

Unit 6 - Reading and Listening Assignments

READING

1 Read the text. Choose the correct answers to the questions.

In the early nineteenth century, life for workers was very hard, but a new law in 1824 said that workers could now get together and try to make company owners pay them more money. This had been illegal before. In 1832 a group of six farm workers from the village of Tolpuddle in Dorset formed a 'friendly society' and promised each other that they would not work for less than ten shillings a week. Landowners were only paying seven shillings a week, so the men refused to work. In a small village this meant that the landowners couldn't get all their farm work done.

However, although it was legal for workers to fight for their rights, one landowner discovered that it was illegal to make promises to each other. The landowner wrote to the government and asked for help. The farm workers hadn't known that they were breaking the law but in 1834 they were arrested. They were sent to prison in Australia for seven years.

There were big protests about this. There were marches against the government and 800,000 people signed a letter saying that the men, known as the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs', should be freed. The following year there was a new government. They decided it was wrong for the men to be in prison. Five of the men came back to England after just two years. The sixth man, who had been in prison once before for stealing, was freed one year later.

In 1934, 100 years after the arrest of the men, six cottages were built for retired workers in the village of Tolpuddle. The cottages of the Martyrs themselves are not there any more, but the six cottages were built in a similar style. A library was also built in the village. Today the library is a museum about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and there are streets named after them in London and Australia.

1 Before 1824, workers:

- a** had no rights at all.
- b** couldn't get together to ask for more money.
- c** weren't allowed to ask for more money.

2 The men in Tolpuddle refused to work because:

- a** the landowners wouldn't pay them.
- b** they found better work with a friendly society.
- c** they wanted more money.

3 The men were arrested because:

- a they had broken a law.
- b the government had changed the law.
- c friendly societies were illegal.

4 The six men didn't:

- a go to prison.
- b go to Australia.
- c spend seven years in prison.

5 One man was in prison a year longer because:

- a he stole something while he was in Australia.
- b he had stolen something in the past.
- c he was the leader of the group.

6 Today, in the village of Tolpuddle you can see:

- a a street named after the men.
- b a museum about the men's lives.
- c the cottages the men lived in.

LISTENING

2 Listen to someone talking about their hero and complete the information with one or two words in each gap.

- 1 Orwell's father worked for the Indian _____.
- 2 After working in Burma, Orwell became interested in the problem of _____.
- 3 One of the books he wrote at this time was *Down and Out in Paris* _____.
- 4 Orwell left for Spain in _____ 1936.
- 5 *Homage to Catalonia* is about his experiences _____.
- 6 Orwell didn't fight in the Second World War because he was _____.
- 7 At the end of *Animal Farm*, the _____ start walking on two legs.