

# Letter from a Workhouse Child

## Planning Page

Research and fill in information on the following areas, using the internet and Workhouse PowerPoint.

### Living Conditions/Family

### Clothing/Food

### Education

### Rules/Punishments

# Letter from a Workhouse Child

## Guidance Sheet

Make up an address for the workhouse:

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5<sup>th</sup> May 1866

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

### Introduction

- Give your name, age and state why you are writing the letter.

For example:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am 10 years old. I live in a workhouse in Edinburgh and I am writing to tell you about my experience.

### Paragraph 1 (Living conditions/family)

- How did you end up in the workhouse?
  - Are you an orphan, or did you come to the workhouse with your family because your father couldn't get a job?
- Are your family with you in the workhouse?
  - If so, do you see them? How often?
  - How does it feel being separated from them?
- Do you have any friends at the workhouse?
  - Who are they? What are they like?
- Describe what the living conditions are like in the workhouse (PowerPoint slide 9).
  - How many children share a room?
  - Do you have to share a bed with other children?
  - Is it clean or dirty?

## Letter from a Workhouse Child

### Paragraph 2 (Clothing/food)

- What clothes do you wear? (PowerPoint slide 6)
  - What material are they made from?
  - Are they comfortable?
  - Do you have to wash your own clothes? How do you wash them?
- What food do you eat? (PowerPoint slide 7)
  - What do you have for breakfast/lunch/dinner?

### Paragraph 3 (Education)

- Do you go to school?
- If so, what does your day look like? (PowerPoint slide 12)
- What things do you learn about? (reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, needlework, sewing, domestic duties)

### Paragraph 4 (Rules/Punishments)

- What rules do you have to follow in the workhouse? (PowerPoint slide 13)
- What happens if you don't follow the rules?
- What punishments do children get? (PowerPoint slide 14)

### Conclusion

- Write a few sentences to sum up your letter.

For example: Anyway, I think I better go and do my chores before the guardians come to check on us. I certainly don't want to get into trouble! Thanks for reading my letter. Please write back soon!

- Remember to end your letter with "Yours sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_"