

# Student Activity

## Work life in 19th century Melbourne

In the 19th century world of *In Lonnie's Shadow* many of the available jobs were done by men or boys. It was commonplace for a job title to include the word 'man' or 'boy'.

1. Before you start the activity below, discuss with a partner how we describe jobs and their titles in today's world and what this shows about changing attitudes and equality.
2. Match each of the 19th century jobs from the job list below with its description on the following page. Look for the odd one out: One job listed is charitable work. Which one do you think it is?

Write your answers here:

ANSWER BOX

1. \_ 2. \_ 3. \_ 4. \_ 5. \_ 6. \_ 7. \_ 8. \_ 9. \_

Odd one out is: \_\_\_\_\_

### Job list

- 1 Nightrakers
- 2 Lever man
- 3 Lamplighter
- 4 Nightcart man
- 5 Barrow boy
- 6 Phrenologist
- 7 Madam
- 8 Milliner
- 9 Rescue Brigade

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## Description

- a. A street vendor who sold wares from a pushcart or horse-drawn cart, including fruit, vegetables, roasted horse chestnuts and hot potatoes.
- b. A worker who operated a tram car.
- c. Person employed to light street lamps.
- d. Person employed to remove the contents of privies and outhouses.
- e. Youngsters employed to clear the streets of horse dung.
- f. Hat maker.
- g. Manager of a brothel.
- h. Sought out children who were being exploited and took them away from the source of the problem. These children were often then trained as domestics.
- i. Reader of lumps and bumps on the skull. The practitioner aimed to draw conclusions about aspects of personality. Popularly used by employers as an indicator of the worthiness of potential employees.

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## **Teacher's Guide:**

ANSWERS to Work life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Melbourne

1e, 2b, 3c, 4d, 5a, 6i, 7g, 8f, 9h

**Odd one out: 9h.** The RESCUE BRIGADES often formed as a wing of a church or charitable organisation. These groups helped children who were in difficult circumstances and/or at risk. Often they removed the children to what they considered a safer place. Miss Selina Sutherland was the secretary of the Scots Church Neglected Children's Aid Society. She was well known for her work in Little Lon.