

The Sweat Shop (cartoon)



I: The document is a cartoon in black and white. The source, the date and the artist of the document are unknown. Maybe it was published by a charity like *Unicef* because it deals with *children's exploitation* in the world. It aims at everyone but more precisely at consumers since the scene takes place in a shop. The cartoonist intends to sensitize people about a global issue thanks to *dark humour*. He wants to make people aware of the problem of children's exploitation by representing a sad reality and he denounces the fact that we live in a world where *consumption* and *cheap prices* rule our society and our lives over *the well-being of people*.

D: The document can be divided into two parts; the foreground with the two women who are speaking and the background with the "sweat shop".

The cartoon depicts two women who are having a conversation. The scene takes place in a clothes shop.

The woman with dark hair **on the left** is holding a *shopping bag*. She is a customer / client whereas the woman with blond hair **in the middle** is the shop assistant. The client is asking a question: "where is children's clothing?" She is probably *looking for new clothes for her children*. She must be a *mother*. But the assistant wants her to be more precise and she answers: "made for children or made by children?" **She insists on FOR and BY to put emphasis on the preposition and the contrast**. The words are underlined. Both women look *indifferent*. They don't have special face expressions.

A: the document actually is a criticism of our consumer society. It denounces *exploitation of children who work to create the clothes we wear everyday*. The women are speaking about this fact **as if it were normal**. The woman on the left doesn't look surprised or shocked when the shop assistant asks her the question.

H: the word "sweat shop" refers to the *clandestine workshop* that some companies / brands have in developing countries such as India or China so that they can employ *cheap labour / workforce* including children. These companies do this **in order to reduce their cost of production and so as to make more profits**. These jobs are really hard because the employees don't really have *rights* and they don't receive proper *salaries / wages*. However, if you want to buy products which respect children's rights, you can buy "*fair trade*" products **so that** you are sure they were not made by children or by *low-paid workers*. They are *more expensive* but you have a *better conscience* buying them.

O: I guess the document is efficient and reaches its goal. I personally think that *the work of children should be forbidden by international law* and that the companies who do not respect this law should be severely *punished* or fined. I know that working is important to earn money but I think that children should have the *right* and even the *duty to go to school and have an education instead of a job*. I believe that *education* should be a *priority* even in developing countries. It is a key to get out of poverty and build a better future.

Branch out: I know I'm not a perfect student but I do my best to succeed at school **so that my parents can be proud of me and I can be proud of myself**. I hope I will *pass my A-Levels* this year and that I will be able to go to university next year. I want to become a *marketing designer*. Maybe I will have to create *ad campaigns about fair trade*, who knows?