

Teacher Guide: The Victorians



My Yarns
Ver stories wae Ulster-Scots

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My Yarns: The Victorians has been created for teachers using the Victorians as a theme for their teaching. It is delivered from an Ulster-Scots perspective utilising themes and language reflective of that history and culture. The intention of this digital resource is to enable teachers to talk about day-to-day life in the Victorian era while also introducing students to Ulster-Scots language. The package consists of an Interactive Story, a set of Ulster-Scots key words and a picture gallery of relevant images, sourced from National Museums Northern Ireland.

This document includes a breakdown of the content within My Yarns: The Victorians. It also includes suggestions for writing tasks that teachers can use directly or as inspiration for creating their own projects.

Schools can register with My Yarns to gain access to the Seedling Interactive Learning Authoring Platform. Teachers can then access the image resources and story templates which enable them to create their own interactive writing projects.



My Yarns
Ver stories wae Ulster-Scots

affa - awfully
beautyfu - beautiful
claes - clothes
efter - after
feart - afraid
forbye - as well
flures - floors
gairdens - gardens
guid folks - ladies and gentlemen
gye - very
ither - other
heid - head
heid tae fit - head to foot
hoose - house
jabs - jobs
kine - kind
leeve - live
lock/wheen - a number of
maist - most
maister - master

monie - many
nicht - night
oors - hours
pairties - parties
plenishin/furnyter - furniture
quare - fine
reddin up - clearing
schuil - school
scaich o day - early morning
show regaird fur - be respectful to
tae tak a brek - to take a break
thegither - together
the pairt - be suitably dressed
thole - tolerate
wairm - warm
wasnae - wasn't
weel-aff - wealthy
wile - very
yin - one

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Interactive Story: Workin in the Big Hoose

The Interactive Story “Workin in the Big Hoose” is voiced by Molly Carson, a maid in the Big House. She explains the hardships and benefits to working in a large Victorian household.

Page 1



In Ulster in Victorian times, monie guid folks wud mak their wealth frae the linen and ship-building industries.

Page 2



The maister of a weel-aff femly wud leeve in a big hoose wi a lock o rooms. They had need o a team o servants tae mak the hoose run weel an I wus yin o them till I married my Eddie.

Page 3



It wasnae an easy life fur servants. They had tae be strang an no feart o hard work. In return, the femly they worked fur lucked efter them, giein them board and lodgings.

Page 4



Fur a young servant lass like me, fresh frae schuil at 10 or 11 years o age, life in the big hoose wus affa hard work. We had tae wek up at the scraich o day an niver haed a Setterday aff!

Page 5



Efter oors o washin, reddin up, polishin the silver, scrubbin flures, an keeping the hoose wairm by tendin the fires, we wud end oor chores late at nicht. We wud only hae a wheen o chances tae tak a brek during the day.

Page 6



To leeve as a servant wus hard tae thole if the maister wasnae kine. But the servants in the big hoose cud see some quare sights forbye: Pairties wi guid folks dressed in their fine claes, wile fancy furnyter, and gye beautyfu gairdens! These big hooes wur full o the best o plenishin.

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Interactive Story: Workin in the Big Hoose

This story ends with Molly's marriage to her colleague, Eddie McKee. Their story will continue through the Titanic and World War I stories within the My Yarns resource.

Page 7



The mistress o the hoose was in charge of the household. The butler was heid o the servants. Efter that the housekeeper, the cook and the gairdener wur maist important. Maids an boot boys had tae dae the lowliest of tasks and the dirtiest jabs, but they all worked thegither to keep the gran hoose goin.

Page 8



Servants had tae weer special claes- a uniform such as a blak dress or a white apron. They always had tae luck the pairt frae heid tae fit. An they always had tae show regaird fur their "Betters"- the femly that employed them.

Page 9



I had tae wear a frilly cap on ma heid- I wus yin quare sicht! There's me - Molly Carson at yin end o the front row. An there's Eddie McKee, the man I wud marry, at the ither.

Children can write these in English first, and then translate into Ulster-Scots, or they can have a go at writing straight in Ulster-Scots.

1) Creative Writing

Imagine you are a young servant. You might be a new maid or boot boy. Write a record of your day. Include the tasks you have to do, who you meet as you go about your work, and what you see, feel and hear throughout the day. Try to use as many Ulster-Scots words as you can from the word banks.

2) Writing for Purpose

Use the internet to find out more about the job of a butler or cook in Victorian times. The information that you find will help you to write a job description for either position in the big house. Try to use as many Ulster-Scots words as you can from the word bank.

Using The Gallery

Look at and talk about the other images in the Victorians Gallery. Choose one and write about what is happening in the picture, using as many Ulster-Scots words and phrases as you can. Share your writing with our group or class.