

American Literature
The Strike for Three Loaves
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 5: *The Strike for Three Loaves*

1. Role-play or write a drama script portraying a child laborer from Lawrence testifying before the legislative committee about his or her living and working conditions.
2. Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter from Chicago covering the Lawrence mill strike. Write an eyewitness account of one day in the protest - such as the initial walkout, a workers' march or the victory parade.
3. Assume the role of a labor activist in 1912 and write a persuasive speech encouraging the strikers not to give in to the demands of company management.
4. The story relates that the striking workers often sang. Compose a song or jingle the strikers could have used during their public protests.
5. Re-read the supporting document "The Lady at the Door." Imagine that you lived in the 1880s Choose the perspective of a Polish immigrant in New York City, a Chinese immigrant in San Francisco or a women's suffragist in Boston, and write a letter to the editor expressing what the new Statue of Liberty means to you.