



Film Worksheet 1.5

► EXTRA FILM

Montage

Knowledge base

First impressions



North and South

(see film clip on the Class Video DVD)

1. Recall or find out about the author Elizabeth Gaskell by referring to page 208 (*The 1800s, The Literary Context*) in your course book.

2. Now refer to the firsthand accounts of life in the factories of the Industrial Revolution by reading page 241 in your course book. Find out...

- ... what living conditions were often like.
- ... what kind of accidents sometimes happened to child labourers.
- ... what the illness 'mill fever' was caused by.

3. You are going to watch a sequence from a 2004 BBC production of *North and South*.

Margaret is in the northern town of Milton and goes into a factory for the first time in her life. The clip shows Margaret entering the factory's carding room.

- Watch the clip for the first time. Identify the characters Margaret, John Thornton (the mill owner), Stevens (a factory hand) and Bessy.
- Describe the events.
- Talk about the setting.

4. Focus on the dialogue.

- Watch the clip again and fill in the missing words.

- THORNTON: Stevens! Put that pipe out! I saw you. Stevens! Stevens! Come here! (1) _____ again?
- STEVENS: I wasn't.
- THORNTON: Where is it?
- STEVENS: I wasn't smoking, I swear.
- THORNTON: (*feeling the pipe*) Still (2) _____. I warned you! (*He starts to beat Stevens*)
- STEVENS: No, no, please sir, please, please sir.
- THORNTON: Look at me! Look at me!
- 10 MARGARET: Stop, stop, please stop.
- THORNTON: Who are you? What (3) _____?
- MARGARET: My name is Margaret Hale.
- CLERK: Sorry sir, Mr Thornton. I told her to (4) _____ in the office.
- THORNTON: Get her out of here! (*to Stevens*) Aye, crawl away on your belly and don't (5) _____.
- STEVENS: Please sir, I have little ones.
- THORNTON: You know the rules!
- 20 STEVENS: (6) _____ will starve.

THORNTON: Better they starve than burn to death. Get out before
I (7) _____!
(referring to Margaret) Get that woman out of here!
CLERK: Please, miss, miss...

In more detail

Montage

5. Montage refers to how shots are put together. To be successful there should be visual continuity from one shot to the next. For example, at the end of a shot, a character may look in the direction of the character that will feature in the next shot.

- a.** Watch the first part of the clip again, focusing on the montage of the shots. Fill in the missing information on the table.

Shot number	Content	Type of shot	Continuity
1	Margaret, factory machines		eyeline — Margaret looks upwards
2		medium, slightly low-angle shot	
3	Margaret	medium, normal-angle shot	eyeline — Margaret continues to look upwards
4		medium, slightly low-angle shot	eyeline, facial expression — Thornton's eye is caught by something/one below
5	Stevens		

- b.** Watch some more of the clip and pause near the end of each shot to check on how visual continuity has been achieved in the montage.

Conclusions

- 6.** Consider both the information from your book (page 241) and the film.
- a.** Say how you can link the film clip and the information you have read.
- b.** What has the clip added to your understanding of the socio-historical context of the novel.