



What were Gateshead's main industries and how did they help it grow?

Joseph Skipsey - The Pitman Poet

Joseph Skipsey (1832-1903) was known as 'The Pitman Poet' because he wrote poetry about the coal mines. He was born in Percy Main but lived and worked in Gateshead at various points of his life. He is buried in Gateshead Cemetery.

This is an extract from one of his poems:

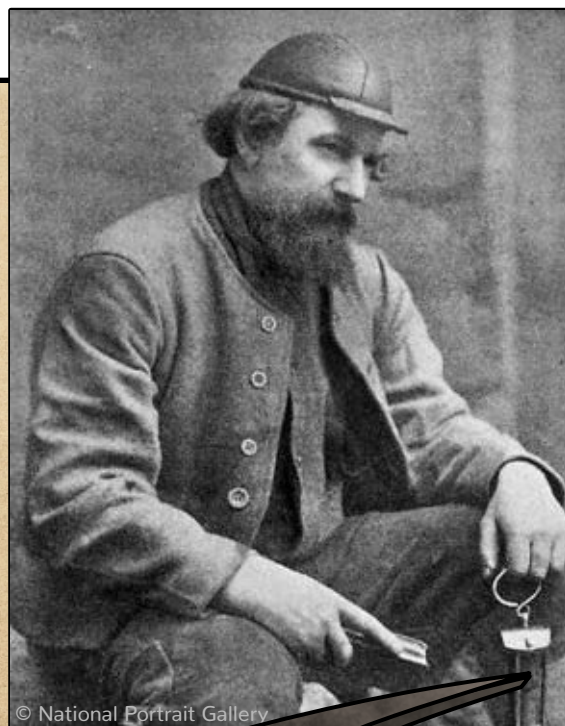
The Collier Lad by Joseph Skipsey

My lad he is a Collier Lad,
And ere the lark awakes,
He's up and away to spend the day
Where daylight never breaks;
But when at last the day has pass'd,
Clean washed and cleanly clad,
He courts his Nell who loveth well
Her handsome Collier Lad.

There's not his match in smoky Shields;
Newcastle never had
A lad more tight, nor trim, nor bright
Than is my Collier Lad.

Tho' doomed to labour under ground,
A merry lad is he;
And when a holiday comes round,
He'll spend that day in glee;
He'll tell his tale o'er a pint of ale,
And crack his joke, and bad
Must be the heart who loveth not
To hear the Collier Lad.

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Teacher's Pet



Historic England





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Comprehension

1. What is meant by,
'And ere the lark awakes,
He's up and away...' ?

2. What phrase is used to describe the coal mine?

3. Which places does the poet say has never had, 'a lad more tight, nor trim, nor bright'?

4. What word does the poet use that implies that he does not think that working underground is a good thing?

5. How does the Collier Lad spend his holiday?

6. What do you think the poet thinks about the Collier Lad?





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Comprehension Answers

1. What is meant by,
'And ere the lark awakes,
He's up and away...' ?

The Collier Lad wakes up early at the same time that the birds rise.

2. What phrase is used to describe the coal mine?

The coal mine is described as the place, 'where daylight never breaks.'

3. Which places does the poet say has never had, 'a lad more tight, nor trim, nor bright'?

The poet says that Shields, meaning South Shields, or Newcastle have not had a lad like his Collier Lad.

4. What word does the poet use that implies that he does not think that working underground is a good thing?

The poet says that the Collier Lad is **doomed**.

5. How does the Collier Lad spend his holiday?

On his holiday, the Collier Lad would joke and tell stories while drinking a pint of ale.

6. What do you think the poet thinks about the Collier Lad?

The poet seems to be very proud of the Collier Lad. He talks about his cheerful personality and how clean he keeps himself. He feels like everyone should love the Collier Lad.





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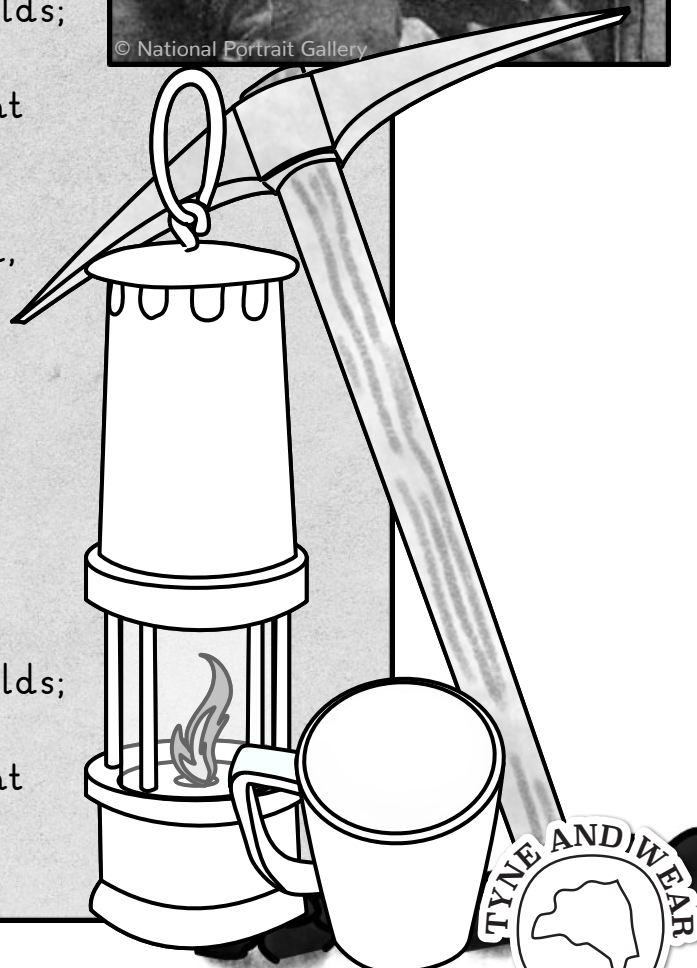
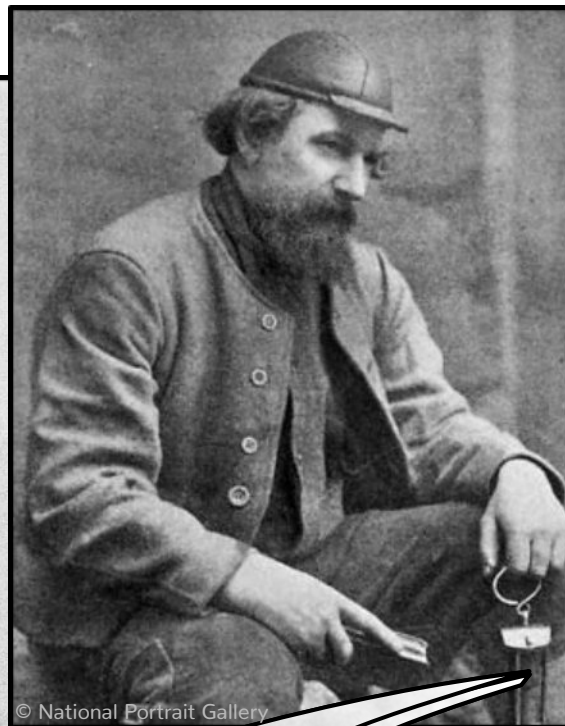
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Gateshead



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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.