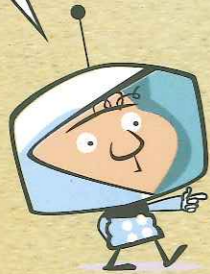


A WEEK IN THE LIFE

What would it be like to live in Victorian times? Your lifestyle would depend on whether you were male or female, and how well off your parents were. Here is a week in the very different lives of three children, all born on the same day - 2 February 1870.



MONDAY

Billy

Food and clothes and a place to sleep. Must be better than life sweeping the streets and sleeping rough.

On his tenth birthday, Billy joined the army.

Lizzy

It's hard to leave. But Mum'll have one less mouth to feed.

On her tenth birthday, Lizzy went into service.

Julia

It is nice to have a party for my birthday.

On her tenth birthday, Julia had a party.

TUESDAY

Billy & Lizzy

On Tuesday, the recruits marched to their training camp.

No one near my age, except those boys in front, who aren't friendly. And my feet hurt. Still, I expect it'll get better.

Lizzy

It's only noon and I'm tired out! I've been up since five. How can a family of five make so much washing-up?

On Tuesday, Lizzy began her new duties.

Julia

I am SO bored! To think I am expected to live like this for the rest of my life.

On Tuesday, Julia went visiting with her mother.

WEDNESDAY

Billy

I never saw so many potatoes in my entire life! Do I really have to peel them all?

On Wednesday, Billy settled in at his new camp.

Lizzy

I thought I knew how to peel potatoes. But no. I don't peel them Cook's way.

On Wednesday, Lizzy made Mrs Green, the cook, angry.

Julia

I wish I could just dig my heels in and ride fast. But no. Mama says I have to ride 'like a lady'.

On Wednesday, Julia rode in the park with her mother.

THURSDAY

Billy

'Left, right! Left, right!' I'd rather be peeling spuds! But at least I'm fed and get a place to sleep.

On Thursday, Billy learned to march.

Lizzy & Julia

On Thursday, Julia had an early piano lesson.

It's very cold this morning. My fingers are cold even in my muff. I'll play the piano badly and the music master will scold me. That girl looks colder than I am. Why doesn't she wrap up?

On Thursday, Mrs Green was cross again.

FRIDAY

Billy

This is more like it. I feel more like a soldier now I have a uniform.

On Friday, Billy learned to beat the drum.

Lizzy

Well, thank goodness for that! She's not such a bad thing after all. I suppose she has to be strict with everyone to start with.

On Friday, Mrs Green was pleased with Lizzy.

Julia

This is lovely! What a shame acting is such a 'low' profession. I know I could never become an actress.

On Friday, Julia went to the theatre.

SATURDAY

Billy & Julia

On Saturday, Julia had lessons at home.

Here comes Miss Bailey. More lists of kings and queens and what goods are produced by the countries in the Empire! I wonder what part of the Empire those soldiers are off to?

On Saturday, Billy and the rest of the regiment marched to Dover.

Lizzy

This paste for cleaning the silver smells terrible! It makes my head ache. Still, Mrs Green says I can have a cup of tea when it's done.

On Saturday, Lizzy cleaned the silver.

SUNDAY

Billy

The sea is so rough. I feel SO sick. I wish I was dead. I wish I had never joined the army.

On Sunday, the army sailed away from Britain.

Lizzy

I've only been here a week. It seems like much, much longer. It isn't as horrid as I thought at first. It'll be all right.

On Sunday, Lizzy went to family prayers.

Julia

I'm bored. I don't know why Papa has to get everyone in here for prayers. My friend Claire says it's silly and old-fashioned.

On Sunday, Julia went to family prayers.