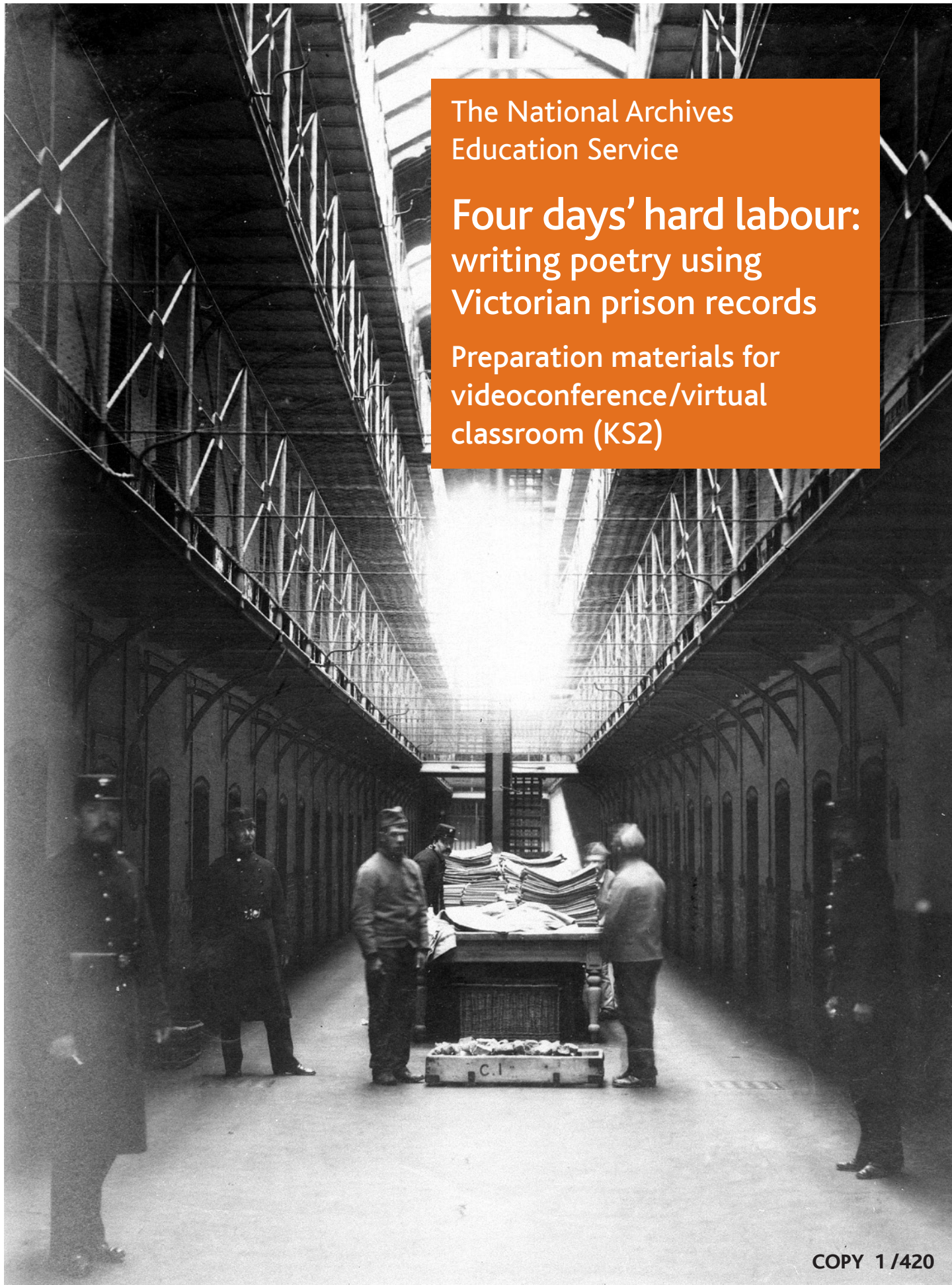


The National Archives
Education Service

Four days' hard labour: writing poetry using Victorian prison records

Preparation materials for
videoconference/virtual
classroom (KS2)



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Teacher's notes

Students do not need to do any work in preparation for this videoconference/virtual classroom. However, if there are students who have visual impairments and may have difficulty viewing the screen during the session, please enlarge copies of the documents for them to refer to.

This session will allow students to investigate Victorian attitudes to crime and punishment through a study of original documents. Students will study in detail the prison record of a young boy named Henry Munday and will use his experiences as a stimulus for creative writing.

Teacher preparation

Please organise your students into pairs before the session and provide each pair with a photocopy of Worksheet 1. Students will have time during the session to use the worksheet to write down their ideas. Students can then build on these to write a poem about Henry Munday as a follow up session in class.

Background information

Henry Munday's information has been taken from the Record Book of Wandsworth Prison, 1873. This book contains records of people – adults and children – who were convicted. Each record contains a photograph of the prisoner, with details of their name, age, address, crime committed and punishment received.

Henry Munday was convicted in 1873 for Simple Larceny. He had stolen 14 lbs of sugar and for his punishment he received four days' hard labour and whipping. The youngest convict detailed in this book, was Julia Ann Crumpling, aged 7, who was sentenced to seven days' hard labour in 1870 for stealing a perambulator.

Wandsworth Prison, along with Coldbath Fields, Tothill Fields and Holloway, was one of London's Correctional Prisons. Prisons were squalid places, with cells described as 'whitewashed cubes 7 feet by 13'. The death penalty was imposed for a wide range of offences, with children as young as 12 years being hanged. Those lucky enough to escape execution were often required to do hard labour.

Suggested follow-up activity

Having found out about Victorian crime and punishment and considered the case of Henry Munday, students can go on to write a poem about Henry's experiences. This can be done in the first person, with the use of metaphors to help them describe Henry's thoughts and feelings.

Using their completed worksheet from the session, students can describe Henry using metaphors for each of the following things: a season or month of the year, a building, an item of clothing, a type of food, and one other of their own choosing.

For example:

I am December, when Christmas has been cancelled.

I am the Workhouse, that separates children from their parents...

Teacher's notes

To end their poems, students could enter the punishment that Henry received and finally his name, for example:

I am 10 days' hard labour

I am Henry Munday

Worksheet 2 is a writing frame that you may wish to use to guide your students.

Useful links

To investigate Victorian child criminals further:

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/lessons/lesson25.htm

To study the history of a child convict:

nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/prisoner4099

Document: PCOM 2/291


Henry Munday's prison record. He was convicted at Wandsworth Prison in 1873 for Simple Larceny. He had stolen 14 lbs of sugar, and received a whipping and four days' hard labour as his punishment.

175
4

Name. N^o Henry Munday 5-5-68 17 May 73.

and Aliases. _____

Description	Age (on discharge) _____	13
	Height _____	4 ft 4 in
	Hair _____	br. brown
	Eyes _____	blue
	Complexion _____	fair
	Where born _____	Clasham
	Married or Single _____	Single
	Trade or occupation _____	None
Distinguishing marks _____	None	



Address at time of apprehension _____ 54 Courage St. Wandsworth Road.

Place and date of conviction _____ Wandsworth 12 May 73.

Offence for which convicted _____ Simple Larceny J. O. A. - 14 lbs of sugar.

Sentence _____ 4 days h. l. & whipped

Date to be liberated _____ 15 May 73

Intended residence after liberation _____ As above

Previous Convictions { Summary

By Jury

Remarks, antecedents &c. _____

Transcript: PCOM 2/291

Henry Munday's prison record. He was convicted at Wandsworth Prison in 1873 for Simple Larceny. He had stolen 14 lbs of sugar, and received a whipping and four days' hard labour as his punishment.

175 Name, No. **Henry Munday 5568** _____ 17 May 73
4 and aliases _____

Description { Age (on discharge) _____ **13**
Height _____ **4 ft 4 ½**
Hair _____ **Lt. Brown**
Eyes _____ **Blue**
Complexion _____ **Fresh**
Where born _____ **Clapham**
Married or Single _____ **Single**
Trade or occupation _____ **None**
Distinguishing Marks _____ **None**

Address at time of apprehension _____ **54 Conroy St. Wandsworth Road**

Place and date of conviction _____ **Wandsworth 12 May 73**

Offence for which convicted _____ **Simple Larceny. Stg 14lbs of sugar**

Sentence _____ **4 days H.L. and whipped**

Date to be liberated _____ **15 May 73**

Intended residence after liberation _____ **as above**

Previous Convictions { Summary

By Jury

Remarks, antecedents etc.

Worksheet 1: Henry Munday

Use this worksheet to think of metaphors to describe Henry Munday. Think about how he might feel and his life so far.

Season or month of the year (e.g. winter when it is very cold and bleak)

Building



Type of food

Clothing

Worksheet 2: your poem about Henry Munday

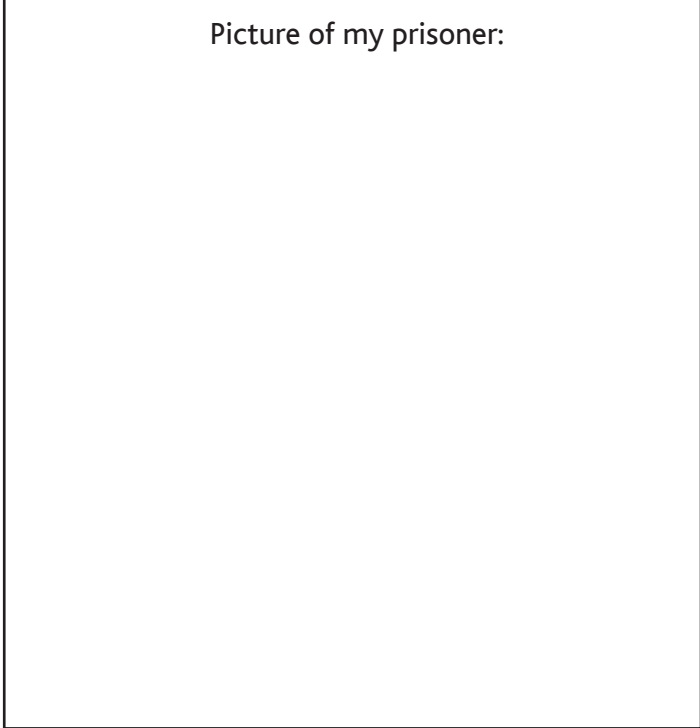
Your name: _____

Prisoner's name and number _____

Description { Age: _____
Hair: _____
Eyes: _____
Where born: _____

Distinguishing marks: _____

Picture of my prisoner:



Crime committed:

Punishment:

I am
I am
I am
I am
I am
I am
I am