

Dramaturgy Research:
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Web Quest
(Go to <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/>)

1. This was the same factory in which the strike of 1909 began in. Where was it located?

2. How many young immigrant girls lost their lives?

3. What were the specific causes that led to disaster at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory?

4. What are three things that should have been changed before the fire? (Use pre-fire photographs to help with this question)

5. Why were workers unable to escape the fire? Who was responsible for this?

6. What is a sweatshop?

7. Describe the results of the 1909 and 1910 strikes according to this website.

Click on "Pauline Newman's letter" and answer these questions...

8. Why was Pauline Newman lucky to get a job at Triangle?

9. What time did Pauline's workday begin?

10. How did she get to work?

11. Did workers get paid overtime?

12. Why did workers accept such conditions?

13. How much did she earn each week?

14. What was her job?

15. What did the children workers do when the inspectors came to the factory?

16. What was the company afraid workers would steal?

17. Why did she become famous?

18. Did she die in the fire?

Read "Investigation, Trial and Reform"...

19. Were the owners of the factory, Blanck (no relation) and Harris, held responsible for the deaths due to the fire?

20. Explain whether or not you support the penalties handed out to those in charge of Triangle.

Choose one of the following: "My First Job," "Days and Dreams," "Among the Poor Girls," or "Life in the Shop." Read about the excitement and anticipation that many girls and young women had at the time about working and the realities they faced.

21. Which of the characters in *To See The Stars* are you reminded of after reading this account? Why?

In the "Mourning and Protest" section, read the editorial entitled, "What is to be done now?"

22. Explain whether you agree with the article.

23. As a result of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire, what changes do you feel were necessary to prevent injury and/or death in factories and sweatshops?

24. What was the public reaction to the fire and the conditions inside of the sweatshop?

25. What changes resulted from the Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire?

26. Select a section from the website that you haven't already read and answered questions from. What section did you choose?

27. Summarize this section and react to it.

28. What have you been able to take with you AS AN ACTOR from this exercise?