

• Dictagloss Activity for ‘Sagar Chowdhury’

text 1

- 1: *The factory workers usually worked twelve hours a day.*
- 2: *They worked almost everyday all year long.*
- 3: *Some of the adults working there were getting only six cents an hour, and children even less.*
- 4: *There was no overtime pay.*

text 2

- 1: *There was an official government inquiry after the fire.*
- 2: *It was decided that the company was responsible for the accident. Three reasons were given.*
- 4: *The workers had been locked in.*
- 5: *There were not enough fire extinguishers.*
- 6: *The stairs leading to the emergency exit were too steep.*

possible teaching points

- 1: *‘twelve hours a day’* (means ‘every day’) [compare: ‘five dollars an hour,’ ‘fifty cents a litre’]
- 2: *all year long* (means ‘the whole year’) [compare: ‘all year’ (emphasis the only difference)]
- 3: *it was decided* (dummy ‘it’ followed by postponed noun clause subject) [question: why is the passive used here?]
- 4: *locked in* (a phrasal verb very often used in the passive; the object is not the thing (door, box) etc. where the lock is located but what is inside the locked container; often takes people as its object: ‘Because Jill locked the door by accident, Harry and Jane were locked in the office all night.’)
- 5: *not enough fire extinguishers* (i.e. not enough to protect the factory from fire) [‘enough’ is always ‘enough for/to’ even if what it’s enough ‘for’ or ‘to’ is implicit]
- 6: *stairs leading to the emergency exit* (in other words, ‘stairs going in the direction of the emergency exit’)