. This gap between dingy brick-walls is the yard. That strip of smoke-colored sky up there is the heaven of these people. Do you wonder the name does not attract them to the churches? That baby's parents live in the rear tenement here. She is at least as clean as the steps we are now climbing. There are plenty of houses with half a hundred such in. The tenement is much like the one in front we just left, only fouler, closer, darker—we will not say more cheerless. The word is a mockery. A hundred thousand people

1. Explain how Riis describes tenement life?
2. "... the elements God meant to be free, but man deals out with such niggardly hand." Identify "the elements that God meant to be free" and how they are distributed to the inhabitants of the tenements?
3. "Listen! That short hacking cough, that dry, helpless wail—what do they mean?" Based on the able quote and its context, explain the impact living conditions in tenements had on children.
4. "... under these iron bridges called fire-escapes, but loaded down, despite the incessant watchfulness of the firemen..." Based on the above quote, how does Riis use irony and what does it suggest about the safety conditions in tenements?

How the Other Half Lives: Understanding Jacob Riis' Pioneering Work

In the late 19th century, a remarkable book titled "How the Other Half Lives" by Jacob Riis emerged as a powerful exposé of the living conditions of the urban poor in New York City. This work is often credited with bringing attention to the plight of impoverished immigrants and the working class during a time of rapid industrialization and urbanization in America. Through a combination of evocative photography and compelling storytelling, Riis shed light on the harsh realities faced by those living in tenement housing, ultimately influencing social reform and public policies. This article will explore the key themes, historical context, impact, and legacy of this groundbreaking work.

Historical Context

The publication of "How the Other Half Lives" in 1890 came at a time of significant social and economic change in the United States. The following factors played a crucial role in shaping Riis' narrative:

1. Industrialization

The late 19th century witnessed a rapid industrial revolution that transformed the American economy.

Factories sprang up, attracting a workforce that primarily consisted of immigrants seeking better opportunities. This influx of people led to:

- Overcrowding in urban areas
- A rise in poverty levels
- Poor working conditions in factories

2. Immigration

The period between 1880 and 1920 saw millions of immigrants arriving in the United States, particularly from Europe. These newcomers often settled in urban centers, where they faced:

- Language barriers
- Cultural adjustments
- Limited access to resources and education

3. Urbanization

As cities expanded, the demand for housing outpaced supply. Many immigrants and low-income workers lived in tenements—poorly constructed buildings that housed multiple families. The conditions within these structures were often deplorable, characterized by:

- Lack of sanitation and clean water
- Overcrowded living spaces
- High rates of disease and crime

The Content of "How the Other Half Lives"

Riis' book is divided into several chapters, each focusing on different aspects of life for the urban poor. Through vivid descriptions and powerful photographs, he illustrated the dire circumstances faced by these communities.

1. Tenement Life

Riis provided a detailed account of tenement living, describing the cramped quarters, lack of ventilation, and insufficient sanitation facilities. He hig

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'How the Other Half Lives'?

The main theme of 'How the Other Half Lives' is the stark contrast between the living conditions of the wealthy and the impoverished in urban areas, particularly in New York City during the late 19th century.

Who is the author of 'How the Other Half Lives'?

The author of 'How the Other Half Lives' is Jacob Riis, a social reformer and journalist known for his pioneering work in photojournalism.

What impact did 'How the Other Half Lives' have on society?

The book raised public awareness about the plight of the poor and contributed to social reform movements aimed at improving living conditions in tenements and reducing urban poverty.

What kind of evidence does Jacob Riis use in 'How the Other Half Lives'?

Jacob Riis uses a combination of vivid photographs and detailed descriptions to document the harsh realities of life in tenements, showcasing overcrowded living conditions, poor sanitation, and lack of basic amenities.

How did 'How the Other Half Lives' influence public policy?

The book influenced public policy by prompting legislators and reformers to advocate for housing reforms, better sanitation standards, and the establishment of social services to aid the urban poor.

In what year was 'How the Other Half Lives' first published?

'How the Other Half Lives' was first published in 1890.

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How The Other Half Lives Answer Key

other,others,another,the others,the other _____

other _____ other _____ some _____ the other _____ one _____ the others _____ another _____
_____ _____ - _____ ...

anotherotherone anotherthe other ...

Dec 19, 2017 · The other team won. (There were only 2 teams that could have won and the other team did.) The other three schools rejected me. (We know 3 schools rejected the person.) ...

another day the other day -

May 6, 2015 · the other day a few days ago, “” anotherthe other ...

one...anotherone...the other -

the otherthe other 1.oneanotheroneanother ...

in other words in another word

in other wordsin another word The mobile library services have been reorganised — in other words, ...

“” -

“” “on the one hand, on the other hand” 72

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May 9, 2022 · 1some contact elements overlap with the other contact element which can cause over constraint ...

Explore the insights of 'How the Other Half Lives' with our comprehensive answer key. Discover how this landmark work reflects social issues today. Learn more!

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