“Why did they chop off a king's head?” asked Jack excitedly. “We don't do that to presidents we don't like. That's a little scary!” “Were English kings like our presidents?” asked Mr. Miller. “Oh, I see,” answered Jack. “The kings were there for life. Nobody elected them, but they gave the people and Parliament a hard time. I guess that they had to keep the kings in line somehow. Still, sending your king to the chopping block—” “What were the English people afraid of, Jack?” “I know what happened,” said Jack thoughtfully. “The nobles and the Parliament would say, 'You, king, you're going too far! Who do you think you are? Take it easy. Listen to the people once in a while!'” “Great, Jack. So all you need is a Parliament to make sure the king doesn't do it all himself.” “It's not so easy, Mr. Miller. Those kings thought they had been given their jobs by God himself. They called it divine right. I guess they felt that nothing and nobody could stop them. But the nobles stopped King John.” “How did they do that?” asked Mr. Miller. “I think you once said that 'money talks,'” said Jack. “King John needed money. The English nobles said, 'You want tax money? You have to ask us for permission. But first, sign this little piece of paper—this Magna Carta!'” “Yes, Jack, King John certainly did agree to a lot of things. But there was something missing in the English government.” “Right, Mr. Miller. They had to set up a Parliament to pass the laws. Parliament battled the king. I remember they wouldn't let James do whatever he wanted. They wouldn't let him be a dictator. They showed him who was 'boss!'” “Now do you have an idea why they killed Charles I?” continued Mr. Miller. “I suppose it was a little different,” replied Jack slowly. “Charles would sign anything; he would promise anything. He was a liar. I think he felt that kings didn't have to keep their word. He thought he was above the law. Laws weren't for kings. They were for ordinary, plain folks! Charles signed the Petition of Right,
but everyone knew that he didn’t believe in rights for other English people! I don’t know, Mr. Miller. Maybe he deserved to die. But wait a minute. Parliament threw out James II; they didn’t kill him."

"What does that tell you about revolutions, Jack?"

"I think I get it. There are revolutions and there are revolutions. Some revolutions happen quietly, without people being killed. The English Revolution of 1689 was like that."

"Do you remember what John Locke said about revolution?" asked Mr. Miller.

"Locke said that people get together and give a government the right to rule them. But suppose that government doesn’t do its job. The people aren’t too happy with it. Then the people will pick someone else to run the country. That’s really revolutionary!"

"What’s the connection with the Glorious Revolution?"

"Well," said Jack, "Parliament would be like the people in John Locke’s story. They felt that James II was not doing his job. So they threw him out and called in William and Mary."

"Could they be sure that William and Mary would do their jobs?" asked Mr. Miller.

"No. Parliament had William and Mary sign the Bill of Rights. That gave the English Parliament a lot of power. It gave the English people a lot of things that you need for a democratic government."

"Does this sound familiar to you, Jack?"

"Yes. That’s what must have happened to us in our own American Revolution. The English government broke its contract with its colonists in America. And our people here wouldn’t stand for it! Bang! We fought for our freedom. Anyway, we do owe the English a lot. Their ideas help make our democracy work. I don’t know where we’d be without them!"

"Well spoken, Jack."

"Did revolutions take place in other countries, too?" asked Jack.

"You bet. Now read the unit on France. Their revolution was quite different from the one in England."
France—The Beginnings of Democracy

“Oh, come on, Mr. Miller. I asked a simple question about other revolutions. I didn’t say that I wanted to read all about what happened in France.”

“Why not, Jack? The French Revolution is exciting. You’ll be able to see how people rose up and threw a government out.”

“Isn’t studying about the English Revolution enough?” asked Jack.

“No, because the French Revolution is quite different from England’s Glorious Revolution,” answered Mr. Miller. “In France it’s a revolution of violence and bloodshed. A whole system is turned upside down and inside out.”

“Okay, maybe the French Revolution is interesting. But how about those French words? You know I have enough trouble with English.”

“Don’t worry, Jack. I promise that the few French words won’t bother you at all. Watch your word list grow.”

“All right, Mr. Miller. Bring on the French Revolution. Where do we start?”

“With Louis XIV. Then you can read the rest of the unit on France.”
1. The Sun King

*In Unit III we saw how* the English Parliament challenged the power of the king. Their struggle lasted for almost five centuries. One result of the Glorious Revolution of 1689 was that the king could not rule without the help of Parliament. The kings and queens of England were no longer the sole (only) rulers of their country. Death and taxes were too important to be decided by one person.

In this unit we move to France. The absolute power of the French king was challenged by the Parisian Parlement (parliament) during the 17th century. Actually, the Parliament had little power. It was not representative of France, as the English Parliament was representative of England. But the French also were eager to limit the king’s power to set taxes. Wars cost a great deal of money, so taxes were very high.

A revolt against the French monarchy was fought during the 17th century (1648–1653). The revolt was called the Fronde. The name means slingshot. It was taken from the gadget that children in the Paris slums used to toss mud at passing coaches. The mud annoyed the noble riders in the coaches, but it never stopped them from using the streets of Paris. So too the revolt of the Fronde was annoying, but it did not stop the kings of France from doing as they pleased. The Fronde was a failure. No limits were to be placed upon the absolute powers of the kings of France until the end of the 18th century.

In 1643, Louis XIV, a child of five, became king of France. For the next 18 years, the real ruler of France was Cardinal Mazarin. When he died in 1661, the people were shocked that Louis XIV himself took control of the French government. He decided that he would be his own prime minister. For the next 54 years Louis XIV was at the center of
Europe, its wars, its life. In fact, this period has been called the Age of Louis XIV.

Louis was the greatest of the absolute monarchs. (Absolute monarchs had total control of their countries’ affairs.) Louis was called the Sun King. He looked and acted like a king. He loved praise and flattery and was very fond of pictures and statues of himself. He believed he was the greatest of all rulers—a king of kings.

Louis insisted on moving the French court ten miles from Paris to Versailles (ver-SIGH). Louis disliked Paris. He hated the narrow streets and was afraid of the crowds of people. He never forgot his fears during the Fronde, when he was at the mercy of the mob. He had to get out of Paris, no matter what the cost.

At Versailles, he built a palace worthy of a sun king. It was the finest palace in the world. It took over 30 years to build, and as many as 35,000 people worked on it at one time. Hundreds of people lost their lives on the project. No one knows how much Versailles cost. Louis made sure that he destroyed the records of expenses before he died.
In this story two young nobles meet at Versailles. They talk about life at the court. We can see how everything revolves around the thoughts and actions of the king.

Ask yourself why most of the nobles of France were at the court of Versailles. Why was Louis called the Sun King? Did he deserve the title?

**Versailles, 1691**

"Count Chaumont!" called Count Rideau as he recognized a familiar face in the crowd that filled the great Hall of Mirrors. Rideau walked quickly to greet his old friend. "When did you arrive at Versailles? I see that Louis finally forced you to come here. How do you like it?"

"It’s great to see you again, Rideau," said Chaumont as they greeted each other. "It’s been a long time. How do I like it? That’s a fine question coming from you. You warned me about how dull and boring it was here. Remember how you kept writing me not to come because it wasn’t my kind of life?"

"I suppose," said Count Rideau, "you felt that I was trying to hide the truth from you. You must have had the idea that I would not want to share the fun of Versailles with my best friend."

"No, Rideau. I believed you. I admit that I did have some doubts about your stories at the beginning. But why would you have wanted to keep me away from here? Now I’m sure that it was for my own good. I’ve been at Versailles only three days, and already I wish I were back home!"

"Now you realize that everything they say about Versailles is true. You can be happy here if you can learn to do exactly as you are told. You’ll find plenty to eat and drink. There are many good-looking women. Keep your eyes open. But stay away from the gambling. You can lose your shirt. The king will pay for the gambling losses of his closest friends. But you are far removed from that position."

"Thanks for your good advice," said Chaumont. "Tell me, do you see the king very often? You’ve been here for three years. Are you at all close to him now? Will he talk to me?"

"Slow down—not so fast," said Rideau, laughing. "One question at a time. Only the most powerful nobles are close to the king.
That doesn’t include people like you and me. I haven’t even reached the high position of handing the king his shirt or pants. The best I’ve been able to do so far is watch him wash his face a few times. Oh, and once I saw him put on his wig. Only his favorites can actually hand him his food. I have never gotten that close. But can he eat!"

"I’m sorry," said Chaumont, "but I must confess that I just don’t understand what you’re talking about. What’s the big deal about handing the king his underwear and watching him dress? Who wants to watch him eat or bring in his food? We’re not servants. We’re nobles! This is ridiculous!"

"Chaumont, you have to understand that Louis isn’t just the king of France. He is the sun and the moon and the stars! He is the center of everything in our world. We nobles are here to honor him, to do everything to make him happy."

"Does being dressed and undressed by his nobles make him happy?" asked Chaumont.

"You’ll find out," answered Rideau. "There is a set way of doing everything at court. These things please the king. He likes doing exactly the same thing at the same time each day. This is his life. You’ll see; someday you’ll be happy to do things for the king you now think are so silly. Who knows, someday he may even speak to you! But don’t expect it; he’s not a great talker. Some claim he says so little because then he won’t have a chance to say the wrong things.

"Do you know that he has been his own prime minister since Mazarin died? He tries to do too much. Not even the ‘Grand Monarch’ can run a country as large as France all by himself. He wants to know everything, sign everything."

"With all the parties and games going on around here, when does the king find time to govern?" asked Chaumont.

"Don’t let appearances fool you," said Rideau. "Yes, he loves all the parties and rituals of Versailles. But he spends a good eight hours a day on the business of running the country. Believe it or not, he is a hard-working king."

"Isn’t he afraid of making mistakes?" asked Chaumont.

"My dear Chaumont, the king makes no mistakes. He is the all-powerful ruler. He is the image of God on earth. He thinks of himself as the greatest of men—and we nobles agree. That’s why
he took the sun as his emblem. Our King Louis XIV is the source of our light and life!

"But that's blasphemy!" cried Chaumont. "That's disrespect for God—to compare Louis with God! After three years in Versailles you are a stranger to me. I don't understand you. You were my closest friend, and now—"

"Chaumont," said Rideau coolly, "I am very sorry that I disappoint you. Three years is a long time. But what I said is what the people at court are saying. They are not my ideas. Someday soon you too will understand. You will change. You will learn your place here. This will be your entire world. You too will say that Louis is a great king. You will see his pockmarks and his warts, but you will learn to love him!"

"Please forgive my shouting at you," said Chaumont. "I would like to think that I will never change. My mind will always be open. But suppose you are right. I want to be myself, to be a person. Should I ask for permission to go home?"

"Ask, but you are now a member of this court. There is not much chance that you will be given permission," answered Rideau. "You may visit your home, but this is where you will spend the rest of your life!"

"Thank you for your patience," said Chaumont, much more calmly. "I must learn to accept things here. But, if Louis is such a great king, almost a god, why doesn't he save the poor people from starving?"

"We know very little about life in the outside world," replied Rideau. "That's not our concern. Don't worry. Louis will take care of the people. Chances are that you know much more about what's going on in the rest of France than I do. Tell me what you know."

"Well," said Chaumont, "Louis is a great spender. Taxes are very high. People say that the money goes in and out of the royal treasury faster than you can say 'Sun King.' But the spending isn't all personal. Let's not forget all of his wars. It's hard to think of a time when France, or should I say Louis, was not at war! Why does he have to fight war after war? First he wins some land and then he loses some land. He is bleeding our country to death!"

"Louis fights for the glory of France," replied Rideau. "We will not let any nation push us around. Why should we? We are great!"
“Yes, but does he have to fight the world?” responded Chaumont. “Doesn’t France have enough land of its own? Don’t we have enough problems? I could understand why Vauban built fortresses on our frontiers. I am all for defense, but do we always have to attack? Who needs the Spanish Netherlands? Why should we make secret deals with the English?”

“Think of it, Chaumont, if you had had great generals like Condé and Turenne, what would you do? Wouldn’t you attack? Why shouldn’t France become even more powerful?”

“Yes,” answered Chaumont, “a great country knows how to live in peace with her neighbors. A great king understands that his first responsibility is to his people. He doesn’t send them to die in wars. He doesn’t bleed them of all their money!”

“What you are saying about our king makes sense to you as a newcomer to Versailles,” said Rideau, speaking quietly once more. “But wait. You’ll soon be caught up in the life and death of Versailles. The king will be the center of your world. You will accept whatever he does and whatever happens here. This is all you will know. You will change, believe me. I did. You will respect and appreciate Louis. He is human. He may not be perfect, but he is the very best king that Europe has ever had!”

“You mean that he is the best king that France has at this moment,” said Chaumont, also very quietly. “Perhaps he is strong enough to hold our country together during his lifetime. But what will happen to France and Europe after he dies? Who will pay for all of his waste, for his extravagance? Who will account for all the people’s suffering?”

Rideau thought for a moment. “We will all pay, I suppose. France cannot afford another Louis XIV.”

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Which statements show that Louis XIV had complete control over France?

1. Louis XIV always asked the peasants for advice.
2. The revolt called the Fronde did not affect Louis’ actions.
3. Louis liked to be called the Sun King.
4. Louis spent as little money as he could.
5. Most French nobles were forced to live at Versailles.
7. Louis was his own prime minister during much of his rule.
8. Louis felt that he was the image of God on earth.

B. Chaumont and Rideau have many different ideas. Decide who made or might have made the following remarks. Write C for each statement that Chaumont made or might have made and R for each statement that Rideau made or might have made.

1. Louis finally forced you to come to Versailles.
2. I wish I were back home.
3. Only the most powerful nobles ever get close to the king.
4. Why should you want to see the king get dressed?
5. Someday Louis may speak to you.
6. We were brought to Versailles to limit our power.
7. The king is a big spender.
8. Louis fights wars for the glory of France.

C. Imagine that Louis XIV is alive today. How would life be different for all of us if Louis were president of the United States? What changes would Louis have to make to be a successful United States president?

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Imagine that you are Chaumont. Write a letter to a friend. Describe how you feel about your new life at the palace of Versailles.
2. Pretend that you are Rideau. You have found Chaumont’s letter. You know that the king sees all mail before it is sent from the palace. What changes would you make in the letter to protect your friend Chaumont?
3. Look at the illustration of Versailles on page 111. Describe the palace and its grounds.
4. Suppose that you were able to spend a day at the palace of Versailles in the days of Louis XIV. Write a diary describing that day at Versailles.
5. Why is Louis XIV shown in this way in the cartoon? Explain what the noble means by the question. Pretend that you are the other noble. Answer the question.

"But what happens when the sun sets?"
2. The Age of Reason

In 18th-century France there were men who fought against the evils of their country’s government. Their weapons were ideas and words, not swords and guns. These men did not fight in a revolution, but their words caused others to die for freedom.

These men were called the philosophes (FILL-oh-soffs). They were writers and thinkers who asked that all people be treated fairly. All should have the same rights. They demanded that the nobles and clergy give up their special privileges. Taxes should be fair. No one man, such as a king, should have total power over the lives of the French people.

All people were important. All had something to offer to France. You can see that these writers were challenging the absolute power of the king and the privileged classes. They said that a man did not deserve to be king of France simply because his father had been king. He had to earn the right to be king.

The philosophes would not accept anything unless there was a very good reason for it. People must think for themselves. They must use their minds. They must understand what they are doing and why they are doing it. This is why the 18th century is often called the Age of Reason.

In this story two writers, Voltaire (vol-TAIR) and Jean Jacques Rousseau (ruh-SEW), are discussing their philosophies. They are searching for truth. As you read, ask yourself how their ideas are different. How did these ideas set the stage for a revolution? How do they help to make the 18th century an age of reason?
Paris, 1768

Voltaire and Rousseau meet at a gathering of writers in an apartment in Paris. The two men have been enemies for many years. Rousseau is jealous of Voltaire’s success as a playwright. Voltaire resents Rousseau’s fame. Rousseau is very sensitive about anything said or written about him.

“How are you, Rousseau?” asked Voltaire. “It’s been many years since I last saw you.”

“I’m still alive, but no thanks to you, Voltaire!” answered Rousseau.

“How can you talk this way?” grinned Voltaire. “We were never friends, but we both fight for freedom and equality. Aren’t you against privilege for the nobles? Don’t you hate prejudice as much as I do? Would you allow a person to give you an opinion without facts?”

“You talk about prejudice and making up your mind without facts,” angrily answered Rousseau. “Well, how about your own little prejudices? Don’t you think that I’ve heard about your nasty remarks about me? My friends tell me that you’re jealous of me. You can’t stand my success. You think that you’re the number-one writer of France. You won’t let anyone praise me. Isn’t there plenty of room for more than one good writer? Don’t you know that I’ve called you ‘great? You’re a genius—”

“Just a minute, Rousseau. Don’t let your mouth run away with you, as usual! I hear things, too! Sure, you said I was a genius. But, then, did you have to add that I had an ‘evil soul’?”

“What’s so terrible about that?” smiled Rousseau for the first time. “You write like a genius. You have a great mind. Your soul or what is inside of you is something else. Let’s just forget it. I like so much of what you have written. I think you speak from your heart. To me, you are the Age of Reason. You think; you challenge; you annoy people. You try to destroy evil. You see something that you don’t like, and you go after it. You cannot stand anything that is not fair; that is not just.”

“Why, thank you, Rousseau. I think that if I weren’t 74 years old, I could really begin to like you. Yes, I’ve tried to crush tyranny.
I can’t stand anything unfair or unjust. I am against torture, unfair laws, unreasonable government.”

“I agree with you absolutely,” replied Rousseau. “We are both against privilege and prejudice. How well you said it in your story _Candide_. How well you pointed out that this is far from the best of all possible worlds. But I must disagree with you about one thing. I think you are too strong in your arguments against religion, but that’s your opinion.”

“I am against anything that cannot be proved,” said Voltaire forcefully. “Superstition is fear of what you don’t know. Superstition should not exist! My mind—my reason—tells me that there is a God. But I cannot know what he is. To change the subject—I never quite understood what you meant by ‘back to nature.’”

“I have tried to tell everyone that life is too complicated today,” answered Rousseau very seriously. “People should live more simply. They should get out of the cities. You know that city life is dirty and artificial. So I am suggesting that we get away from crowds and noise. And get rid of our silly clothes!”

“Do you mean,” said Voltaire, “that we should give up all our pleasures? Are we all supposed to go back to living in the woods? Rousseau, I can’t see you living as naked as Adam in the Garden of Eden.”

“No, no, Voltaire. There you go again, twisting what I say. I want us to live happily. How can we be good to ourselves in today’s world? There are times when we should get away from other people. All I’m saying is that we should make some changes in our life-styles from time to time. Perhaps, I should have said ‘when we can.’”

“I’m sorry, Rousseau, but I like all of my pleasures. I enjoy the simple and the complicated ones, and, I dare say, so do you!”

“No one of us can always do what he preaches,” added Rousseau softly. “I’m a human being, too. As for your books, I’ve read them all. But I don’t see much about democracy—people choosing their government. You believe in democracy, don’t you? Why don’t you let people rule themselves?”

“No, I don’t think that most people are able to govern themselves,” answered Voltaire. “They are not ready for that big step. We can have a king, but we must not let that king go too far. Others
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“No, I don’t think that most people are able to govern themselves,” answered Voltaire. “They are not ready for that big step. We can have a king, but we must not let that king go too far. Others
should share his powers. Have you looked at the government of England?"

"Very reasonable, Voltaire. But, as usual, you miss the point. Where does government come from? Free people come together to make a contract. All of us can't run a government. So we must choose a few people to do the job for us."

"How do the people know whom to choose?" asked a puzzled Voltaire.

"You lack faith in people, Voltaire. We will know when the time comes. We may make mistakes, but then we'll make changes. We'll find others to run our country. You must have faith; you must believe."

"Faith in people!" shouted Voltaire. "You shock me. You are talking revolution. You sound as though you want to overthrow the government! I am not against rights for the people. Make them all equal before the law. Give them fair trials. Lower their taxes. Abolish serfdom. But by all means keep the king!"

"Do you remember what I said in my Social Contract? 'Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.' All people—all men and women—must throw off their chains! They must be free again! If that means the king's head, so be it!"

"I can't agree with you, Rousseau. But we are not really that far apart on most things. Changes are coming. As long as I live, I will never stop attacking everything I think is bad. People must know the truth. They must understand."

Rousseau answered, "And I will not stop until all our people have liberty, equality, and fraternity!"

**UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

A. Write T for each statement that is true and O for each statement that is an opinion.

1. The *philosophes* wanted all people to be treated fairly.
2. Rousseau and Voltaire were the greatest writers France ever produced.
3. The *philosophes* wanted people to think for themselves.
4. People today do not spend enough time using their brains.
5. Voltaire was against anything that was not fair or could not be proved.
6. Rousseau felt that 18th-century life was too complicated.
7. Cities in the 18th century were as dirty as those of today.
8. Voltaire did not want to throw out the king.

B. Tell which item below makes each statement correct.
1. The weapons of 18th-century French *philosophes* were (a) guns and swords (b) ideas and words (c) pens and typewriters.
2. The *philosophes* said that (a) nobles should give up their special privileges (b) kings should have more power (c) England and France should become one nation.
3. Making up your mind without knowing the truth is called (a) prejudice (b) contract (c) being fair.
4. Rousseau and Voltaire (a) were good friends (b) wanted the poor people to rule France (c) were both writers.
5. Rousseau’s idea of “back to nature” meant that (a) people should go back to living on farms (b) people should live more simply (c) all cities should be destroyed.
6. Voltaire believed that (a) a king must not go too far (b) every person could be a king (c) the government of the United States was the best in the world.
7. Rousseau wrote (a) *The Social Contract* (b) *Candide* (c) *The Right to Live*.

C. Imagine that Rousseau and Voltaire are alive today. Whose ideas would interest you more? Why? Whose ideas sound like those of the people in our time? Why?

**ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES**

1. Use each of the following key terms in a sentence.
   - liberty
   - Old Regime
   - *philosophe*
   - fraternity
   - prejudice
   - equality
   - Age of Reason

2. One of the passages on page 123 was written by Rousseau, the other was written by Voltaire. Decide who wrote each passage. Choose statements to prove that you are right.
Reason moves slowly. The roots of prejudice are deep. I may not agree with what you say, but I will fight for your right to say it.

The people must decide who should govern them. The people may have any kind of government they want. Democracy is the best kind of government.

3. Imagine that Voltaire is going to be tried by a French criminal court. Because of what he has written, Voltaire is accused of treason against the government. Would Rousseau defend him? If yes, how would he defend him? If no, why not?

4. Suppose that Rousseau is going to be tried by a French criminal court. He is accused of treason against the government because of his writings. Would Voltaire defend him? If yes, how would he defend him? If no, why not?

5. Pretend that a copy of Rousseau’s *Social Contract* has fallen into the hands of the king of France. You are the king’s chief adviser. He asks you to read *The Social Contract* and to write what he should do about it. Should he *ban* it (stop it from being sold)? Should he copy its ideas? Explain why you think you have given the king good advice.
3. The Revolution Begins

Earlier we saw that Louis XIV was a great king in name and in deed. He ruled as he wished. Who would dare to tell him that he was wrong? He was followed by his great-grandson, Louis XV, who ruled from 1723 to 1774. He tried to continue Louis XIV's system of government but had little success. He sat at councils, yawned a great deal, and often dozed. He was not interested in doing the work of a king. In fact, just about everything bored him! The government of Louis XV was weak, corrupt, and divided. Yet somehow the monarchy survived.

The people of France were growing more and more dissatisfied, however. Average people played no part in government, were taxed unfairly, and were looked upon as inferior to the so-called upper classes. France was a nation of inequality and privilege. French society was divided into three classes, or estates: the high clergy (First Estate), the nobility (Second Estate), and the remainder of the people (Third Estate). The Third Estate included peasants, workers, professional people, the lower clergy, and members of the middle class.

The first two estates made up about 2 percent of the people but controlled the lives and fortunes of the other 98 percent. The high clergy and nobles had little in common with the average French person. They were exempt from the worst of the direct taxes, were tried in special courts, and were even given different punishments. This system was called the Old Regime (old way).

The vast majority of the French people were peasants. True, they were better off than peasants in Germany, Italy, Russia, Poland, or Spain. But the French always worried about famine. A poor harvest would bring with it hunger, illness, and death. Hardly a year passed without a shortage.
of grain in some part of France. It was difficult to ship extra grain from one part of the country to the area in need. Taxes on the peasants were extremely high and unfairly collected. Many nobles decided to collect feudal taxes that had been overlooked for generations. All in all, the peasants felt exploited (used).

When Louis XV died, it was obvious that France needed a king with the ability and personality of a Louis XIV. Louis XVI was not that king. He was timid and slow. He was more interested in hunting and locksmithing than in learning how to rule France. He too slept through many council meetings. He could not get himself to give a definite opinion and stick to it. His opinions were often those of the last person he had spoken to. He neither looked nor acted like a king. Obviously he was not the man to deal with an emergency.

The emergency was real. There had been a series of bad harvests. Bread was scarce, prices were high. When factories closed, many French workers lost their jobs. In 1789 Louis XVI found himself badly in need of money and decided to call the Estates General, the representatives of the three estates, into session. Many people expected great things from these representatives. Petitions (lists of grievances) were drawn up. There were demands for equal taxation, freedom of speech and press, and the abolition of special privileges and feudal dues.

A major question was how the three estates would vote. The Third Estate insisted that each person was to be given one vote. The nobles said that each estate was entitled to exactly one vote. But the Third Estate had its way. It met by itself and said that it was now the National Assembly—the representative of all of France!

In this story, we find that the people of Paris were determined to storm and capture the prison called the Bastille (bah-STEEL). The Revolution was well underway.

Ask yourself why the people felt that it was so important to capture the Bastille. What should Louis XVI have done about its capture? Why were the people of France justified in revolting against the French monarchy?
Paris, July 14, 1789

“What’s it all about? I’ve never seen the streets so crowded,” said Jeanne. “Where’s everyone running to?”

“Haven’t you heard?” George replied. “We’re going to capture the Bastille!”

“Capture the Bastille? How can you possibly imagine yourself doing such a thing? It’s not just a prison—it’s a fortress. Soldiers are defending it. Those thick walls with cannons on top have to be too much for a mob without guns. You’ll all be killed—and for what purpose? What a waste!”

“We won’t all be killed. What you say is plain nonsense,” said George impatiently. “I am not fool enough to want to die. I say that we can take the Bastille. There are thousands of us against a few hundred of them. We are not a mob. We know what we want and nothing will stop us. Besides, when those soldiers see all of us coming at them, they’ll give up without a fight! Don’t be surprised if they come over to our side.”

“Come over to our side?” asked Jeanne. “I don’t understand what’s going on. What is our side? People are running around screaming and yelling. ‘Hurray for the Revolution!’ ‘Liberty and Equality’ are on everyone’s lips. What’s it all about? I’m completely confused!”

“Jeanne, where have you been during the last few months? You act as though you’ve been asleep or away in America. Haven’t you heard about the Revolution? Don’t you understand that everything in France is going to be changed? Things will never be the same again!”

“Change... revolution... things will never be the same,” repeated Jeanne. “You are right about one thing—I don’t understand. No, I haven’t been asleep, but I certainly don’t pay attention to politics. I do my work, take my few francs, and try to survive. I’ve always felt government was for the king and the nobles. I am a worker, a member of the Third Estate. I was born poor and I will die poor. That is my destiny. Money and privileges are for the nobles. They are born to have good things. I am born to—”

“Born to what?” shouted George. “To starve, suffer, and die! And for what? So that those nobles can enjoy life? They all have a great time—at your expense! Doesn’t it bother you that you are
treated unfairly? Don't you care that no matter how hard you work and slave you will always be poor? Aren't you ashamed always to be under someone's heel? Do you enjoy bowing to and being pushed around by the nobles? Aren't you as good as they are? Don't you want to be free?"

"George, I see your point. I am beginning to understand. Of course, I am not happy with my life. But I always thought that this was the way things had to be. I never dreamed that things could be changed. I never realized that it wasn't fair."

"You are crazy! This is not a matter of fair or unfair. This is a case of absolute right and wrong. This is a case of crude privilege. Those people live off your suffering. They laugh at you. They spit at you. Sorry, Jeanne, there goes a group of my friends on the next street. I've got to be with them."

Close by, people were shouting—"On to the Bastille!"; "Save the political prisoners!"; "Kill the nobles!" George started to leave but changed his mind.

"Oh, what's the difference. I'll go along with the next bunch. Perhaps you'll join me. It's more important that you understand. You have to realize what they have been doing to you. By the way, how do you like the taxes you pay?"

"Oh, come on, George," answered Jeanne, laughing a bit. "No one likes to pay taxes, but everyone does. It's a part of living."

"No, Jeanne, you come on. Not everyone pays taxes, and even when they do, some don't pay all of their share. Do you realize that the nobles and the higher clergy don't even pay a land or income tax? They get away without paying the poll tax (a head tax paid per person). And those privileged people pretend that they never heard of other taxes too! It's a great life, isn't it? The people with the least money pay the most taxes. Those vultures of the upper classes use us!"

"Perhaps they would pay their fair share if asked," said Jeanne.

"No, Jeanne, it's not that simple. There's more. Do you know why I came to Paris from my little farm a few years ago? I just couldn't survive. Do you have any idea what the peasants have to sacrifice to work their land? Do you realize how unfair their tax burdens are? How would you like to neglect your own crops to help the noble with his harvest? How would you feel having to work on his roads? And when he went hunting, I was supposed to
smile when his horses trampled my crops! I sold my land five years ago. Would you believe that I had to pay the noble almost one quarter of what I got out of it? For what!"

"I knew that peasants had a hard life, but I didn’t realize it was anything like that," said Jeanne. "I thought that feudalism had been done away with in most of France."

"True," said George, "but no one ever thought of wiping out feudal taxes and services. These taxes stayed and broke our backs. Do you know that I had to have my bread baked in the noble’s oven? My grain was ground in his mill. My grapes were pressed in his wine press. I had no choice. You don’t think that he did those things for us because he was a decent person. He taxed us and he taxed us until there was almost nothing left for us to give." He started to walk away.

"Let me walk with you toward the Bastille," said Jeanne. "All right, I am beginning to understand. A lot of things in France have been wrong. Many nobles have been treating us unfairly. We poor people have been in a bad spot. But what are we going to do about it? Capturing the Bastille isn’t going to stop the nobles from pushing us around. It won’t cut our taxes."

"Wrong again, Jeanne. It will all help. We have to show those loafers that we mean business. We are going to the Bastille because it is a symbol of the rotten government of France, the Old Regime. It is the place where they put away the political prisoners. When the Bastille falls, the government and the king will know that things must change. They must make changes or they will die—their blood will flow through the streets of Paris! You will see!"

"I don’t understand what you mean by ‘political prisoners,’" said Jeanne.

"It’s very simple and nasty," replied George. "The king can put anyone in jail for as long as he wants. There’s no hearing, no trial, and no sentence. People are sent to the Bastille to rot. Their only crime is that someone in power doesn’t like them!"

"Aren’t you exaggerating?" asked Jeanne. "Don’t you think that most of the prisoners in the Bastille are really criminals? Perhaps a few are what you call political prisoners. Why free these convicted men? They may be dangerous."

"You are still confused," said George angrily. "I give up." He started to move away rapidly, but Jeanne kept up with him.
"The Bastille is ours! The Revolution has begun!"

"I've heard that there are dungeons far underground where hundreds of innocent men are rotting away," George said. "I have also been told that there is a storage place where thousands of guns have been hidden away to be used against us. I am telling you for the last time that this place, this Bastille, must fall tonight!"

"George, I'm with you. Let me stay with you," said Jeanne. "But what about the king? Why don't we tell him about the things we don't like and ask him to make changes?"

"We've begged and we've begged," said George breathlessly, as he slowed down his pace. "He won't listen. Believe me, after the Bastille falls, he'll listen, or off goes his head. Here's the Bastille now."

"Look!" cried Jeanne, "there are thousands of people here! They have all kinds of weapons. But I still say that they are no match for the trained soldiers of the garrison. Look, the drawbridge is down. Our people even have cannons. Everyone is rushing into the Bastille. People have been shot. I can't stand the sight. Why did I listen to you? Why did I come here? I feel sick."

"Victory! The Bastille is ours! Jeanne, don't be upset. We have
won. I told you that we could capture it! The Revolution has begun! Let's show the nobles what we think of them. Kill the soldiers!"
Shouts of "Kill them all!" "Show no mercy!" "They drew the first blood!" "Let their blood join ours!" are heard.
"I wonder who really won tonight?" thought Jeanne. "Was it Revolution or was it Death?"

Postscript. The revolutionists found seven prisoners in the Bastille: four counterfeiters, two lunatics, and an alcoholic. Only one of the seven was a political prisoner.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Match each item in Column A with its description in Column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN A</th>
<th>COLUMN B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. the Bastille</td>
<td>(a) head tax (paid per person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Estates General</td>
<td>(b) included all persons except high clergy and nobles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. liberty, equality, fraternity</td>
<td>(c) people who had many privileges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. revolution</td>
<td>(d) prison in Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. nobles</td>
<td>(e) the nobles and high clergy and their privileges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Old Regime</td>
<td>(f) slogan of the Revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Third Estate</td>
<td>(g) representatives of the three estates called into session by Louis XVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. poll tax</td>
<td>(h) a great change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Write T for each statement that is true, F for each statement that is false, and N for each statement that is not mentioned in the story.

1. Louis XIV was a great king.
2. Louis XV was also a very successful king.
3. The taxes paid by the French people in the 18th century were as high as those of today.
4. There were three estates, or social classes, in 18th-century France.
5. Most of the people of France were peasants.
6. The voting in the Estates General was fair: Each man had one vote.
7. The Third Estate included most of the people of France.
8. French peasants used good-quality seed and farm tools.
9. Louis XVI called the Estates General because he needed money.
10. Most French peasants were as bright as most French nobles.

C. Read the last paragraph of the story (the postscript) once again. Many would say that the people of Paris did not have good reason to storm the Bastille. Do you agree? Explain. How would George answer this question? What reason would he give?

**ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES**

1. Imagine that it is 1789. You were a political prisoner in the Bastille in Paris. You have been set free by the revolutionists. You are asked to write a newspaper article telling why you were in prison and what prison life was like. Write the article.
2. Bring pictures to class of buildings and streets of 18th-century Paris. Draw a picture of the streets of Paris, including the Bastille and surrounding areas.
3. Draw a picture of what you think the inside of the Bastille looked like.
4. Imagine that you are George. Write a letter to your former lord. Tell him why you feel that he did not have the right to collect taxes from you. Pretend that you are the noble. Write a letter answering George.
4. The Reign of Terror

The French Revolution was well on its way. Which path would it take? Could Louis XVI live through the changes it would bring? Could the revolutionists live with the British solution, both Parliament and a king?

At first it seemed that Louis would be able to keep his crown. He said that he accepted the Declaration of the Rights of Man, which was inspired by the United States Declaration of Independence. All men and women were to be considered equal. The class lines created by birth were to be erased. The constitution of 1792 ruled that the king would stay on his throne. But the real power was to be in the hands of a legislature—a lawmaking body.

Those were great days in the lives of the French people. The surprise was that so much had been done with so little bloodshed. The Revolution seemed a great success. Then in 1792, the scene changed. France was thrown into a war with the great powers of Austria and Prussia. The new French government was in deep trouble.

Louis XVI did not really accept his new role as a not too powerful king. He hoped that European kings would win the war against France and rescue him. This was an idle dream. The French government was overthrown by the more radical (extreme) group called the Jacobins (JACK-oh-bins). Louis was found guilty of treason—plotting with the enemies of France.

The new Jacobin government was in a very dangerous situation. It was fighting a war against powerful enemies. At the same time, it was fighting its enemies within France. It felt itself surrounded. It trusted no one—including its own members. The Jacobins' answer was to start the Reign of Terror (rule of death). Over 500,000 French people were accused of being traitors. They were thrown into the overcrowded jails. From 3,500 to 4,000 were executed at the
guillotine (GHEE-oh-teen). Others were shot to death or were drowned on boats that were sunk in the Loire River. What were their crimes? They were suspected of not being completely loyal to the revolutionary government of the Jacobins.

In this story we meet Robespierre (ROBZ-pih-aihr), who planned the Reign of Terror. Now he himself has been sentenced to die by the same blade that had killed so many other “enemies” of France. He writes in his diary of his days of glory. He recalls the men he worked with and against whom he plotted.

Ask yourself why Robespierre felt that the Terror was necessary. Did the leaders of the Terror destroy themselves? Could there have been a French Revolution without the Terror?

Paris, July 27, 1794

What a ridiculous way for Maximilien Robespierre to end his life! A few days ago I was the leader of the revolutionary government. I was the head of the Committee of Public Safety. Now the “head” will lose his head. And for what? My enemies never understood what I was trying to do. They insisted that I wanted nothing but power. They even had the nerve to say that I wanted to become a dictator. What nonsense! They forget that in the National Assembly I was the champion of democracy. I was the one who worked to win the vote for all Frenchmen!

My dream was to make France a republic that would be fair, honest, and just. Was it my fault that I found that people had to die so that France could live? They call me a killer—I, who could not even bear the thought of death. They have no idea what happened many years ago when I was the judge of a criminal court. I actually resigned, left the job, because I could not send a convicted criminal to his death!

Life is sacred to me. It hurt me to send people to the guillotine. But I had to do it. France had to be cleansed and purified of all those who stood in the way of fair government! All the people who were not with us were against us. They were the suspects; they were the
It was the only way I knew to make the Revolution live. Yes, people had to die for a better life for the good people of France. The end justifies the means!

Thoughts race wildly through my mind. I am perspiring. I cannot stand the pain in my jaw. Why did they have to shoot me? Can it be that I, the great Robespierre, am afraid? How will I act when I climb those stairs to the guillotine? Will I be able to make it on my own? I remember how the king behaved. There was a man who never looked or acted like a king during his lifetime. He was timid, always afraid. He never made a decision on his own. He was a slow thinker and doer! I thought they would have to carry him to the scaffold. But no, this was his greatest moment! Imagine, Madame la Guillotine bringing out the best in our King Louis!

I can see Louis now. He refused to let the soldiers take off his outer clothes. He would not even let the soldiers tie his hands. Yes, he died bravely. He had a strange dignity in death that he never had in his lifetime. I can still hear the mob screaming, "Long live the nation! Long live the Republic!" Then a soldier held up the king's head for all to see. For a moment, I wondered whether his life might have been spared. Was it a mistake to kill the king? No, that was no mistake. The king had to die. He may have been a fool, but he stood for all the evils of the absolute monarchy. He was the Old Regime in all of its evil ways.

Soon I will join those who gave their lives for the cause. How I wish they were with me now! But no—do I really want them here? I am confused. I wonder whether Marat would have defended me. Would he have taken my side? Or would he have joined the rest of the rabble and sent me to the guillotine?

I know the answer. He hated everyone in authority. He thought of himself as a great scientist and felt that no one recognized his talents. Too bad! He was no democrat. In his own way, he wanted to help the poor people, but he would not have given them any power. I have to laugh now, in spite of my troubles, when I think of people calling me cruel and ruthless. They do not remember when Marat called for 270,000 heads! He would solve all problems by killing and killing and killing. Too bad that he did not have the honor of dying by losing his own head to Madame la Guillotine! Stabbed while taking a bath! What a poor way to die!

There is one other I think of often. I remember meeting Danton
"Soon I will join those who gave their lives for the cause."
before the Revolution. What a kind man he was. And he was one of the strongest men I have ever known. He had a neck like a bull, with a head to match! And those piercing eyes: They seemed to look right through you! No wonder they called him Hercules and Atlas!

Danton was the best speaker I have ever heard. He could turn an audience upside down. Ah, how the Revolution changed him. A good man became cruel and harsh. I admit that I was afraid of him. He challenged me. I was afraid of losing my head as well as my job. I accepted his challenge. I sent him to the head chopper before he could get to me. Yet he was not all bad. He tried to help the poor. He worked hard to get feudal dues abolished.

I was too clever for him. I accused him of making secret deals with the nobles and get-rich-quick types. I wonder now if he really did those things.

Danton, I laughed when you said that you would break that guillotine before long, or you would lose your own head to it. I guess that you were tired of all the killing. I knew then that you were a dead man; you had to lose your head. But I did not laugh as I watched you climb the stairs to the knife. I admired the way you stood there and said, "Show my head to the people. It is worth it!" You were right; I can admit this now in my secret diary. I was shaken when you shouted, "Robespierre will be next!"

How right he was. That was only four months ago! I, Maximilien Robespierre, was called the "apostle of terror" by the people who should have known better. I, who hated and feared death, became a killer. Now I am about to die by the same instrument I used to save France. Is this fair?

I cannot stop my mind from wandering. Oh, if only I could sleep a little while. How can I? My jaw hurts so much. Soon there will be no pain at all. I see myself in a tumbril (cart) that is being drawn to the Place de la Revolution. I see the scaffold with the guillotine. It looks hideous, monstrous! The crowd is huge. People are screaming for my head! Why do they hate me so? I am afraid. I am weak. O Lord, please do not let me faint. I must be strong.

Somewhere I have read, "If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword!" For me, I would say, "If you feed the guillotine, it will chop you too!"
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Complete each of the sentences below.

1. The French Declaration of _______ was inspired by the American Declaration of Independence.
2. According to the Constitution of 1792, the king _______.
3. Louis XVI hoped that his fellow kings would _______ him.
4. The moderate French government was overthrown by the radical _______.
5. The period when 500,000 French people were accused of being traitors was called the _______.
6. The man who created the Terror was _______.
7. Robespierre was the head of the Committee of _______.
8. Two other radical leaders were _______ and _______.
9. Robespierre was called the "apostle of _______."

B. Write T for each statement that is true and F for each statement that is false.

1. The Reign of Terror was a time of peace and quiet.
2. Louis XVI died bravely on the guillotine.
3. Robespierre sent many people to the guillotine.
4. Robespierre felt that it was a mistake to execute the king.
5. Marat was stabbed in his bathtub.
6. Danton was a poor speaker.
7. Robespierre was afraid that he would not die bravely.
8. Robespierre believed that the end justifies the means.

C. Pretend that Robespierre is alive today. Once again, he wants to become a leader of a country. Which country today would welcome his leadership? Why?

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Go to the library. Prepare a report on a modern-day revolution anywhere in the world. What similarities do you see to the French Revolution of the 1790s? What differences do you see?
2. In the library find material on the part played by women in the French Revolution. Tell the class about your findings.
3. Look at the illustration on page 135. Describe what is happening. Write your own title for this picture.
5. Napoleon’s Rise to Power

We have seen how France lived in fear of the guillotine. But the Terror could not last. The people turned against violence and the radical Jacobins. The government became less extreme. It fell into the hands of the middle class. But many French people were still not satisfied. They felt that they should go even further and bring back a king. The Royalists (those who favored the king) were especially strong in Paris.

During October 1795, the Royalists of Paris were ready to make their move against the democratic government of France (called the Convention). Paul Barras (bah-RAS), the president of the Convention, asked a young Corsican general to defend the government. The young general was Napoleon Bonaparte (na-POLE-yun BO-na-part). He quickly ended the Royalist revolt by firing artillery shells into the crowd at close range. The streets were filled with the dead and wounded.

From this time, Napoleon was the man to watch in France. He was a man of action, one who seemed to know what to do in difficult situations. He was counted on to crush the enemies of France in foreign lands. Why not let him do the job in France?

In this story Barras and Lucien Bonaparte talk about their plan to make Napoleon Bonaparte the first consul or leader of France. You will see how the coup d’etat (koo day-TAH), the plot to put him in power, almost failed.

Ask yourself why they felt that Napoleon could be a successful ruler of France. Were they right in turning to one man to rule their country? Why did Lucien Bonaparte talk of the possibility of a Jacobin takeover?
Paris, November 9, 1799

"Barras, this is it!" said Lucien Bonaparte excitedly. "This is the day we have been waiting for."

"If all goes well," replied Barras, "your brother, Napoleon, will be the first consul of France. He will control the government."

"What do you mean, 'If all goes well'?" asked Lucien. "We're putting him in control, and that's that! You are not backing down at this point. We need your help, but this is no time for weaklings! Do you have any doubts?"

"Slow down, Lucien. Don't be so nervous. How could I have any doubts? You forget very quickly. Who gave your brother, Napoleon, his first push into power? Who asked him to come to Paris in 1795 to put down the rebellion? Who put him in charge of the army?"

"Yes, Barras, and who crushed the rebellion? He stood up to the mob! He was not afraid to shoot them down! He's a brilliant organizer. He is brave and fearless. Remember how he drove the British from Toulon in 1793? Do you know any other 24-year-olds who have been made brigadier-generals?"

"True, Lucien, but you are his brother. Remember that I was the first stranger who saw his talents. I sensed what he could do even though people thought that he was a revolutionist. You forget very quickly that your brother, Napoleon, was a Jacobin! He was a friend of Robespierre."

"I know, I know," replied Lucien, impatiently, "but that was a long while ago. If he were a Jacobin today, would he have a chance to become ruler of France? A Jacobin's life isn't worth a penny on the streets of Paris! Napoleon's job is to save us from the Jacobins."

"Lucien, you are wrong. It was only five years ago. He was in jail right after the Robespierres were executed. People knew that Napoleon was a Jacobin—a radical! He could just as easily have lost his head!"

"Don't tell me that you saved his life!" Lucien shouted angrily. "Are you going to tell the mob that Napoleon was a Jacobin?"

"I didn't say I saved his life!" replied Barras. "You know that I will never tell anyone that Napoleon was once a radical. And let me remind you of one more thing. His name was crossed off the list of
French generals in September 1795. I rescued him by giving him his big chance against the Parisian mob. I had faith in him. I knew that he could be trusted. His radical days were long past. Wasn’t I the one who introduced him to Josephine? Would I have done that if I didn’t really trust him?”

“Barras, someone would think that you were honest and could be trusted. I trust no one, not even you, where money and power are concerned!” said Lucien Bonaparte.

“How can you talk that way to me?” said Barras angrily. “I am as honest as any man in politics!”

“All right, Barras, let’s say that you saved Napoleon. Let’s stop arguing. You gave him his big chance in spite of a few mistakes he had made in his younger years. But many others also saw that he was going to be a great leader. Look what he did in Italy. He won brilliant victories in the north, while other French generals were losing to the Austrians.”

“Why stop there?” continued Barras. “Remember how easily he beat the Austrians in 1797? We gained control of Belgium and the left bank of the Rhine. I could go on and on. He is a military genius! There’s no doubt about it. He isn’t afraid to try new battle plans. Men are happy to fight and die for him. He is a natural leader!”

“Good,” said Lucien excitedly. “We agree. Napoleon will be first consul. You’ll see. There will be no trouble.”

The following day

“What’s the problem, Lucien?” asked Barras. “I thought that things were going well for us.”

“Not too well, Barras. At first, everything seemed almost too easy. The Council of Elders went along with the plan, and Napoleon was made commander of the soldiers of Paris. But now the Council of 500 looks doubtful.”

“I don’t understand,” said Barras. “You are the president of the Council. Keep control. Don’t let them spoil our plan. Don’t lose your nerve.”

“I’ll do my best. Watch me,” said Lucien Bonaparte.

Lucien took his seat in the council chamber.
“I recognize Napoleon Bonaparte. He has a few words to say to you.”

Several deputies rose and began shouting: “Don’t let him speak! He’s a liar! He’s a traitor! Down with the tyrant! Death to Napoleon Bonaparte! Throw him out of here! Throw him out of France! Kill the dictator! Outlaw him!”

Deputies rushed at Napoleon. He fainted. At Lucien’s order, soldiers rushed in, surrounded Napoleon, and carried him out of the building. When Napoleon recovered, he spoke to the assembled soldiers. He was nervous and unable to control his emotions.

“Soldiers of France,” said Napoleon, “our country is in great danger! We must protect France from the Jacobins. Otherwise, once again, death and destruction will tear apart our beloved France! I beg you, help me to save our nation. Together, we can make our France even greater—”

Napoleon’s face was bleeding where he had nervously scratched it with his fingernails. Lucien Bonaparte rejoined Napoleon. He realized that his brother’s speech was having no effect upon the soldiers. He then decided that he must speak to them.

“You know me. I am the president of the Council of 500. I am Lucien Bonaparte, Napoleon Bonaparte’s brother. I tell you he is right. We need a new government, a government that can be trusted. I know that many of the deputies are plotting against us. They refuse to let us speak. They insist on running things in their own corrupt way. I ask you, soldiers of France, to protect us from those traitors! Clear them out of the hall! Give Napoleon a chance to lead you, to show you what he can do!”

Lucien pointed his sword at his brother. “I swear I will kill my own brother if he attacks the liberty of the French people!”

“A great speech, Lucien,” said Barras. “You’ve done it! They’re rushing into the council hall! They’re throwing the deputies out! They are running from the bayonets! Look, some of them are jumping out the windows! We’ve won! We’ve won!”

“Yes,” said Lucien, “we will have a new government for France. The Revolution is finished!”

“Perhaps,” replied Barras, “the Revolution has just begun!”

Postscript. Barras resigned from the council to smooth the way for Napoleon’s takeover of the government. Barras was never given another job by Napoleon.
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. *Tell which statements show that Napoleon was a great general.*
   1. Napoleon fired artillery shells at a crowd of Royalists in 1795.
   2. Napoleon drove the British from Toulon in 1793.
   3. Napoleon had been a radical Jacobin.
   4. Napoleon defeated the Austrians in 1797.
   5. Napoleon was a great leader of soldiers.
   6. Napoleon was a friend of the Robespierre family.
   7. Napoleon knew what to do in difficult military situations.
   8. Soldiers were happy to fight and die for Napoleon.

B. *Lucien Bonaparte and Paul Barras have many different ideas. Decide who might have made the following remarks. Write PB for each statement that Paul Barras made or might have made and LB for each statement that Lucien Bonaparte made or might have made.*
   1. I asked Napoleon to come to Paris in 1795 to put down the rebellion.
   2. Napoleon was a great 24-year-old brigadier-general.
   3. Napoleon's job is to save France from the Jacobins.
   4. He is a military genius.
   5. I introduced Napoleon to Josephine.
   6. I am as honest as any man in politics.
   7. Our country is in great danger.
   8. Give Napoleon a chance to lead the people.

C. *Imagine that Paul Barras and Lucien Bonaparte are running for political office in the United States today. Which one would you vote for? Why? Which one has a better chance of winning? Why? Would you trust either of them? Explain.*

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Use each of the following key terms in a sentence.
   *Jacobin*  
   *radical*  
   *royalist*  
   *first consul*  
   *tyrant*  
   *coup d'état*  
   *dictator*  
   *traitor*

2. Imagine that you are a member of the Council of 500 in 1799. You are against Napoleon's taking over as first consul. Prepare a short speech against Napoleon.

3. Prepare an answer in favor of Napoleon's being given the job.
6. Formula for Success

After Napoleon became first consul of France, he increased his control over the country, and he was very popular with the people. But he was not satisfied. In 1802 he asked for an election to allow him to remain first consul for life. He won by a vote of 3.5 million in favor to 8,000 against! He was now king in everything but name. Finally, in 1804, his dream came true. As the pope watched, Napoleon crowned himself emperor of France.

During these years he was very busy fighting wars against the major nations of Europe. In this chapter we visit with Napoleon immediately after the Battle of Austerlitz (OS-ter-litz). This was probably his greatest victory. Empress Josephine’s congratulations were entirely justified.

Ask yourself why Napoleon seems upset about Josephine’s remark about “work to be done at home.” Why did Napoleon feel that his activities were really part of the Revolution? Was he really a revolutionist?

Paris, December 1805

Dear Napoleon,

The glorious news has come of your great victory over the Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz! How happy I am for you and for France! I can hardly believe that all this has happened exactly one year after you crowned yourself emperor of France. What a marvelous anniversary present! Congratulations.

Perhaps now you will have more time to spend with your lonely empress. France needs you too! There is so much work to be done at home. This is your chance to make France the best and freest country in Europe. Do you remember how you once said that
you were a child of the Revolution? You have already made France
the strongest country in Europe. Now you can turn to the other
things.

We miss you terribly. Please come home very soon.

Much love,

JOSEPHINE

Austerlitz, December 1805

DEAREST JOSEPHINE,

Thank you for your good wishes. You are very kind and
thoughtful. It was indeed a great victory. As you say, it was quite
an anniversary present!

Alexander of Russia and Francis of Austria helped quite a bit
with their stupidity! They thought they had me cut off. Instead I
led them into a beautiful trap. I cut off their armies completely! One
moment they thought they had an easy victory over Napoleon.
The next thing they knew they were completely crushed. My
cleverness and battle plans are too much even for good generals.
What could the Russians and Austrians expect? Their little “game”
cost them over 20,000 soldiers!

So much for the battle. You say that France needs me, that there
is so much work to be done. I agree. There always is. But I think,
Josephine, that you miss the point. What was my first and most
important goal? I had to remove the threat to France of our enemies
on the outside. Surely you understand that France could never be
safe while surrounded by powerful armies. Yes, we can breathe
more easily now!

Now I can return to France to finish the work I have started.
Somehow, I have the feeling that you do not realize how much I
have already done. My purpose has been to build a France where
the people can enjoy the good things the Revolution did. For
example, the laws of France must be fair for all citizens. Do you
remember what the laws were like when I became first consul in
1799? Laws were different in every part of the country. It was a
terrible mess. I had the laws rewritten and reorganized. Now we
have the Code Napoleon. There is one set of laws for all of France!
The punishments for robbery are the same in Marseilles (mar-
SAY) as they are in Paris.
Do you know that I myself wrote the laws dealing with marriage, divorce, and property? Lawyers could learn a lot from me. I suppose that I did not go as far as you would like. You, like every other wife, are still under the authority of your husband. But that is the way things should be! I do not think that the Revolution was fought to give women equal rights! I also do not feel that labor unions and strikes should be permitted. Wasn't the Revolution fought to protect private property?

Let's not overlook the schools. They were under the control of the Catholic Church. Now, with my changes, they are the business of the state. And you know who runs France these days! Education is very important to me. I want France to have bright, informed citizens. But, most of all, I want good soldiers who will be loyal to me. That is what I see as the purpose of French education.

Do you recall the money situation? The French people had lost faith in the money and credit of France. I fixed that. I set up a Bank of France. Only that bank can print money now. I reorganized the tax system. My agents do the collecting now. They are honest, and their collections come to my government in Paris. In fact, everything comes to and goes from my government in Paris. I must know everything that is going on all over France. I appoint all the mayors of cities and towns. And I choose the heads of all of the districts in France. That way they know that I am the emperor. I am in charge! I take the responsibility for everything that happens in government in all of France.

I am proud of the things I have done. Do you know of any other country that has a Legion of Honor? The revolutionists stopped giving medals and decorations. I (and you) know that people want to be honored for the good things they do. They want to be recognized; they want their friends and relatives to know. So I created the Legion of Honor. Would you believe that the men are thrilled to be members! They belong to the legion and to each other. Most of all, they belong to me—their emperor. They will always be loyal to me!

Josephine, my dear, I am sorry if I am boring you with these "great" things of mine. I will stop now. I promise you that I shall be home next month. I will tell you then more of my life on the field of battle. You will hear much more about my plans for the future of our beloved France. I shall tell you of my plan to control the
continent of Europe. I want to do so much more for my people. But I must do it my way. I am the emperor!

I cannot wait to see you again.

With love,

NAPOLEON
Emperor of France

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Which statements show that Napoleon had improved the living conditions of the French people?

1. He crowned himself emperor of France.
2. He fought war after war with foreign enemies.
3. He had the laws of France rewritten so that they would be the same for all the people of France.
4. He permitted unions and strikes.
5. He made the tax system fairer.
6. He had the Code Napoleon written.
7. He favored equal rights for women.
8. He organized the Bank of France.

B. Write T for each statement that is true, F for each statement that is false, and N for each statement that is not mentioned in the story.

1. Napoleon was the greatest general in history.
2. Napoleon won many battles for France.
3. Napoleon always wanted to be president of France.
4. Napoleon himself wrote the laws on marriage and divorce.
5. The Code Napoleon is a better system of laws than the Constitution of the United States.
6. France would have had a new Reign of Terror if it had not been for Napoleon.
7. Napoleon was against people owning property.
8. Napoleon felt that the purpose of French education was to provide him with loyal soldiers.

C. If Napoleon were alive today, would you consider him a great man or a dangerous man? Why? American generals had a good deal of trouble fighting in Vietnam. Do you think that Napoleon could have helped them? Explain.
ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Go to the library. Prepare a report on any one of Napoleon’s great victories. Try to understand his plan of battle.

2. Imagine that you have the job of preparing a report card on Napoleon’s accomplishments. Mark him pass or fail in the areas listed below. Write a sentence explaining the reasons for each grade.

- equal rights for women
- equal rights for rich and poor
- fairness of taxes
- rights of labor unions
- private property rights
- representative government
- Legion of Honor
- money and banking
- education
- organization of French laws
- government leadership
- military skills
- organization of local government

3. Imagine that you are Josephine. Answer Napoleon’s letter to you.

4. Pretend that you are a soldier in Napoleon’s army. You fought at Austerlitz and other important battles. Write a letter to your family in France. Tell them what it is like to be a soldier in Napoleon’s army.

5. Look at the map of Napoleon’s empire on page 149. Copy the map in your notebook. Now look at the map of present-day Europe on page 424. List five modern countries that once were part of Napoleon’s empire.
7. “General Winter”
Beats Napoleon

After the Battle of Austerlitz, Napoleon continued to beat his enemies. The French empire grew. By 1810 the empire extended from the North Sea to the Bay of Naples and eastward to the Adriatic. His brother Joseph was king of Spain, brother Jerome was king of Westphalia (Germany), and brother-in-law Murat was king of Naples (Italy). Only Britain remained unbeaten.

Napoleon thought that he had a clever idea to defeat the English. He would not allow their goods to enter any port on the continent of Europe. This was called the Continental System. Naturally the British made some rules of their own. They insisted that no neutral ship (a ship from a nation not at war) could enter a European port unless it stopped first at a British port. Before long, European countries were losing trade and business. On the other side of the world, the Americans were caught between the rules of the English and the rules of the French. By 1812 the United States would be drawn into a war with England. Three thousand miles of ocean could not protect our country from Napoleon’s dream of world empire!

Most countries found Napoleon’s Continental System too hard to follow. They closed their eyes to the smuggling and the chances of losing their ships. Napoleon was disturbed and angry, but Russia’s complete disregard for his system enraged him. After all, Czar (ZAR) Alexander I was supposed to be his ally (friend)! Napoleon decided to teach the czar a lesson. He would invade Russia with a large army and crush the Russian forces. In June 1812 Napoleon crossed the Russian border. He hoped for a quick victory, but the Russians had other ideas.

In this chapter see how Napoleon’s dreams of empire
were smashed by Russia's plans and the freezing weather.
Two French officers on the battlefront near the city of Vilna
(VILL-na) tell what they think went wrong.
Ask yourself why Napoleon wanted to invade Russia.
Was the Russian invasion a mistake? Would the empire of
Napoleon have lasted if Napoleon had not insisted on in-
vading Russia?

Vilna, December 1812

"Stop!" shouted the French soldier on guard duty. "Who goes
there?"
"Captain Menton, Ninth Dragoons."
"Give the password," said the guard.
"I don't know the password," said Menton, shivering. "I've
lost my men. I've lost everything. If you don't believe me, shoot me. I have nothing to live for.'

At that moment Captain Darcy rode up. "It's all right, corporal. I know this man. I will be responsible for him." The two men recognized each other immediately. Darcy led Menton to a small tent. It was little shelter from the below-zero cold and high winds.

"Am I glad to see you again!" said Menton, still shaking. "How long has it been?"

"It seems a hundred years ago," replied Darcy. "Actually, it's been five years since I last saw you. It was at the Battle of Friedland."

"Those were glorious days," said Menton, now warming up a bit. "How happy we were! Napoleon took us from one victory to another. I honestly had a strange feeling that we could never lose as long as Napoleon was our emperor!"

"How little do we know what is going to happen to us," said Darcy thoughtfully. "Who would have thought that Napoleon and the great armies of France could be crushed by the Russians?"

"Not crushed by the Russians, Darcy. We were beaten by 'General Winter.' Napoleon had never fought under these conditions. How could he have known what the weather would be like? All I can remember are my men freezing to death. Every morning, at dawn, I'd see a dozen men I thought were still asleep. I'd try to wake them up. But their bodies were frozen stiff. They were dead! But it wasn't Napoleon's fault!"

"Not his fault?" said Darcy angrily. "You forget that Napoleon is the great leader, the great planner. He is supposed to know everything about war. He must be prepared for every possibility. He should have known about the weather. Surely he could have learned the facts about the Russian winter!"

"That may be true," replied Menton with some hesitation. "But he could not have known that the Russians would not fight battles. How could he have predicted that they would retreat and retreat into this huge country? At last we fight a battle at Borodino. We win, and—"

"We lose," finished Darcy. "Napoleon doesn't cut off the Russian retreat. The rest of their army gets away. We had lost 150,000 men to 'General Winter'. Perhaps we lost fewer men than the
Russians in the fighting, but how could our dead and wounded be replaced?"

"What a great speech Napoleon made to us at Borodino," continued Menton, as though he were alone. "I can still hear him saying, 'Soldiers, here is the battle you wanted. Victory depends on you. We need one victory—'

"To make up for all my past mistakes," finished Darcy once again. "I will say it once again. Napoleon did not prepare for this Russian war. He should have realized that the Russians might retreat. He should have planned for feeding and supplying an army that could not live off the land. He should have had enough soldiers to replace the sick and wounded. If he could not do these things—and I say that he could not—he should never have come to Russia. A great leader must know that there are certain things he cannot do. Napoleon thought that nothing was impossible for him."

"I suppose that you are going to blame him for the Moscow fire," said Menton.

"Menton, what difference does it make? It's a terrible mistake that we are here. It is not my fault, and it is not yours. Yes, it was our leader's responsibility to care for his men. He didn't do it because he couldn't. The fire is just the worst example of his weaknesses! Fire is a weapon of war."

"We came to Russia for the greater glory of Napoleon and France," muttered Menton. "The Russians starved us, froze us, and burned us out of the shelter of Moscow!"

"There's not much glory in our starving and freezing to death, Menton. I wonder how many of us are left? Where are they all now? Dead—and for what? Did we have to be used to feed Napoleon's dream? Did he have to try to conquer the world? Didn't we have enough?"

"Ah, but what a dream," said Menton. "All of Europe would have been Napoleon's. Europe would have belonged to France—to us! The world could have been ours!"

"Be thankful that you are still alive," answered Darcy thoughtfully. "Empires, like dreams, fade away—and die."
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tell which item in each sentence makes each statement correct.

1. By 1810, the French empire extended from the North Sea to (a) Naples and on to the Adriatic Sea (b) Finland and Poland (c) Sweden and England.
2. To defeat the English, Napoleon tried (a) the Continental System (b) an invasion of Russia (c) an invasion of England.
3. A country that was drawn into the fight between England and France was (a) Mexico (b) the United States (c) Canada.
4. In 1812 Napoleon and his army invaded (a) England (b) Austria (c) Russia.
5. In Russia, Napoleon and his army were beaten by (a) rain and fog (b) "General Winter" (c) bad supplies from France.
6. The Russians used fire as a weapon of war when they burned (a) Moscow (b) Leningrad (c) Kiev.
7. Napoleon's dream was to (a) conquer Europe (b) become president of the United States (c) put the son of Louis XVI on the throne of France.
8. The person in the story who thinks highly of Napoleon is (a) the corporal (b) Menton (c) Darcy.

B. Tell which statements Captain Darcy would agree with.

1. Napoleon and his armies were crushed by the Russians.
2. The French were beaten by "General Winter."
3. Napoleon should have known what to expect in Russia.
4. Napoleon could not have known that the Russians might retreat.
5. We came to Russia for the glory of Napoleon and of France.
6. It's a mistake that we are in Russia.
7. Did Napoleon have to try to conquer the world?

C. General William Sherman, a famous American Civil War soldier, said, "War is hell!" Would Napoleon have agreed with him? Explain. If war is "hell," why do we continue to fight wars?
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ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Pretend that you are Captain Darcy. Write a letter to your family in France. Tell how you feel about Napoleon.
2. Imagine that you are Captain Menton. Write a letter to your family in France. What would you tell them about Napoleon?
3. Hitler invaded Russia in 1941, many years after Napoleon. Write down the lessons that Hitler should have learned from Napoleon's invasion of Russia.
4. Why are two French officers talking about Moscow? How does the cartoon explain why the French lost in Russia? The two officers are making a sad joke. What do they really mean?

"At least it was warm in Moscow!"
“Now that’s what I call a revolution!” said Jack excitedly.
“What do you mean?” asked Mr. Miller.
“They chopped off the heads of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette,” replied Jack. “The French didn’t fool around! People fought and died; blood flowed in the streets!”
“Is that what makes a revolution?” asked Mr. Miller.
“Well, it’s one part of it,” smiled Jack.
“Was that all that happened?” continued Mr. Miller.
“Oh, I know what you want me to say. You want me to say that there was a big change in France.”
“And what was that change?”
“In the old days, France was ruled by kings like Louis XIV. He was an absolute ruler. He ran the whole show, and he ran it his way!”
“How did the French people feel about their kings?” asked Mr. Miller slowly.
“I guess you would say that the French people were unhappy,” replied Jack. “Somebody had to pay for the spending of the kings. Why not put it all on the poor French peasants? They made the peasants pay all those unfair, stupid taxes. The nobles pushed the peasants around. The people were fed up with kings like Louis XVI. They wanted a government of their own.”
“Were the people right?” asked Mr. Miller.
“You know they were right,” said Jack. “Isn’t that what democracy is all about? That’s why Louis XVI and a lot of other people lost their heads. Remember when Rousseau said that everyone should have ‘liberty, equality, and fraternity’? I think he said it best.”
“And where was Voltaire in all this?” added Mr. Miller.
“Well, I guess he was right in there too. He wanted everyone to have a fair chance. He was against privilege. He hated prejudice.”
“Then was the Revolution a success?” asked Mr. Miller.
“That’s not easy to say,” Jack replied. “It went on for a long time. There were lots of good changes. The unfair taxes and the special privileges of the nobles were wiped out. The French people even had their own Declaration of Independence. They called it the Declaration of the Rights of Man. But I think that they just didn’t know where to stop. Things got bloodier and bloodier.”

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“Sounds dangerous,” said Mr. Miller.
“I guess that’s what makes some revolutions so exciting,” said Jack. “Marat, Danton, Robespierre—all were working for a better France. But it was their idea of what would be good for France. I admit they had plenty to worry about. There were foreign enemies. And the nobles couldn’t wait until they got their lands back. Robespierre and his crew trusted no one—not even themselves.”
“It’s easy to think you have a lot of enemies when you have so few friends,” said Mr. Miller thoughtfully.
“Sure, Mr. Miller, but France had to have somebody who could be trusted. The people got tired of all the killing. That’s when Napoleon was called in.”
“Did he stop the violence?” asked Mr. Miller.
“I suppose that the French would say ‘yes,’” answered Jack.
“And what would you say, Jack?”
“He stopped the fighting in France, but then the rest of the world was at war,” said Jack very seriously. “He crushed the Jacobins at home, but he took on just about all the other countries of Europe.”
“How could he do that?” asked Mr. Miller.
“He didn’t ask people if they wanted to be freed,” answered Jack. “He just decided to fight and conquer the rest of Europe. And, you know, Mr. Miller—he almost made it!”
“What happened, Jack?”
“Napoleon was a great general, Mr. Miller. I’m not sure, but maybe he was the best ever. But he made one mistake. He went too far out of France and tried to conquer Russia. Those Russians were just too much for him. They wouldn’t fight his kind of battle. He couldn’t beat ‘General Winter.’ Napoleon wasn’t exactly a pushover after that, but he was a loser.”
“Well, Jack, what does it all mean?” said Mr. Miller with a smile.
“Revolutions can be rough,” answered Jack slowly. “A lot of people can get hurt. I think you just have to know where to stop. Napoleon tried to go too far, to do too much. He forgot that people should be able to decide things for themselves.”
“What happened to the people in the countries Napoleon conquered?” asked Mr. Miller.
"I'm not sure, Mr. Miller. I haven't read that yet. But I can guess that they wouldn't be happy ruled by a king who didn't care about them. Napoleon got them started thinking about themselves. They'd want to be free! People would want their own nations!"

"Excellent thinking, Jack!" said Mr. Miller approvingly. "Now you are ready to find out more about nations and nationalism. Let's see what the Congress of Vienna thought about nationalism. Then you can read the rest of the next unit."
"Mr. Miller, the word ‘nationalism’ (NAH-shun-al-izm) puzzles me."

"What do you mean, Jack?"

"Well, ‘nationalism’ has the word ‘nation’ in it. And I think I know what a nation is."

"Good, so far—and what is a nation?"

"A group of people want to have their own government," answered Jack. "They want to live together."

"Why would they want to do that?" asked Mr. Miller.

"I suppose they feel that they have some of the same interests," said Jack thoughtfully. "Maybe they speak the same language or belong to the same church or religion. Of course, it's easier if they live near each other."

"Excellent, Jack," smiled Mr. Miller. "You've hit it this time. There are many reasons why people would want to live in their own nations. Then why did you say you were puzzled?"

"Okay, let's say the people who live in a certain place want their own nation," said Jack excitedly. "They want to be together. They feel they belong together. Why shouldn't they be free to do it? Why should anyone stand in their way?"

"Jack, read the unit on nationalism and find out!"
1. The Plot to Turn Back the Clock

_Napoleon had been defeated_. He was shipped off into exile on the island of Elba in the Mediterranean Sea. His enemies hoped that this would be the end of Napoleon. But somehow he escaped, and for a time known as the Hundred Days, he won battle after battle. His moment as the great conqueror had passed, however. The Battle of Waterloo was his final defeat. This time, he was sent far away to the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. There he spent the rest of his days.

Now that Napoleon was gone, the scene shifted from the battlefield to the meeting room. Kings and ministers of the
major powers of Europe met in Vienna, Austria, from 1814 to 1815. They redrew the map of Europe. Their goal was to "turn back the clock" to the "happy days" before the French Revolution and Napoleon.

Let us see how they proposed to return to those "good old days." Here, we sit in on a meeting of Czar Alexander I of Russia, Prince Metternich (MET-er-nick) of Austria, Viscount Castlereagh (KAS-ul-ray) of Great Britain, and Talleyrand (TAL-ih-rand) of France. They are discussing the past and the future of Europe.

Ask yourself why they wanted to turn back the clock. Do you think that it was possible to turn back the clock? How did they try to prevent the rise of another Napoleon?

**Vienna, June 1815**

CASTLEREAGH. There is one thing we can all agree on. Things have changed in Europe.

TALLEYRAND. Things, things—I'm not so sure I know what you mean. Aren't we back where we started before the Revolution? Haven't we turned back the clock to the good old days? Change has been wiped out!

CASTLEREAGH. Don't be a fool, Talleyrand. *(He raises his voice slightly.)* Things can never be the same. We can try, but the French Revolution and Napoleon will always be with us.

METTERNICH. Don't say that! Thank God, Napoleon is gone. We've shipped him off to Saint Helena. I could not sleep if he were as close as Elba. Put the man on a battlefield and you never know what might happen. He took boys and gave them guns. Some-how he won ten battles in twenty days! That man is dangerous!

TALLEYRAND. I still dream of his escaping and rallying the mobs around him once again. What a nightmare! Never again will a man rise from nowhere and become an emperor, as Napoleon did. Only those born to be kings may be kings!

*(Czar Alexander enters the room. He listens to Metternich.)*

METTERNICH. You are right for once, Talleyrand. It was clever of us to choose old Louis, the dead king's brother, to sit on the throne of France. There is no question about his being the legitimate
ruler. It was a blessing that there was at least one real Bourbon left in France.

Alexander. Not clever, Metternich—we were not clever at all. We are lucky that Louis happened to be available. The clever thing was to make it look as though the French people were calling Louis back to the throne. What fools they were! Now he is Louis XVIII. Stupidly, he thinks that he was made king of France by the grace of God!

Metternich. He looks like a fool and acts like a fool. But he is the king of France. And that's it! Revolutions are over! There will be no more changes in the governments of Europe. The common people will never rule our nations. They will never be given a chance to get control. We must keep the mob in its place! Legitimacy—inherited rank and privilege—is the answer! We must never forget that!

Castlereagh. I repeat: You cannot turn back the clock! We can try to hold back the hands of the clock. We can try to prevent changes. But gentlemen, the world is not the same. It can never be!

Metternich (angrily). Wrong again, Castlereagh! We are going to keep things exactly the way they are. We will insist upon it! Everything we have done here in Vienna has one goal: Keep things as they are. The present order will remain forever. We have made revolutions impossible!

Talleyrand (places a map of Europe on the table). Look at this map of Europe. The countries of our continent are all locked in. There is simply no room for change. No new nations can ever rise. Notice how Italy has been broken up into many states; each is weak and helpless. And don't forget how cleverly we've divided Germany! There are now 38 weak states, and they're really controlled by Austria. No, there will never be a united Germany!

Castlereagh. I wonder—are we really all that clever—Belgium ruled by Holland, Norway ruled by Sweden? Do you honestly think that all of this is going to last forever?

Alexander (in a commanding voice). Gentlemen, I have a simple suggestion that will make all of this last forever. We must protect our thrones through definite action. I hear too much talk about how things can never change. To prevent revolutions, I propose a Holy Alliance of the kings of Europe. Let the people try to revolt. We will crush them without a second thought! We must
be sure of ourselves. We must work together. We must fight together to keep things from changing!

(Talleyrand and Metternich seem pleased and excited by Alexander's suggestion. Castlereagh's expression does not change.)

CASTLEREAGH. You once said that kings were put on their thrones because God wanted them there. Then why do you need an alliance?

METTERNICH. Castlereagh, you know better than that. God helps us, but he does not fight our wars. We must never permit the world to be ruled by men like Napoleon. This is the best of all possible worlds for us! Let us keep it that way! My government will support Czar Alexander's proposal for a Holy Alliance!

CASTLEREAGH. England cannot become part of your alliance. It is not to our advantage to support one side or the other.

ALEXANDER. Nonsense! Who suffers from change? We who have created legitimate governments are the ones who must pay.

Look what happened to your own country, Great Britain, during your American Revolution! Those little colonies made the great British empire look almost idiotic! And have you forgotten what the Americans did during the last years of the wars with Napoleon? What did they call it?

CASTLEREAGH. The War of 1812. Your Highness, no one likes to lose.

But we have to face the facts. The world changes no matter what we try to do. We cannot stop the movement of time. It is not in England’s best interest.

METTERNICH. Tell me, Castlereagh, if your king lost his throne, what would you do? Would you whine and complain? Wouldn’t the king of England be better off to have all the other kings to help him?

TALLEYRAND. Do you think that those who have once tasted freedom will forever be satisfied with rule by others? We must always be alert and prepared!

CASTLEREAGH (for the first time his face reddens with anger). Enough of this talk of freedom and revolution! Britain may help, but she will not be part of your plan! (He quickly walks out of the room.)

ALEXANDER. He simply does not understand. God’s will is that the governments are not to be changed. We must protect our God-given rights! If we do not help each other, we are lost!

TALLEYRAND. I wonder—is it not too late? Can we keep the seeds of nationalism and freedom from growing forever?
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. **Write T for each statement that is true and F for each statement that is false.**

1. Napoleon was exiled first to the island of Elba and later to the island of Saint Helena.
2. Most of the leaders at the Congress of Vienna felt that everyone, rich or poor, should benefit from the French Revolution.
3. Many of the leaders at the Congress of Vienna tried to turn back the clock.
4. Metternich and Talleyrand worried about Napoleon returning to Europe.
5. Metternich said that the common people should rule.
6. Castlereagh said that the world would never be the same.
7. “Europe must change” is a remark that Talleyrand might have made.
8. The Holy Alliance was proposed by Czar Alexander.
9. Castlereagh said that England would not join the Holy Alliance.

B. **Tell which statements show that the Congress of Vienna tried to control the future of Europe.**

1. Only legitimate kings can rule.
2. Never let Napoleon come back to Europe.
3. We will have revolutions every year.
4. We have made revolutions impossible.
5. We have made Italy into one strong state.
6. There will never be a Germany.
7. Belgium will be ruled by Holland.
8. Sweden will be ruled by Norway.
9. The Holy Alliance will crush every revolt.

C. Imagine that Germany and England go to war. England is defeated. Germany now attacks several other countries and also defeats them. The United States then goes to war against Germany and wins. Should the United States use the ideas of the Congress of Vienna in dealing with Germany? Write a peace treaty between Germany and the United States. Use the ideas of the Congress of Vienna.
ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Look at the map of Europe after the Congress of Vienna on page 158. Copy the map in your notebook. Now look at the map of present-day Europe on page 424. Make a list of countries that were not free in 1815 but later became independent.

2. Pretend that you are an American newspaper reporter at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Interview Czar Alexander. Write a newspaper article telling why the czar feels he must have a Holy Alliance.

3. Interview Castlereagh. Write an article on why he is against the Holy Alliance.

4. Look at the cartoon below. Why are the hands of the clock being pushed backward? Do Metternich and Talleyrand really
believe that they can go back to the days before the French Revolution? Explain.

5. Use each of the following key terms in a sentence.
   exile    reactionary    Holy Alliance
   reaction    legitimacy    nationalism

6. Castlereagh stands alone several times in our story. He does not agree with the other three men. Tell which statements Alexander, Talleyrand, and Metternich would accept, but Castlereagh would reject.
   a. We must have a Holy Alliance.
   b. We must turn back the clock.
   c. It is not in Britain’s interest to join an alliance.
   d. The world can never be the same.
   e. There will be no more revolutions in Europe.
2. The Dream That Would Not Die

We have seen how the seeds of nationalism and revolution were planted by the French Revolution and Napoleon. The diplomats at the Congress of Vienna thought that they could uproot these ideas. They tried to turn back the clock, but they failed. They stopped progress for a few years, but that was all. The people of Europe were to have their own nations. They refused to be ruled by foreign kings. They insisted on the right of self-government. They remembered the words of the American Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. Governments could not be forced upon people; they must be allowed to make their own choice.

The changes made by the Congress of Vienna were supposed to last forever. How wrong the diplomats were! Within a few years, nations that had been imprisoned within the boundaries of others were fighting for their freedom. Here is the roll of honor:

1821, Greece: Revolution failed, but independence from Turkey was granted in 1829.
1830, France: July revolution overthrew King Charles X. This led to rule of Louis Philippe, "the bourgeois (bour-ZWAH) king."
1830, Belgium: Gained independence from Holland.
1848, France: Louis Philippe abdicated (resigned) under pressure. Louis Napoleon elected first president of the Second French Republic.
1848, Austria and Hungary: Revolutions broke out in Hungary, Bohemia, and Vienna itself. (Metternich's home in Vienna was burned.)

The revolutions were crushed, but peasants were freed from feudal taxes.
Italians also were struggling for independence. An uprising in Naples in the 1820s was crushed by Austria. In 1848 King Charles Albert of Sardinia attacked the Austrian armies. Eventually he was badly beaten, and he abdicated as king. Revolutionists led by Giuseppe Mazzini (mat-ZEE-nee) and Giuseppe Garibaldi (gar-uh-BAL-dee) were successful at first in Milan and Venetia, but were not strong enough to keep control.

In this story, Garibaldi writes about his experiences and feelings as he fought around Rome in 1849. Ask yourself
why Garibaldi and Mazzini felt so strongly about Italian nationalism. Why did they want to create an Italian nation? How did the views of Garibaldi and Mazzini differ on the subject of Italian nationalism?

**A ship off Sardinia, August 1849**

**Dear Mazzini,**

My dear friend, what can I tell you at this point in our lives? How can I ever forget your words when you left Rome? You realized that all was lost, even though I insisted that I would stay a while and fight on. How right you were when you said, “I feel rage rising within me at the triumph of brute force over right and justice!” What else is there to say? What else is left to do but think of fighting still another day!

I am sure you heard that we were crushed and scattered by the soldiers of France. I never thought that Louis Napoleon would order his soldiers to fight against my Red Shirts in the streets of the Holy City. But Pope Pius IX called for help and Napoleon answered. He turned our fight to build an Italian nation into a holy war to protect the pope. He forgets that the pope is not merely the head of the Catholic Church. He is the ruler of the Papal States—of states that must belong to the Italian nation and people!

My Red Shirts fought bravely. Many gave their lives without complaint for the cause of the Italian nation! Was it a waste? I do not really know! We fought off the French soldiers for over two months. Finally, their numbers and training were just too much for us. I was lucky and escaped capture. But Anita, my beloved wife, is dead! The whole business was too much for her. She was completely exhausted. She could stand no more punishment. Perhaps she is better off, wherever she is!

Giuseppe, I swear by all that is holy to both of us that I will avenge her death! There is only one way. There is only one reason for my living now. I must free the people of Italy from their slavery. We Italians will have our own nation, our own rulers. Let's throw out the Austrians! The pope must give up the Papal States! We must do something about Louis Napoleon! It will be soon,
Giuseppe, soon! Do not be discouraged by our failure. I will win! I will win for Anita and the people of Italy!

I am sure that you agree that we must continue the fight. We cannot give up—we cannot stop now! I know that you are as dedicated as I to the cause of Italian freedom. But there is one thing I do not understand about your thinking. You keep saying that Italy must be free and independent. Then you go on to say that she must have a democratic government. Let the people rule, you say. Fine—but what if the people are not ready to govern themselves? What if the people know nothing about making their own laws at this time?

How many successful democracies do you see in Europe? What difference does it make what kind of government Italy has, as long as it is Italian? Charles Albert of Sardinia was a good king and a fair man. But he has been forced to abdicate.

Enough of Charles. Let’s talk about his son, the new king, Victor Emmanuel. Will you agree to support him? Can’t you see that we must have someone in a high office to whom we can turn? Victor Emmanuel can be the head of a united Italy! Encourage all Italians to rally to the flag and crown of Sardinia!

Giuseppe, back in the old days, you were the fighter, the conspirator! Nothing bothered you. You had one purpose in life: the creation of the nation of Italy. Remember your slogans—“Unity and independence”; “Liberty, equality, and humanity.” Remember how you swore an oath to your brotherhood of Young Italy? Your life was to be given to the cause of Italian independence. Here’s our chance, Giuseppe; let’s gain our independence first! Liberty and equality will follow!

I know that you are discouraged. You have a right to be. But please, don’t give up the fight now. Do you remember how you talked about remaking the map of Europe? It’s not too late. You will still have your chance. Italy and Anita need you! Join with me once again in the fight to make Italy free!

I have no idea when we will meet again. But I pray that it will be on an Italian battlefield!

Italy will live again!

Your friend in freedom,
GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI
Postscript. Garibaldi did return to Italy. In 1860 he conquered the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (the island of Sicily and the kingdom of Naples on the mainland). He could have become the ruler of the kingdom. Instead, he encouraged the people to vote to join Sardinia. In 1861 the Italian parliament named Victor Emmanuel king of Italy.

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Write T for each statement that is true and O for each statement that is an opinion.
1. Garibaldi worked to create an Italian nation.
2. Garibaldi was the greatest Italian leader who ever lived.
3. The diplomats at the Congress of Vienna failed to turn back the clock.
5. Garibaldi should not have taken his wife along when he went to fight in Italy.
6. Mazzini wanted a democratic government.
7. A democratic government is better than any other kind.
8. Mazzini had a slogan, "Liberty, equality, and humanity."

B. Complete each of the sentences below.
1. The people of Europe insisted on the right of self-———.
2. The American Declaration of Independence is often compared with the French ———.
3. Garibaldi and Mazzini both felt strongly about Italian ———.
4. Garibaldi’s Red Shirts were defeated by ———.
5. Mazzini said that Italy must be free and ———.
6. Garibaldi said that it made no difference what kind of government Italy had as long as it was ———.
7. King ——— was to be the head of a united ———.
8. Mazzini said that his life would be devoted to Italian———.

C. Imagine that you are fighting for the independence of an African country today. Would you prefer your army to be led by a man like Garibaldi or a man like Mazzini? Why? Which man, Garibaldi or Mazzini, would be more successful as president of the new country? Why?
ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Look at the map of Italy before unification on page 166. Draw this map in your notebook. Indicate on the map the territories mentioned in the introduction and the story.
2. Go to the library. Prepare a report on one of the following: Cavour, Victor Emmanuel, Young Italy, the Carbonari, the Red Shirts.
3. Imagine that you are Mazzini. Answer Garibaldi’s letter to you. Tell him how you feel about the future of Italy.
4. Draw a cartoon showing Mazzini and Garibaldi working to turn a group of Italian states into an Italian nation. What is the title of your cartoon? Why are Mazzini and Garibaldi having such a hard time? What advice would you give Mazzini and Garibaldi to help them build the Italian nation?
3. Iron and Blood

*By 1870 Italy was a unified nation.* The dreams of Mazzini, Garibaldi, and many others had come true. The Germans had a similar dream. But there was a difference. There was not even a hint of democracy in the vision of Otto von Bismarck. This master planner of the German nation believed that the people should be ruled with an "iron hand." The state of Prussia would lead and the other German states would follow.

In this chapter we see that Prussia has just defeated
France in the Franco-Prussian War (1871). The leaders of the two countries, Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III) of France and Prince Otto von Bismarck (BiZ-mark) of Prussia meet at Sedan, France after the final battle.

Ask yourself why Bismarck wanted Prussia to fight a war against France. What difference do you see in the personalities of Napoleon III and Bismarck? Why was German unification so important to Bismarck?

Sedan, 1871

(Louis Napoleon thinks to himself before meeting Bismarck on the battlefield.)

Where did I go wrong? What a fool I was to let myself be dragged into war with Prussia! That Bismarck! He had only one thing on his mind: Prussia must win. Prussia must be all-powerful, no matter what the cost! I didn’t understand what he meant by “iron and blood,” but, alas, now I do. Nothing must stand in his way. Bismarck will stop at nothing. War and death are his tools. Whoever gets in his way is crushed!

I felt that he was pushing France into war, but how could I do anything about it? Was I supposed to look like a coward? Could I be a weakling? I should have known that his Ems Dispatch was a trick to force me to declare war against Prussia. The scoundrel cleverly changed the words of the telegram. We French thought that our ambassador had been insulted by the king of Prussia. At the very same time, the Prussians thought that the French had insulted their king! How could Bismarck fail to create a war?

It’s all so clear now. We were used. The war against France brought all the German states rushing to Prussia’s side. German honor must be upheld—but why at my expense? Now I see that Bismarck used me to bring all the German states together!

Now it’s done and I’m the loser. How could I have been so stupid? My dreams of greatness are all down the drain! Where did I get the idea that I could build a great French empire? Why did I have to try to copy my uncle, Napoleon I? I was a Napoleon—how could I fail? I would show the world what a Napoleon, an emperor, could do! The people of France would believe in me. They would
follow me wherever I led them! I was the great man. Failure was impossible. Today, France; tomorrow, the world!

Why can't I be a great general as my uncle Napoleon Bonaparte was? Why can't I stand the sights and smells of the battlefield? Why am I bothered by blood and death? I am a weakling!

I could have been the greatest leader of this century. I knew all the mistakes my uncle made. I was going to avoid them. I made up my mind never to fight all the strong countries of Europe, as he did. I would pick a weak country here, a soft one there. It worked for a while. I built up France's empire in West Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific. I was doing well. It was all so easy.

I admit that it was a mistake to push my nephew Maximilian into Mexico. I didn't think the United States would get so angry about his being there. What business was it of theirs?

There were other glorious days. I remember when I was chairman of the 1856 conference ending the Crimean (cry-ME-un) War. We made those Russians squirm! What a moment of greatness! France was once again the leader of all Europe!

But after that things went downhill. I have a peculiar feeling that I might have been better off if that Italian assassin's bullet had killed me in 1856! I would not have become involved in war with Austria. Imagine me fighting on the side of little Sardinia! Then I was worried about Prussia fighting on the other side against France. I got out of that war fast! Oh, that devil Bismarck! And that was 12 years ago. But we couldn't avoid fighting each other forever, could we, Bismarck?

Here he comes now! How stuffy and coarse he looks! Look at that ridiculous uniform! I must pull myself together. I must not let him see that I am bitter and unhappy. I am a loser, a dreamer of broken dreams. But I must act the part of the emperor of France. I will give him nothing! He will have to kill me first!

(Bismarck thinks to himself before he meets Louis Napoleon.)

This has to be the greatest day of my life! Louis Napoleon and France have been crushed by my Prussian war machine. I have the backing of every German state. Now nothing stands in the way of the unification of Germany. It has taken me many years, but Germany will be a nation at last. The king of Prussia will be the king of all Germany. And I did it!

To be more honest, I did it with the help of Louis Napoleon.
He's a fool trying to act like an emperor. Did he really think that he was a great man and a great leader? Did he imagine that he could defeat Bismarck and Prussia on the battlefield?

Yes, Germany owes Louis Napoleon a great deal. His greed and dreams of empire made him a pushover for me. I changed the Ems telegram to make it read as though the Prussian king, William, had snubbed the French ambassador. I knew that Louis Napoleon would have to uphold the honor of France. I knew that he couldn't allow himself time to think. After all, an emperor worthy of the name Napoleon would bother to check the facts.

A weakling is sensitive about his honor. A fool is easily insulted. Louis Napoleon was very touchy and willing to fight. Perhaps he was afraid that people would find out the truth about him. Well, it's too late for you now, Louis Napoleon. They know what you are—a boastful, hollow shell. Yes, I pushed him into war; yes, I used him. But I had to do it for the greater glory of a united Germany.

It was a bloody war. We lost many men, but it was worth it! General von Moltke did a great job of leading our army. His organization and planning were excellent. Louis Napoleon's battle plans were out of date. He was finished before he started!

This is the end of the trip. The goal, a German nation, is in sight. It has taken me a long time to get to this point. Iron and blood, iron and blood—that was the way to do it! Nothing could stop me!

Yes, Louis Napoleon, I've crushed you. Now, I'm going to make you pay! You must suffer. I'll teach you that no Frenchman can stand up to a Prussian.

Here he comes now. Look at him in his fancy uniform with all those medals. Look at that mustache! He must spend hours in front of a mirror! Yes, he's a fool all right—a clumsy fool! Why doesn't he look at me? His eyes are blank. He's staring at the sky.

"Ah, Prince Bismarck," said Napoleon III, "you have never looked better. This situation is a little unpleasant, but I am very happy to see you."

"Your excellency," answered Bismarck, "it is a pleasure to see you. I have looked forward to this meeting for a long time!"
UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tell which statements are true.
   1. Bismarck was a strong believer in democracy.
   2. Prussia defeated France in the Franco-Prussian War.
   3. Bismarck played a great part in the unification of Germany.
   4. Louis Napoleon believed in “iron and blood.”
   5. Louis Napoleon had dreams of a great French empire.
   6. Bismarck used the Ems Dispatch to push France into war.
   7. General von Moltke led the French army.
   8. Louis Napoleon was not a great general like his uncle, Napoleon I.

B. Louis Napoleon and Bismarck had different ideas about many things. Decide who made or might have made the remarks that follow. Write LN for each statement that Louis Napoleon made or might have made and B for each statement that Bismarck made or might have made.
   1. I could have been the greatest leader of the century.
   2. Iron and blood are what I used to win.
   3. He is a fool trying to act like an emperor.
   4. I know that I’m the loser. How could I have been so stupid?
   5. Why couldn’t I be a great general?
   6. I pushed him into war.
   7. It was a bloody war, but it was worth it.
   8. I built up our empire in Africa and Indochina.

C. Imagine that the Soviet Union is looking for a new leader. Would the Soviet Union want a man like Bismarck or a man like Louis Napoleon in the job? Explain. Would the United States pick either man? Explain.

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Look at the map of Germany before and after unification on page 171. Draw a map of Germany before unification. Then draw a map of Germany after unification. Make a list of the differences in the two maps.
2. Imagine that you are Bismarck. Write a letter to the king of
Prussia. Tell him about your victory at Sedan. What does this mean to German unification? What does this mean to the king of Prussia?

3. Pretend that you are the king of Prussia. Write an answer to Bismarck's letter.

4. Imagine that you are a reporter at the battle of Sedan in 1870. Your job is to interview Louis Napoleon and write an article for your newspaper. Write the article.
“Did those men at the Congress of Vienna think that they could stop the clock?” asked Jack. “Did they really think they could stop people from being free?”

“What do you think, Jack?” asked Mr. Miller.

“I think they were serious. Metternich and Talleyrand, Czar Alexander and Castlereagh wanted the world to go back to the days before the French Revolution. They wanted the kings to run the show. Down with people’s rights! Who cares about people?”

“How could they go back to the days before the French Revolution?” asked Mr. Miller.

“They shouldn’t have done it, but there was no one to stop them. Metternich and the others thought they had the answers. They pushed back the boundaries whichever way they wanted. They had Holland running Belgium. Norway lost its freedom to Sweden. They even put another King Louis back on the throne of France!”

“Was that so terrible?” asked Mr. Miller.

“It doesn’t sound like much to us a hundred years later and thousands of miles away in the United States,” said Jack. “But the people of Europe had to have felt terrible. They had rights. They had feelings. They wanted to be free. They wanted their own nations. Talleyrand and Metternich and the czar wouldn’t let them. And then, they even formed a Holy Alliance to stop any revolutions!”

“You’re right, Jack.”

“Look what they did to Germany and Italy—chopped them up into small states,” added Jack. “I guess they figured the states would never get together to be nations.”

“How did Italy and Germany become nations?” asked Mr. Miller.

“It was a long, tough fight,” answered Jack very seriously. “Look at Italy. Mazzini and Garibaldi worked hard to push out the Austrians. The pope had to give up most of his lands.”

“What happened in Germany?” asked Mr. Miller.

“Bismarck did most of the work,” answered Jack. “‘Iron and blood.’ Austria and France never had a chance to stop Bismarck and Prussia!”

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"Very good, Jack, but where is the freedom you were talking about? Bismarck was certainly no democrat!"

"Well, I admit that I was a little mixed up, Mr. Miller. Now I can see that freedom means a lot of things to a lot of people. Nationalism is a kind of freedom, isn't it? You have your own nation. You are free. You are on your own, like the people of the United States!"

"True, Jack, but aren't there other freedoms?"

"Sure. Let's look at our own country. I live in a democracy. I'm a person and I have a lot of rights and freedoms. I can try to be as good as anyone else. Isn't that what freedom and equality are all about?"

"Right, Jack. We had our own American Revolution. We won our freedom from England. And we also have our Constitution and Bill of Rights. But did you know that a good part of the way we live comes from another revolution?"

"Not another revolution, Mr. Miller!"

"Yes, Jack, the Industrial Revolution. Why not read the following unit to find out what I mean?"
"Tell the truth, Mr. Miller, haven’t we had enough revolutions?"

"Believe me, this is an entirely different kind of revolution."

"Sure, everything is always different," laughed Jack.

"I know how you feel," said Mr. Miller. "Do you remember what we said about revolutions?"

"I guess so. Revolution means a big change."

"For example?" asked Mr. Miller.

"Well, it could be a change in government. There were big changes in the English and French governments," said Jack.

"Do you remember the Commercial Revolution?" asked Mr. Miller.

"Sure, Mr. Miller, but it wasn’t as exciting as other revolutions. People learned that the earth was round. Explorers found new continents. A new world was open for living and trading."

"And that’s not exciting?" laughed Mr. Miller.

"Oh, I know lots of things were going on. Maybe I missed it because there wasn’t any fighting," added Jack. "I didn’t mean that it wasn’t important. Now I see. There are all kinds of revolutions."

"I think you’re beginning to see that wars don’t always make revolutions," said Mr. Miller. "Great changes in how people live and work and think are revolutions too."

"Right, Mr. Miller. Didn’t the Renaissance change the way people thought about themselves? Bring on the Industrial Revolution! Where do we start?"

"Let’s start with England."
1. The Steam Engine

We saw how the English and French revolutions changed people's views about government. People were not willing to be ruled by kings who were born to power. They began to believe in themselves. They felt that they should select their own rulers. But these new rulers would stay in power only as long as the people wanted them. And life would be freer for all people. Each person was as good as any other.

In the 18th century another revolution got underway. It too made great changes in the way people worked and lived. The Industrial Revolution, which began in England, spread to many other countries. Today it is still spreading and changing. It is not a revolution of battles or wars, of land or nations. It is a revolution of how and where things or goods are made.

At the beginning of the 18th century, England was a nation of farmers. Only one person out of every four lived in cities. Products such as cloth were made in the farmers' cottages. The entire family took part in manufacturing. The wife and children combed and spun the wool or cotton. The husband did the weaving. (The spinning wheel and hand loom had been used for centuries.) This work-at-home production was called the domestic system.

By the end of the 18th century, however, farm families were no longer spinning and weaving in their homes. Cloth was made in factories by machines. But there still was a problem: where to find the power to run the machines. The answer was found in James Watt's steam engine.

In this story James Watt writes a letter to a person who does not understand what steam power can do. Ask yourself whether Watt had good reason for being angry. Was the Industrial Revolution possible without the steam engine?
Dear George,

I have heard that you are telling people that England could have existed without James Watt. "What did he do? He was no inventor. He built a steam engine, but anybody can build a steam engine. What was wrong with Newcomen's steam engine? It puffed; it had lots of power. All Watt did was copy Newcomen."

George, let's be honest. I never said that I alone invented the steam engine. You know as well as I do that the ancient Greeks made a steam engine. But it was a toy; it could not make a machine run. Yes, Tom Newcomen made an engine many years before I did—and, by God, it worked! But all it could do was pump water out of the mines. That's where I did my part. I took Tom's engine and made change after change! No matter what you think, it wasn't easy. I worked on the steam engine until it had the power to drive the machines in the factories. I used coal to power the steam engine. And you know how rich England is in coal! We have enough coal to power millions of machines.

What did I do for England, George? I made it possible to use steam. I gave factories the power they needed to make cloth and iron and steel. Yes, I made it easier and cheaper to run the coal and copper mines.

Do you remember what it was like when factories used the rushing waters of a river or a pond to drive the machines? What did you do when there wasn't enough water? What happened when there was no rain? Did you bring your own buckets of water when the wheels would not turn?

Perhaps you would like to go back to the old days. Hitch up your horses and let them turn the power wheel. Find out what it means to depend on horses. How much cloth do you think the machines run with horsepower can produce?

You simply do not understand that steam is always there. You never have to worry whether there is enough water. You don't have to build your factory near water. My steam engine never gets tired, as your horses do. It never gets hungry. Do you know that my engine has the power of 20 horses? In fact, I have even made a few engines with the power of 80 horses! Imagine having 80 horses indoors for each of my engines! Can you see what this means?
My engine never sleeps. It makes those factory wheels turn faster and faster. Each turn of the wheel means more goods and cheaper goods! That means money for the factory owners. It means lower prices for the buyers. It means more money for all of us. England’s wealth is greatly increased. And don’t forget the jobs the engine creates for all the workers in the new factories!

Yes, George, England could have lived without a James Watt. But could we have had an Industrial Revolution without my steam engine?

Some day, you’ll see. They will call my steam engine the greatest invention of all time.

Your friend,

JAMES WATT

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Write T for each statement that is true and O for each statement that is an opinion.

1. James Watt was the greatest inventor of all time.
2. The Industrial Revolution is still spreading and changing.
3. The Industrial Revolution is a revolution of how and where things are made.
4. Products made in factories are much better than those made in people's homes.
5. At the beginning of the 18th century in England, the entire family took part in making goods.
6. Watt's steam engine used coal.
7. Watt's steam engine helped increase the production of clothing, iron, and steel.
8. Steam power is the best kind of power.

B. Which statements show how the Industrial Revolution changed the lives of the English people?
1. Most cloth was now made in factories.
2. The spinning wheel and hand loom were widely used.
4. Horses turned the power wheels in England's new factories.
5. Factory owners made higher profits.
6. Prices of factory-made goods were always higher than prices of home-made goods.
7. There were many new jobs for workers in the factories.

C. Imagine that James Watt did not develop the steam engine. Neither did anyone else. Imagine too that the Industrial Revolution never took place. Write a short paragraph telling how different your life would be if there had never been an Industrial Revolution. List some of the items you use every day that were made possible by the Industrial Revolution.

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES
1. What does the illustration on the facing page tell you about the steam engine? How could one steam engine be more powerful than 20 horses?
2. Go to the library. Prepare a report on another inventor whose machine helped make the Industrial Revolution. Among those you might choose from are John Kay, Richard Arkwright, Samuel Crompton, Edmund Cartwright, Eli Whitney, and James Hargreaves.
3. Make drawings of one or more of these inventions. Be prepared to explain how the invention works.
2. Farm or Factory?

As you have seen, before the Industrial Revolution, people made goods by hand at home. This was called the domestic system. Then the scene shifted to factories with machines. Farm people flocked to the factories in the towns and cities. No special skills were necessary to work in those factories. The workers repeated the same operations over and over, thousands of times each day. The machines did the thinking and planning for them.

Factory workers in cities often lived in filthy rooms in overcrowded slums. They worked in dark, airless factory rooms where they were in constant danger from the unguarded machinery. They worked as long as there was light. Often they could barely see what they were doing. The pay was low, but it was more than they could earn on the farm. Many of the workers in these factories (and even in the mines) were women and children.

In this story a young girl of 14 returns to her family home on an English farm. Ask yourself whether she should stay on the farm. Did she make the right decision? What would her life have been like if she had stayed on the farm?

Harrowgate, 1842

"Susan, welcome back from Manchester," said Joyce. "It's great to see you again. Are you going to stay home with us for a few months?"

"I'm glad to see you, too," said Susan. "It's been such a long time since I left home. No, I'm just visiting for a short time. I am not going to stay here."

"Why not?" asked Joyce. "You look terrible. You're as skinny as a stick. Your clothes hang on you as though you're a scarecrow!"

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"Stop it, Joyce," said Susan angrily. "You don't look so great yourself, but you don't hear me talking about how ugly you are. I've been sick for the past few weeks. How do you expect me to look?"

"Please don't be angry, Susan. I just want you to be well and look healthy. Stay with us for a few weeks, and you'll be yourself again."

"I am myself. This is the real me," answered Susan quickly. "I have no intention of staying for more than a few weeks. I never want to feel the way I felt when I lived here on the farm. My mind was a blank. My life was empty. I was so lonely and sad! All that I had to look forward to were the endless days and nights on the farm. There were chores to be done from before sunrise to after sunset. Chores and more chores every day—365 days a year. There was no end to my work. And I was so bored!"

"It may be lonely here," said Joyce quietly. "Yes, you may do the same things all during the year on the farm. But the farm isn't at all like a factory. You don't repeat the same movements minute after minute, hour after hour, day after day. Talk about being bored!"

"Joyce, you just don't understand," said Susan. "The thing that's so great about factory work is that it is not boring for me. I like it!"

"We have different ideas about boredom," laughed Joyce. "Let's forget about being bored, if we can. Look around you. It's clean here. The air is sweet and pure. The blue sky is up there to see—not just to dream about. It's not blotted out by the smoke from hundreds of factory chimneys. The water is good. There are no epidemics here in the country. You may not make any money, but I guarantee you that you will live twice as long!"

"Joyce, you will die of boredom on the farm. The city may not be clean, but it has life. There are lights, good times, excitement. There are people—real people. We can talk, go out, have fun. I'm alive in the city, Joyce. I'm dead here!"

"Look at you, Susan. You tell me that you're having a good time! I feel sorry for you. You look as though you're just this side of the grave. Face it. That factory work is killing you! How many hours do you work a week: 72, 84, 104? When do you have time for all that fun you talk about? You have less time off than you had on
the farm. Do you think we don’t know what goes on in those factories? Do you think we don’t know what happens to girls who work in the cities?”

“Stop preaching at me!” interrupted Susan.

“No, I won’t,” continued Joyce. “Do they let you work at your own pace? Do they beat you if you slow down? Is there light and air? Whose fault is it if you get hurt on those dangerous machines? Don’t you try to tell me that there’s excitement and pleasure in working in a filthy room—100 girls squeezed into a space where 15 would be a crowd! What happens when you try to talk to another girl? And suppose they did let you talk. Could you hear anyone over the clatter of the machines?”

“Wait a minute,” interrupted Joyce. “Don’t let your feelings about cities and factories run away with you. I never said that the factory was paradise. Sure it’s hard work, and there are dangers. But we work only 60 hours a week. Life in the factory is much easier now. They hardly ever beat us. There’s more light in the factory than you think. Anyway, we usually stop work when the sun goes down. Yes, some girls do get hurt, but don’t accidents happen on the farm? I’ll never get hurt if I am careful. Girls get hurt because they get careless. They forget to keep their eyes on the sharp blades and the rough edges. You have to be alert every second. And, don’t forget, I get two free meals a day!”

“What do they give you to eat?” snorted Joyce. “Garbage, that’s what—and not too much of that! How much time do you get to eat: 15 minutes? Every extra minute spent eating means less cloth made by your beautiful factory. The bosses aren’t going to lose profits so that you can eat your food in peace and quiet. Free meals? You know as well as I do that those meals come out of your pay. If they don’t, they come out of your hide!”

“You still miss the point,” continued Susan, refusing to give in. “Things are getting better every day. Besides, I’m away from home. I can earn money and I can save some. I’m on my own. A woman with money finds it easier to get a husband. You should know that!”

“No, Susan, I don’t know! What are you earning? Is it one penny or two pennies an hour? How much can you save from all of that? You are living in a world of make-believe. You’ll never have any money. You get a husband? What will you look like in a few
years? What man will have you with or without money?"

"Let's not talk about good looks," said Susan angrily. "I suppose that you're going to tell me that working on a farm makes a girl better looking!"

"Maybe not, Susan, but at least I won't choke to death. I'll always have plenty to eat. I can get a good night's sleep after being out in the fresh air all day. I may not meet too many people, but the ones I do meet will be honest and trustworthy. I know that I won't be robbed walking down some dark, crooked alley in a filthy city."

"You won't be robbed," said Susan, "because you won't be going anywhere. Someday you may learn that people really live in the city!"

**UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

A. Tell which of the statements are true.

1. Under the domestic system, goods were made in factories.
2. No special skills were necessary to work in a factory.
3. Many factory workers lived in crowded, filthy homes.
4. Most of the factories were bright and airy.
5. Workers often stayed on the job until it was too dark to see the machines.
6. A large number of the workers in factories and mines were women and children.
7. Susan was not going to go back to work in the factory.
8. Susan said that she enjoyed her work in the factory.

B. Susan and Joyce have different ideas about many things. Decide who made or might have made the following remarks. Write S for each statement that Susan made or might have made and J for each statement that Joyce made or might have made.

1. I'm not going to stay here. There's too much work on the farm.
2. A woman with money can find a husband.
3. The air is pure and you can breathe here on the farm.
4. The city is full of excitement, fun, and lots of people.
5. They don't give you enough to eat at the factory.
6. You don't repeat the same job endlessly on the farm.
7. It’s hard work, but we work only 60 hours a week in the factory.
8. You will live twice as long on the farm.
9. I never said the factory was paradise.
10. I won’t be robbed walking down a dark street in a filthy city!

C. Pretend that you have just graduated from high school. You are offered a choice of jobs. You can work on a farm in the country or you can work in a factory in the city. Which would you choose? Why? What differences would you expect to find between Susan’s factory and your factory? What differences would you expect to find between Joyce’s farm and your farm?

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Imagine that you have the job of preparing a report card on the working conditions in Susan’s factory. Grade each of the items below pass or fail. Write a sentence explaining the reasons for each grade. How can the failing grades be raised to passing grades? How can the passing grades be raised to excellent grades?

   wages or pay    light and air    living quarters
   hours of work   space in the factory labor by women
   safety of ma-    vacation and    and children
   chinery        holidays       air pollution

2. Pretend that you are a member of the British government in the 19th century. Write a report telling how working conditions in the factories can be made better.

3. A newspaper reporter visited a typical factory in 1842, the year our story took place. Read his description and answer the questions that follow.

   There are 1500 people working in the factory. Most are under 15 years of age. Some, not yet seven years old, are barefoot. All start work at 5:30 A.M. They do not finish until after 7:00 P.M. The children are small for their age. They are weak looking, and many are crippled. They are beaten with a heavy strap by the foreman. This makes them work harder. They have never been to school.
Imagine that you are a health inspector. You visit the factory. Make a list of all the violations you find. Why do you suppose parents sent their children to work in factories like this one?

4. Visit a factory. Compare this factory with those you read about in question 3.

5. Look at the cartoon below. Who is Joyce? How do you know? Who is Susan? How do you know? Imagine that you are Joyce. Why does she say, “This is the way to live”? Imagine that you are Susan. Why does she say the same thing—that her way of life is better than her sister’s? Do you agree with Susan or with Joyce? Why?

"This is the way to live!"
3. Power to the People

You may have thought that the Industrial Revolution would have given the people an even greater feeling of equality. There could have been wonderful opportunities for all people to share in the profits to be made in the new factories. Actually, just the opposite happened.

A new "nobility" now controlled the daily lives of the workers. These new "nobles" were factory owners and businessmen. They were interested only in how much money they could earn for themselves. They hired people to work under bad conditions for the lowest possible wages. Workers who could not or would not work in a 19th-century factory were easily replaced. There was always a large supply of labor to replace the dropouts on the assembly lines.

Some workers were willing to labor under these brutal conditions. Others felt that they were being exploited (used) by the bosses. These workers could not accept their poverty and suffering. They had to do something to improve their lives. They felt that they too should enjoy some of the benefits of the Industrial Revolution.

Many different ideas were offered to give workers a larger share of the profits. In this story we see two English factory workers comparing their ideas and feelings about their boss (the capitalist), the factory, and their jobs. Ask yourself how you would have felt as a worker in their factory. Why does Kevin feel that Conrad's ideas go too far? Do you agree? How might the factory owner have answered Conrad's suggestions for taking over the factory?
Liverpool, 1870

"How can I explain my feeling about the capitalist system?" said Conrad. "I hate it."

"Never mind how you feel about it," interrupted Kevin. "What is it?"

"What is it?" Where have you been hiding? It's the system you're living under. Rich people own and run the factories and businesses so that they get even richer! They use us. They exploit us! The rich get richer, the poor get poorer."

"Exploit—is that the only word you know?" asked Kevin. "Why don't you use simple words? Can't you understand that some people are meant to be rich? Poor people like us work for the rich. We are paid money for our work. What's so bad about that?"

"That's exactly my point, Kevin. Why should some people be rich? Why should greedy capitalists decide how much to pay us? They always pay us less than we're worth! Why must they use us? Why should they profit from the sweat of our broken backs and hands? Break out of your chains, Kevin. Throw them in the capitalists' faces!"

The capitalists have the money and know how to use it," said Kevin, who refused to get excited. "They have the imagination and the nerve to try out new machines and make new products. You see, Conrad, I know who I am: I'm a worker. I'm poor. Perhaps someday I will earn more. Right now, I know that I don't have the money or the know-how to be a factory owner. I'm for hire. The capitalist puts me to work. He pays me. I can eat and my family can live. What more could I want?"

"How can you be satisfied with so little?" asked Conrad. "I tell you that you are being used by the capitalists. You come back and tell me that it's perfectly all right for you and me to be poor while others are rich. Do you mean to tell me that you don't want us to live as well as the capitalists? Aren't we as good as they are? Don't we eat and breathe and have feelings? Don't we bleed when we are injured? What's wrong with you, Kevin? Where are your feelings?"
"A man who is smarter than I am deserves to live better than I do," answered Kevin evenly. "No, I don't want to live like the rich. Yes, I am happy the way I am. I know that if I work harder I will earn more money. Let the capitalist get rich. I don't want what he has."

"And I tell you, Kevin," said Conrad, "I want all of the capitalist's money. I want all of his profits—not for myself alone, but for all of you workers. I want the true value of what I make with these hands! The money is mine! It is ours! The capitalists and their families deserve nothing! How can you be willing to work for whatever money they decide to pay you? Why should you let yourself be ground down by the capitalists' heels?"

"All right, Conrad, I admit I'm not completely satisfied. I never said I was. But I know what I can do, and I know what I can't do. I'm a worker, not a boss. Sure I want more money. Who doesn't? Yes, I want better working conditions. I wouldn't mind fewer hours of work in a cleaner place. I'll even admit that I have a dream. Someday, if I can save enough money, I want to open my own shop. But can't I make you understand that I don't want to own or run the factory?"

"Fool! I never said that you would own the factory by yourself!" shouted Conrad, his face as red as a beet. "Can't you see that your work in the factory should give you a share of the profits? The factory is yours and it's mine. It should not belong to the capitalist. All of us who work in the factory should own it. The capitalist controls the factory because he's lucky. He happened to have had a little money with which to get started in business. The capitalist may believe it, but we know that God did not decide who would be the owner of the factory. It was just chance!"

"How many times do I have to tell you that I don't want anything to do with owning his factory," said Kevin a little angrily. "The owner worked hard to set it up. He put his money, his brains, his sweat into it. He built it from nothing into a giant. Doesn't he deserve the fruits of his work?"

"He deserves nothing!" said Conrad with great feeling. "We'll take it from him! Soon it will all be ours! The day of the capitalist is over! Power to the workers!"

"And who will run the factory without him?" asked Kevin.
"We'll run it together," answered Conrad. "We'll choose our own leaders. They'll run it for us. We'll all share in the profits. Don't worry. We know as much as your capitalist pet!"

"And who will make sure that our leaders will do a better job than the capitalist? Who will make sure that they are honest? How will we know if we are getting our fair share? No, Conrad, I don't trust your leaders any more than I trust the capitalist. But I know what the capitalist can do. I know that I can work for him. I'm not sure I want to be bossed around by men who used to work alongside me. Their hands will become soft, and they'll never want to go back to real work. You and your friends dream of running factories. Do you really care about making things?"

"You must have a little more faith in me, Kevin, my friend," said Conrad in a low, intense voice. "A new day is coming for the worker. We will take over! The profits belong to the worker!"

"I wonder," said Kevin quietly, "if you want to take over the factories or the world?"

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Write T for each statement that is true, F for each statement that is false, and N for each statement that is not mentioned in the story.

1. Factory owners hired workers at the lowest possible pay.
   - T
2. Nineteenth-century factory workers were the best the world has ever seen.
   - F
3. In the 19th century it was hard to replace factory workers who left their jobs.
   - T
4. All workers in the 19th century were happy with their jobs.
   - F
5. Some workers felt that their bosses were taking advantage of them.
   - T
6. Conrad said that all workers should share in the profits of their work.
   - T
7. The capitalist system offers the best way to run the factories of our country.
   - F
8. Conrad was against the capitalist system.
   - T
9. Kevin felt that all workers should be paid exactly the same amount of money.
   - T
B. Tell which item makes each statement correct.
1. The new “nobles” of the Industrial Revolution were the (a) workers (b) factory owners (c) members of Parliament.
2. Conrad said that (a) the rich got rich on the labor of the poor (b) workers should not run the factories (c) everyone should be very poor.
3. Kevin understood that he was always going to be (a) a rich man (b) a worker without much money (c) a foreman.
4. “Break out of your chains” was a remark made by (a) the factory owner (b) Kevin (c) Conrad.
5. Kevin knew that if he worked harder, he would (a) be a factory owner (b) marry a rich woman (c) earn more money.
6. Conrad felt that the factory owner’s money should be given to (a) the workers (b) the government of England (c) anyone who asked for it.
7. Kevin’s dream of success was to (a) open his own factory (b) stop working (c) open his own shop.
8. Conrad believed in (a) more income for the capitalists (b) more income for the workers (c) more income for the farmers.

C. Imagine that you are working in a factory today. Kevin and Conrad are also working in the factory. Each one wants to become the president of your local labor union. For whom would you vote? Explain. Would you rather not vote for either Kevin or Conrad? Explain.

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Use each of the following key terms in a sentence.
   - exploit
   - capitalism
   - profit
   - boss
   - capital
   - wages

2. Read the two passages below and answer the questions that follow.

   Workers are cheated. They must work long hours because this is what the bosses want. The bosses control the factories. They also control the lives of the workers. Working conditions are getting worse. The revolt of the working class draws closer.

   People want the best for themselves. They will compete with others to get ahead. They will work hard to
succeed. The smartest and hardest working people will do best. They will succeed because they are selling the best products at the lowest prices. Everyone will benefit.

With which of the two paragraphs would Kevin agree? Why? With which paragraph would Conrad agree? Why? With which do you agree? Why?

3. Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter. Your job is to interview Kevin or Conrad. What questions would you ask? How would your questions be answered by Kevin or Conrad?

4. Now suppose that the factory owner has asked you, the reporter, for a chance to answer Kevin or Conrad. What are the main points that the owner makes in his interview with you? Do you agree with the owner or with the worker? Why? If you agree with neither, explain your answer.

5. Imagine that you are Kevin. Write a diary of one day in your life as a factory worker. Include all the important and unimportant things that might have happened to you. Now imagine that you are Conrad. Write an account of one day in your life. Whose diary do you think might be more interesting? Why?
4. The Assembly Line Today

Through the years, working conditions in factories were much improved. It became legal for workers to organize into labor unions. Workers learned to act together. They bargained with the bosses as a union or group. When necessary, they stopped work and went on strike. They encouraged people to boycott (stop buying) the product. They used the power of their votes to get favorable laws passed.

But many workers were still not happy to be working in a factory. While the pay and hours were often good, the workers were tired of doing the same thing hundreds or even thousands of times each day. They grew bored. They did not have a feeling that they were really making something. Their part of the production process was too small to mean anything to them.

Some workers found that they were uncomfortable with so many people in the same room. Others did not like to obey rules made by someone else. The hours and conditions of work were decided for them. They could not be late, and they had to work a fixed number of hours.

In this story two English workers are talking about their factory. Ask yourself why one worker is so strongly against this type of work. What are his objections to working in this factory? Why is the other worker not unhappy about working in the same factory?

Birmingham, 1970

"How do you like working at Acme Motors, Ed?" asked Joe.
"I don't know how to answer, Joe. I'm mixed up about it replied Ed. "The money isn't bad—though I could use more."
"Who couldn't?" laughed Joe.
"But I don't know if I'll ever get used to this routine," added E
"But Ed, everyone has a routine or a schedule of work," replied Joe. "It doesn’t matter whether you work on a farm, in a store, or here. You’ve got to know what you’re doing and when you’re going to do it."

"Yes, Joe, but the factory is different. I have to be here at the same time every day. I could use a little more sleep. I have to keep doing the same things each day. Why should I hurry to be here? It’s the same stuff day after day. And you know what happens when you’re late a few times!"

"Work starts at eight," said Joe. "And everyone has to start at the same time. Otherwise the factory couldn’t operate."

"Wait, there’s more, Joe. Why do I have to work as late as everyone else? Some days I’m just too tired to put in a full day. Here I am, tired as a dog, dragging myself along! Why do I have to punish my body this way?"

"Suppose the boss let you off an hour or two early," answered Joe. "Can you see what would happen? Dozens of others would ask for the same deal. And what would happen to the assembly line? There could be a breakdown without enough workers!"

"Who in blazes cares what happens to their stupid assembly line? Let it break down!"

"If it breaks down and the factory stops, there goes your job and mine along with it!"

"Okay, Joe, okay. Why did you ask me how I felt about working here? You don’t care. You just like to hear yourself talk."

"Oh, cool off, Ed. You’re just tired. After another month or two your hours will fly by."

"You can say what you want, but it’s still a drag to me," said Ed tiredly.

Joe didn’t seem to hear Ed’s last remark. "The pay is good here. It’s the top wage in the industry. Our union has done a terrific job! We’re working a six-hour day with time and a half for overtime. You’ve got morning and afternoon breaks. You’ve got nine paid holidays, and you even get your birthday off! And don’t forget your two-week vacation with pay!"

"Great," said Ed with disgust. "You forgot the wage tie-in with the cost of living."

"Right, Ed. Why can’t you be serious? Why do you pass it all over? I suppose you’d be thrilled to work 18 hours a day for a few cents!"
"Tell me more," laughed Ed.

"Okay. Imagine that you're living in the bad old days," said Ed seriously. "You can't keep body and soul together. You and your family are starving. One fine day, you open your mouth to complain to your foreman. 'Get out!' he says. 'Pick up your pay. You're through!'"

"Come on, Joe. With or without the union, we're all dead in this factory anyway."

"You still don't see it," continued Joe. "Okay, complain today. Can anyone fire you without good cause? Do a good job, keep your nose clean, and you've got no problems."

"Haven't you forgotten one thing?" asked Ed.

"What's that?"

"Seniority, Joe. There's always the union and seniority. Say they don't sell enough cars. Some of us have to go. It's last hired, first fired! It's my head that will roll first around here!"

"Can you think of a better way?" asked Joe.

"Sure, Ed. Have you heard of ability—and skill? But maybe you're right. What kind of skill do you need to work in this factory? You win. I lose."

"Don't talk this way, Ed."

"How should I talk?" Ed said angrily. "Maybe you can do the same thing hour after hour. I can't! I'm tired and bored!"

"Pull yourself together! Maybe it's boring, but you don't have to think about what you're doing. You just keep doing it. And the money keeps rolling in!"

"Where's the feeling of really making something?" asked Ed, a bit more calmly. "We're supposed to be making cars here. But I don't know what I'm making. I hardly know what I'm doing! All I ever do is tighten bolts. I tell you, Joe, it's getting to me! I feel out of everything. I'm nothing!"

"That's just not true, Ed. You are important. You are somebody. Your work is one step in the making of a car. It may be a small step, but somebody has to do it or else there'd be no car!"

"All right, then, why do I have to do such a small thing?" asked Ed. "Thousands of times each day I tighten a bolt or cut a piece of metal. Over and over and over. Why can't I do other things? I'd rather do many things a hundred times, not one thing a thousand times. I'd be more interested. I'd be more relaxed. I could almost
enjoy myself. I could think about myself and what I’m doing. I could be important!”

“This is a factory, Ed. There are over a thousand of us working under one roof. The supervisors divide the work. Each of us has one thing to do each day. This way we become specialists. We know exactly what we’re doing. We make fewer mistakes.”

“But who wants to be a specialist in turning a screw or tightening a bolt?" asked Ed. “We’ve got a strong union. Let’s make a few changes around here. Call a meeting of all the men and women in our group. We’ll divide up the work. Each of us will do a job he or she wants to do. We’ll exchange jobs as often as we think it will help us. We’ll all be happier and healthier. We’ll produce more. We’ll make very few mistakes! We’ll turn out better cars!”

“Impossible!” cried Joe. “They’d never let us do it! Talk about this to the others, and we’ll all get fired! Count me out!”

“I thought you were a man, a friend. Now I know that I couldn’t trust you to bring me the right time!”

“You’re upset, Ed. You’ll feel better in the morning.”

“These pains in my head and stomach aren’t going to go away by morning! I can’t stand this grind. I can’t stand some of the people I work with. And I’m not sure I can stand talking to you!”

“Ed, you’ve made your point. Maybe the union can do something for you. I’ll bring your suggestion to the union. Change may be what we need in this factory. Give them a chance. Let them try to work something out with the owners. Don’t quit now!”

“All right, Joe, I’ll try to stay. Unions and bosses are learning that workers are people. We are individuals. We’re not all the same.”

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Complete each of the sentences below.

1. Many persons were unhappy about working in a ______.
2. Every worker must have a ______ of ______.
3. They encouraged people to stop buying their ______.
4. “Our union has done a terrific job to help the ______.”
5. “How can you do the same thing hour after ______?”
6. “All I ever do is ______ bolts.”
7. "I make a small part of the ______ car."
8. "Seniority means that the ______ hired is the ______ fired."

B. Write T for each statement that is true and F for each statement that is false.
   1. Some workers were uncomfortable because of overcrowding in the factory.
   2. Joe thought that Ed would get used to the work in the factory.
   3. Ed enjoyed going to work at the same time each day.
   4. Joe felt that every worker on the assembly line should work the same number of hours.
   5. Ed was tired of doing the same things over and over.
   6. A specialist keeps working at the same job, or part of a job.
   7. Specialists make many more mistakes in their work than people who do not specialize.
   8. Ed wanted to enjoy his work.

C. Imagine that a factory like the one in the story opened near your home. Would you apply for a job there? Why or why not? Who would you want to be your foreman—Ed or Joe? Explain your answer.

ACTIVITIES AND INQUIRIES

1. Speak to a member of a labor union. Ask him or her to read the story and give you an opinion about it. Report your findings to the class.
2. Turn back to the report card that you prepared for activity 1, page 188. Now grade the factory in this story. What does your report card tell you about the working conditions in the two factories? Do you think that Ed might have been happier if he had known about the factory where Susan worked? Explain.