

Scenario and Prompt Cards



Scenario Card

This activity requires you to work in groups of four or five. One pupil is a twenty-first-century child who falls asleep (perhaps at her desk) and wakes up outside a cottage in the eighteenth century where a family are at work making linen. She/he knocks at the door and is invited inside. She recognises what's going on from what she has been learning in school. The other pupils are the family – they can mime the activities they have seen in the pictures. There could be a wife spinning, a son hackling, a daughter scutching and Dad seated a little bit away from the others, weaving.

You can work out the conversation they might have about their lives and activities. The twenty-first-century pupil can ask questions, and explain she has learned about this in school. She can say that she probably won't work until she is 16, because she'll be in school till then. The family can explain what their jobs are. How do the weaver's children (and their parents) feel about children not going to work until they are 16 at least, as in our time? How does the twenty-first century boy/girl feel about working all day in a dark, cramped cottage with little time to play, or about problems caused by the pouce? What might the weaver's children do for fun when they have time off?

At the end of the scene the twenty-first-century pupil might fall asleep again, with the weaver's children, and wake up to find herself back at her desk.

Prompt Card

- If you haven't got a spinning wheel etc., then **mime** the action.
- **Use body language**, for example an arm around the shoulders to show affection.
- **Use facial expressions**, for example smiles to show you are pleased, frowns or biting the lip to show worry or nervousness, open mouth to show surprise.
- **Use spoken language**, ask questions and explain what you are doing clearly – for example, 'What exactly is scutching?' Make comments and give opinions; react using words and phrases which show surprise, or that you don't like something.
- Use costume/props if you can get them – long dresses, caps for the men, sticks for breaking and scutching etc.