**Triangle Factory Fire**

**Industrialization goes Bad**

**View video with class:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ulaG9x4GpE>

**Together, read provided article. This is a print version of “Story of the Fire” found at the link below.**

**Go to website.**

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/supplemental/index.html>

**click on Supplemental Resources**

**click on Model of the 9th floor**

Using the list of problems within the building, group them in some sort of meaningful way. Write one paragraph about what you think of this situation, citing at least 4 of the identified problems.

**Click on victims and witnesses.**

Look at the list of victims.

How many were under 18 years of age?

What is the age of the oldest victim?

**Click on primary sources.**

**Click on any testimonial or letter.**

Read your choice.

What did you read? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Give details of the working conditions described in the letter. The more details, the better.

**Read one Fire! newspaper or magazine article.**

Which did you read? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jot down words and phrases used to stir your emotions? What information bothered you the most?

**Read one testimonial.**

Which did you read? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What aspect of the event did the testimonial focus on? Give evidence to support your claim.

**Read one Mourning and Protest newspaper or magazine article.**

Which did you read? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the position of the article? Is this propaganda?

Give examples that help identify the position taken in the article.

C**lick on** [**Transcripts of the Criminal Trial Against the Factory's Owners**](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/primary/trialRecords/index.html?sto_sec=investigation)

**under Investigation and Trial.**

**Click on** [**Full-text of the Transcript**](http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/triangletrans/)

Do not open the different articles but read their titles. What questions do you think came up during the course of the investigation? What do you predict was the outcome of the trial?

Analyze this ballad as a class.

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.

What is a ballad?

What is the rhyme scheme?

Identify all examples of personification, onomatopoeia, figurative language (imagery, simile, metaphor, etc.).