

## Year 7 GIBS

**Task: Write a newspaper article or a short story based upon the poem: The Triangle Fire**

Text 1: (Klara)

### Devastating Fire Killeds 146 wWorkers Ten Stories-y High Building Going- Goes Up In Smoke

Yesterday at 7pm, close to Washington Square, thea usual workday for 146

underage sweatshop workers ended

fatally. Due to no known reason For no  
apparent reason / or Due to unknown

causes until today, a giant fire broke out

in on the tenth floor in the Triangle

Building. When the fire department

came a few minutes later, the damage

was had already been done (or was

already severe.). The top of the building

top was wrapped in flames and all they-

the firemen could do was to keep ing the fire under control as well as evacuate the surroundings. Sadly the girls only had very little chance of survival and even worse not all of them could be identified.

#### Illegal sSweatshop in bBad eConditions

We know today that the shop was definitely in very bad conditions-with only one a single fire exit.

Furthermore It it was one stuffy room with small windows, and extremely unhealthy air and poor working conditions, where about 150 girls were employed from morning until late at night. They were for sure sewing for very low wages every day. Moreover all of them died under unequal these horrible circumstances, for which nobody has taken responsibility yet.

#### Two mMen aArrested

Still-s Shortly after the dramatic scene ended in the middle of the night, the police have taken took two suspects into custody. Two men, both are in their late fifties and are probably responsible for the sweatshop as well as the 146 dead-deaths. Though there si is a few numer of reasons for why the fire could have started, the firefighter T.L. McLeo did not exclude a- the case of arson.

#### Demonstrators and mMourners in the sStreets

Starting in the morning about a hundred thousand mourners were-beginning- began to crowd the streets around the Triangle Building. Families are were weeping bitter tears for their beloved ones, friends are were crying over the ir big loss and others in the angry crowd are were demanding justice.

### Ballad of the Triangle Fire

by Ruth Rubin

In the heart of New York City, near Washington Square  
In nineteen eleven, March winds were cold and bare.  
A fire broke out in a building ten stories high,  
And a hundred and forty-six young girls in those flames did die.

On the top floor of that building, ten stories in the air  
These young girls were working in an old sweatshop there;  
They were sewing shirtwaists for a very low wage.  
So tired and pale and worn-out! They were at a tender age.

The sweatshop was a stuffy room with but a single door;  
The windows they were gray with dust from off that dirty floor;  
There were no comforts, no fresh air, no light to sew thereby,  
And the girls, they toiled from early morn till darkness filled the sky.

Then on that fateful day — dear God, most terrible of days!  
When that fire broke out, it grew into a mighty blaze.  
In that firetrap way up there with but a single door,  
So many innocent working girls burned, to live no more!

A hundred thousand mourners, they followed those sad biers.  
The streets were filled with people weeping bitter tears.  
Poets, writers everywhere described that awful pyre,  
When those young girls were trapped to die in the Triangle Fire.

© 1968 Ruth Rubin from the Sing Along Songbook, 1993 UCLEA NE  
Summer Institute for Union Women, New York State School of Industrial and  
Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1993.

Task Achievement: 29/30

Organization and Coherence: 20/20

Range of Vocabulary and Grammar: 16/20

Accuracy of Grammar, Vocab and Spelling: 22/30

**Sum: 87/100**

Dear K.

You have written a very good newspaper article giving all the important facts mentioned in the poem. Your text is well structured. You might leave out the subheadings – these are more common in reports than in newspapers.

You have used a variety of good, appropriate expressions. Please correct the little mistakes and transfer the new expressions and phrases into your vocab-book.

Tip: Capitalize the nouns in all headings and titles.