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## BEFORE READING



1 At the heart of the story, there is a mystery at a mill. Look at the pictures in the book. Make predictions about the story.

a What do you think happens? Tick (✓).

- death       theft       murder       war  
 kidnapping       romance       ghosts       business

b When does the story take place? Tick (✓).

- in the past       in the present  
 in the past and the present       in the future

2 There are two stories within the story. Answer the questions using the pictures in the book to help you guess.

- a Which story has the happiest ending? The story in the past or the story in the present?  
b How does the story in the past end? With a death or with marriage and children?  
c How does the story in the present end? With a dream coming true or with a death?

3 Look at the pictures in the book and write the characters' names next to the sentences.



- a She works in a mill. ....  
b She goes to school. ....  
c She investigates a mystery in the snow. ....  
d She suffers in the cold but is very courageous. ....  
e She gets into trouble in a shop. ....  
f She has two friends who manage to help her. ....

## BEFORE READING



- 1 Part of the story takes place at Salts Mill. Read and complete the text with the words below. Then listen and check your answers.

polluted   cheaper   better   local   huge   educational  
terrible   great   healthier   industrial



At the time of the **a** ..... Revolution, Bradford was a very **b** ..... city. People lived in **c** ..... conditions and many died young. A mill owner, Sir Titus Salt wanted his workers to live in **d** ..... conditions and have a **e** ..... life, so he built a mill outside the city. It was completed in 1853 and it was called Salts Mill. Sir Titus Salt also built a village with houses for his workers to live in, shops, a church and a park. He later built two schools and a social club and an **f** ..... institute for adults.

The mill continued to produce cloth for another century. In 1976 it was still producing £4 million of cloth a year. At the end of the seventies, a lot of **g** ..... foreign cloth was imported into Britain. Many mills in England lost all their business and had to close. Salts Mill closed in 1986.

In 1987, a 37-year old **h** ..... businessman bought the mill and opened an art gallery, which houses the largest collection of the Bradford-born artist, David Hockney's paintings. There is also a **i** ..... bookshop, an art shop, an interior design shop and a restaurant. Anyone who loves art, books, food or history will fall in love with the mill.  
It's **j** ..... !

## The Diary



The year was 1859. Charles Darwin's *On the Origins of Species* was published. Big Ben started ticking<sup>o</sup> at the Houses of Parliament in London. Charles Dickens, the famous English writer, published *A Tale of Two Cities*. The Industrial Revolution had by now changed the face of England and my great-great grandmother started working at Salts Mill, a woollen mill<sup>o</sup> in Bradford. She was only eight years old.

The air was full of a fine white dust<sup>o</sup> that almost choked me<sup>o</sup>. The sound of the machines was deafening<sup>o</sup>. I didn't know whether to cover my eyes or my ears with my hands. I wanted to turn and run but strong hands pushed me into the room. I wanted to scream but no one would hear me...

I never forgot my first day at Salts Mill.

Emily

The year was 2012 and Caterina was sitting at a table in a corner of the school canteen<sup>o</sup>. It was lunchtime and she could hear the chatter<sup>o</sup> and clatter<sup>o</sup> of plates and knives and forks.

Jake had finished his lunch and he was just about to leave the canteen when he saw her. Her long red hair was pulled back into a pony tail. He couldn't see her eyes but he knew that they were green. She was reading something. Maybe it was the leaflet<sup>o</sup> that everybody was talking about. He had to talk to her about it and now was probably a good time.

- **canteen:** restaurant in a school or workplace
- **chatter:** noise of people talking
- **choked me:** made breathing difficult
- **clatter:** noise of objects touching
- **deafening:** very loud
- **dust:** small particles
- **leaflet:** printed sheet of paper giving information
- **ticking:** sound a clock makes every second
- **woollen mill:** building with machinery for making wool

Caterina was reading the first paragraphs of the leaflet again when a shadow fell across the table and she heard the chair opposite being pulled out from under the table. Then she looked up and saw Jake. He was tall with dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. Most people said that he was good-looking. He had a nice smile, but right now he wasn't smiling.

'Caterina, what you're doing is unfair', he said. 'That's my Uncle Sanjit's shop. He's worked hard for years to save the money to open that shop,' he continued.

'Well then, he should be more careful about what he sells in it. The children who make those clothes are younger than you and me,' said Caterina defiantly, her green eyes flashing.

'It's that visit to Salts Mill last month that has upset you', isn't it?' said Jake. 'That's OK. We all found it quite upsetting,' he continued.

## Upsetting

What has upset you recently?

'No... well, in a way, yes. It's supposed to be history – the workhouses and the child labour. But it isn't history, is it? Who made that scarf you're wearing? How much did you pay for it?'

'A fiver', Jake replied proudly.

'Have you ever asked yourself why it was so cheap?'

'No. And your point is?'

'My point is that some child on the other side of the world is having a horrible life so that you can wear trendy clothes,' said Caterina, upset.

- **a fiver:** five pounds
- **defiantly:** openly disagreeing with; going against
- **trendy:** fashionable
- **unfair:** not right
- **upset you:** made you sad
- **upsetting:** disturbing
- **workhouses:** places where poor people received food and a bed in return for work

‘I don’t care who made my scarf. All I’m asking is that you don’t stand outside my uncle’s shop handing out leaflets,’ said Jake.

‘It’s too late to stop,’ said Caterina. ‘The leaflets are printed.’

‘But this isn’t about a sweatshop in Asia. It’s about Bradford. And it’s not even about Bradford today. It’s about Bradford nearly two centuries ago,’ said Jake, surprised.

‘The first page is about the past but the other pages are about children’s lives today,’ said Caterina.

‘What is this?’ asked Jake pointing to the first paragraph. ‘It looks like an extract from a diary or maybe a letter.’

‘Not exactly,’ said Caterina. ‘Emily couldn’t read or write. She never went to school.’ Caterina took an old leather book from her bag and passed it to Jake. ‘My grandmother died last week,’ she added.

‘Oh, I didn’t know. I’m sorry,’ mumbled Jake.

‘Well, she did and I found this in her attic.’

‘So who’s Emily?’ asked Jake. ‘She can’t be your grandmother. Your grandmother wasn’t alive in 1859.’

‘No, Emily was my great-great grandmother,’ said Caterina. ‘She told my grandmother her life story. Then my grandmother wrote it down for her in this little book. That’s where I got the extract from for the leaflet. You can read it if you like. It’s very interesting.’

‘Maybe another time,’ said Jake, closing the small leather book and pushing it back across the table towards Caterina. ‘I’ve got basketball practice now.’

Caterina waited for him to get up but he didn’t. He was studying her face. ‘All the girls fancy him,’ she thought, ‘but not me. I’ve got more important things to think about.’

- **fancy:** like in a special way
- **great-great grandmother:** her grandmother’s grandmother
- **handing out:** giving people
- **mumbled:** said quietly and unclearly
- **sweatshop:** place employing workers for long hours in poor conditions





Then Jake frowned<sup>•</sup>. 'You're really serious about all this, aren't you?'

'Yes,' said Caterina. 'Yes, I'm really serious about all this.'

'My uncle's not going to like it if you ruin<sup>•</sup> his business.'

'Yeah, well. Those girls in Asia are not too happy about working seventy hours a week for peanuts<sup>•</sup> to support your uncle's rotten<sup>•</sup> business,' Caterina replied.

Jake was still staring at her and the book was still on the table between them. Caterina could sense<sup>•</sup> people were watching and talking about them. Well, there was nothing to look at or talk about. There was nothing between her and Jake and there never would be.

Jake stood up.

'I'll see you around<sup>•</sup>,' he said. Then he was gone. Caterina watched him walk across the room and disappear.

The empty places at her table were soon filled by inquisitive<sup>•</sup> girls. 'What did Jake want?' 'Did he ask you out?'

'Of course not,' said Caterina indignantly<sup>•</sup> and she pushed the leather book into her bag. She didn't want to show it to anyone else just now. And she certainly didn't know why she had shown it to Jake. 'Of course he wasn't interested in it. How stupid of me to show it to him!' she thought.

'What did he want then?' the girls persisted.

'If you must know,' said Caterina, 'he asked me not to stand outside his uncle's shop on Saturday.'

'And are you still going to?' asked Helena. Everybody knew about her protest on Saturday.

'Of course I'm still going to,' said Caterina and she picked up her bag and walked out of the room.

- **frowned:** made an unhappy facial expression
- **indignantly:** a little angrily
- **inquisitive:** curious
- **peanuts:** (here) very little money
- **rotten:** terrible
- **ruin:** destroy
- **see you around:** maybe I'll see you sometime in the future by chance
- **sense:** feel