

Simplified transcript

Interview with John Saville

No. 7 John Saville, 7 years old,
collier's boy [coal miner] at the Soap
Put. Interviewed January 19th

I've worked in the pit for two weeks. I
open and shut the door. I'm normally in
the dark and I sit down against the door.
I like the work well enough; it doesn't
make me tired. I work for 12 hours in the
coal mine, and I never see daylight now
except on Sundays. They don't treat me
badly or beat me. I fell asleep one day
and a corve [coal wagon] ran over my leg
and made it hurt.

When I get home, I wash myself and have
something to eat and drink. I drink tea
and sometimes dry bread, or sometimes
bread and cheese. I sometimes have red
herring and potatoes for my dinner in
the pit [coal mine]. I eat four times a
day in the pit. I don't know my letters.
I've never been to school at all. I go to
Sunday School and I go to chapel [church]
on a Sunday. I don't know who made the
world and I don't know about God.

Inspector's note:

This boy cannot write or tell one letter.