

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vocabulary Activity

Part 4: Factory Girls

MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

On the following pages, you will find "flashcards" with terms and definitions (both combined and separate) that your students may encounter while playing Part 4 of "City of Immigrants." These terms and definitions can be introduced and practiced before or during the time students see or hear them in the context of MISSION US or in their American history study. The discussion questions and writing prompts will provide further opportunities for students to have more practice with the words and terms.

Divide your students into small groups of four or five, and ask each group to review the terms and definitions.

After your students have had a chance to review and discuss the terms and definitions, distribute the excerpt from the reporter's interview with Lena. Review the directions with your students and ask them to complete the text using the terms they studied.

Here are the terms which should be inserted into each paragraph of Lena's life story:

Paragraph 1- shirtwaist, operator, gentiles

Paragraph 2- forelady, discourage, excessive, pay envelope,

Paragraph 3- socialist, serfs, exposé

Paragraph 4- firebrand, adamant, underestimate

Paragraph 5- grievances, negotiate, strike

Photography Credits

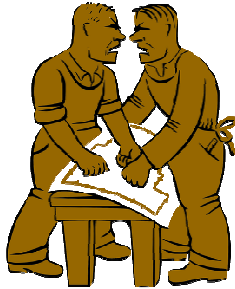
Underestimate: Nevit Dilmen



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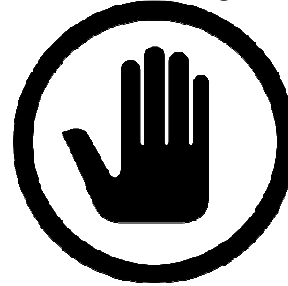
adamant

Inflexible; refusing to bend or change one's mind.



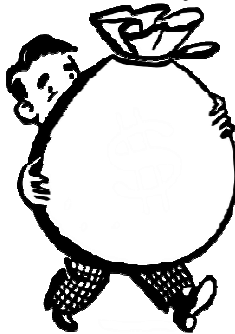
discourage

To prevent something by showing disapproval or creating difficulties.



excessive

More than is necessary or desired.



exposé

News reporting that reveals scandal or corruption, especially in government or business.



firebrand

A person who passionately and aggressively promotes a cause and tries to lead others to action.



forelady

A female worker who supervises other workers.



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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>gentiles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Persons who are not Jewish.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>grievances</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reasons for complaint or protest, especially unfair treatment.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>negotiate</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">To try to reach an agreement or compromise through discussion with others.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>operator</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A sewing machine worker.</p> 
 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>pay envelope</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">An envelope containing an employee's weekly wages on which employers record the work completed and amount earned by the employee that week.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>serfs</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Landless peasants who are forced to work for the landowners; part of the feudal system in Europe and Russia.</p> 

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shirtwaist

A women's blouse or shirt that could easily be worn with any skirt and was popular with American working women in the early twentieth century.



socialist

A person who advocates socialism (a theory of creating a more equal society and the elimination of extreme wealth).



strike

A form of protest in which a group of employees refuses to work as part of an attempt to get their employer to agree to make certain changes.



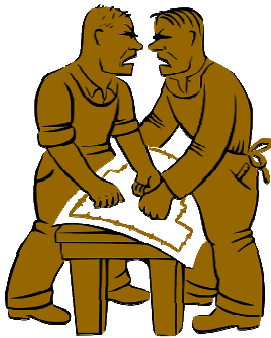
underestimate

To think that something is smaller or less important than it actually is.

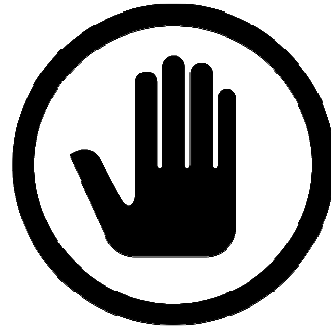


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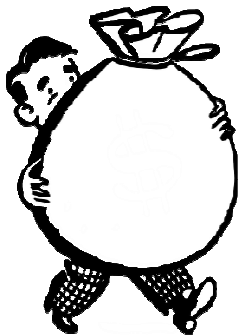
adamant



discourage



excessive



exposé



firebrand

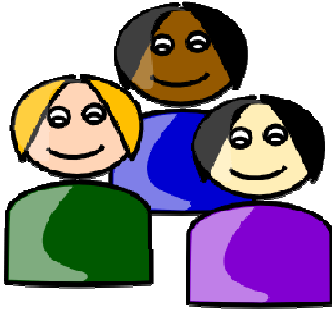


forelady



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gentiles



grievances



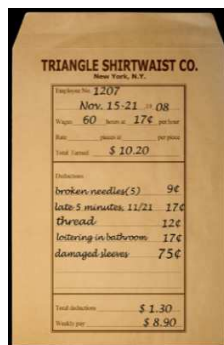
negotiate



operator



pay envelope



serfs



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shirtwaist



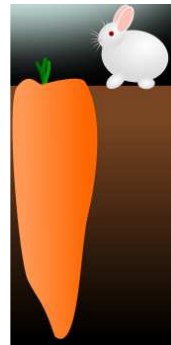
socialist



strike



underestimate



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Inflexible; refusing to bend or change one's mind.	To prevent something by showing disapproval or creating difficulties.
More than is necessary or desired.	News reporting that reveals scandal or corruption, especially in government or business.
A person who passionately and aggressively promotes a cause and tries to lead others to action.	A female worker who supervises other workers.

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<p>Persons who are not Jewish.</p>	<p>Reasons for complaint or protest, especially unfair treatment.</p>
<p>To try to reach an agreement or compromise through discussion with others.</p>	<p>A sewing machine worker.</p>
<p>An envelope containing an employee's weekly wages on which employers record the work completed and amount earned by the employee. that week.</p>	<p>Landless peasants who are forced to work for the landowners; part of the feudal system in Europe and Russia.</p>

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<p>A women's blouse or shirt that could easily be worn with any skirt and was popular with American working women in the early twentieth century.</p>	<p>A person who advocates socialism (a theory of creating a more equal society and the elimination of extreme wealth).</p>
<p>A form of protest in which a group of employees refuses to work as part of an attempt to get their employer to agree to make certain changes.</p>	<p>To think that something is smaller or less important than it actually is.</p>

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Name: _____

Date: _____

This activity imagines Lena is making a speech to New York City students and community residents in 1982, seventy years after the events in "City of Immigrants." Lena is discussing what life was like on the Lower East Side in the early twentieth century.

Instructions: After reading and talking about the words and terms on the flash cards, read this excerpt from Lena's speech. Use the cards and your memory to help fill in the missing words and terms. Some words may be used more than once.

<i>adamant</i>	<i>firebrand</i>	<i>negotiate</i>	<i>shirtwaist</i>
<i>discourage</i>	<i>forelady</i>	<i>operator</i>	<i>socialist</i>
<i>excessive</i>	<i>gentiles</i>	<i>pay envelope</i>	<i>strike</i>
<i>exposé</i>	<i>grievances</i>	<i>serfs</i>	<i>underestimate</i>

"After my friend Rosa got a good job in a factory, I tried to get a job there, too. It was at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. _____ were all the rage back then--all the women were wearing them. I got a job as an _____. I was surprised that they weren't closed for Shabbos, but maybe it was because so many _____ worked there.

The _____ was very strict. She would _____ us from using the restroom when it wasn't a break. If she thought you were in the restroom for an _____ amount of time, you would get a deduction from your _____. You could get money taken away for making mistakes, being late, and money other reasons. So, even though I was making more money, I was always worried about how much money I'd get to take home.

Many people were unhappy about the conditions in the factory. I heard a _____ talking about how the factory owners treated us like _____. I met a reporter who wanted to write an _____ about the factory. Many people wanted the factory to change.

I heard about Clara Lemlich. She was a real _____! She was _____ that the factory owners would _____ the power of the workers joining together.



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Some workers became active in the ILGWU, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. The factory owners wouldn't listen to a single worker, but maybe the union would be able to discuss our _____. The union would try to _____ for better working conditions and more pay. Some people thought conditions in the factory were so bad that it was time to walk out in a _____. It was exciting, but also a little scary. Nobody knew what would come next."