



Literary Contexts: 80s British Fiction

Billy Elliot

Comprehension Questions

View the programme attentively. After you watch, complete the following comprehension questions and tasks.

1. The 1980s was a decade of struggle in British society. Use the information in the clip to list what each group mentioned was fighting for or against:

Group	Struggle
Miners	
Gay community	
Women	

2. _____ was a key industry for Britain in the early 20th century. At its peak, in _____, _____ people were employed as miners.

3. Explain why the influence and importance of coal began to decrease in the 1950s.

4. What was the effect of the decrease in demand for British coal on British society?





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5. In 1974 the disruptions to the British coal industry led to a major strike. What was the government's response?

6. Voices in the programme describe the hostility of the 1984 miner's strike in particularly emotive language. List four examples of the emotive words or phrases used.

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7. Note down the factors that prevented the gay community from enjoying the freedom to live their lives freely and without discrimination.

8. What factors inhibited the advancement of women in the workforce and society?

9. Explain how women were able to improve their opportunities and gain increased rights during the second half of the 20th century.





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10. Life in Britain during the 20th century was a time of immense change. Summarise the impact of government decisions on the lives of everyday people in Britain at this time.

