

## Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 3-Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is \_\_\_\_\_mine owner\_\_\_\_\_.

I am Pro/**Anti** Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

... running a profitable business. I want to make money and protect my \_\_\_\_\_  
investments. \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concern is

... the competition the bootlegging industry has turned out to be. I had 5 to 10  
percent of the anthracite market stolen away from me by this illegal activity. \_\_\_\_\_

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

...to hire some bootleggers back to regain the 5-10% of the market. \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness story:

List your arguments below for/**against** Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. It is stealing. I own the property and bootleggers are both trespassing and taking from it. ~"Commandment 8: Thou shalt not steal." [Reference to #14 in reading.]
2. It is morally degrading to the worker. The worker knows he is stealing. Why less would bootlegging have started under cover of the night? [Reference #5: "They worked at night. They had an uneasy feeling that this was not unrelated to thievery."]

3. It is undermining the free market system by flooding the market with illegal products.

[Reference:#2: "It [bootleg coal] is sold in the open market to the tune of nearly a half million tons a month in competition with the legitimately mined coal—a fact which is beginning to cause anthracite operators and regular coal dealers in numerous Eastern cities and towns no end of perturbation [annoyance]."]

[Reference #18: competition: "Between 5 and 10 percent of all anthracite being sold in the United States these past two years [1933, 1934] was bootleg."]

4. I pay taxes on my profits, but these bootleggers do not.

[Reference: Lesson Introduction: By the 1930s it is estimated that bootlegging coal had become a thirty-million-dollar industry which cost the Commonwealth millions in uncollected taxes.]

5. I am paying my *honestly* earned money to win over customers that are buying coal originally taken from *my* property.

[Reference #19: "So lately the desperate operators and distributors have been spending vast sums of money and no end of energy and legal and public-relations talent to ruin bootleg coal business . . .by telling the public, through newspapers and otherwise, that bootleg coal is a heatless racket run by a few wise guys who exploit thousands of men, women, and children; that bootleg coal is dirty and otherwise inferior; that bootleg truckers deliver short weights, and so on."]

## Student Worksheet 3- Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is unemployed miner/bootleg coal miner

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

...survival. I want to keep my family warm in the winter and have enough to eat.

My greatest concern is

...fear of explosion or cave-in at the mine.

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

... to go back to work in the mines in legal operations.

... to pay minimal royalties to operate my bootleg operation. [Reference #22]

### Witness Story:

List your arguments below **for**/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. It is our way to live and survive. We have a basic right to life.  
[Reference #12: "We gotta live, don't we?" See below for full quote.]
2. There is no work for us at the collieries and no other opportunity for a different kind of employment in our mining town. Mining is what we know.  
[Reference #12: "In this town 75 percent of the mine workers are unemployed. See below for full quote.]
3. Not that we want to ask for help from relief agencies—it hurts our pride--but many of us have. There is not sufficient relief funding for us to get by. In some cases, poor boards have directed us into bootlegging.  
[Reference #12: The relief we're supposed to get isn't half enough even for food; how about rent, light, gas, and water, clothes and tobacco?]

[Reference #7: In the winter of 1930-31, when growing numbers of people appeared before township and county poor boards with requests for fuel, the board in not a few cases told them to get their own fuel. Where? How? The board members shrugged their shoulders or suggested that the nearby hills were full of coal.]

4. The money we make not only keeps our family alive, it is spent in our community, keeping businesses and organizations alive as well.

[Reference #12: Our kids and women want to take in a movie now and then. Also gotta pay our union, lodge, and church dues. . . .]

5. It keeps us from becoming criminals.

[Reference #12: We 'steal' coal in order to keep from becoming thieves and hold-up men, which, to keep alive, we probably would be forced to become if we didn't have these holes.]

6. Rebuttal to ethical question of "stealing": If you are going to look at how we mined the coal from coal company grounds [land that was technically not ours], you might want to question how the coal company came to own the land. Was it a fair sale? Some companies purchased the land from Native Americans paying way less than they knew the land was worth. Whose land is it anyway?

[Reference #12: As for the "steeling" part of it, how did the different companies get their coal lands? In some cases they paid \$6 an acre; was that a fair price? In other cases they stole it from the Indians. Was that a nice thing to do?]

Reference #12:

"We gotta live, don't we? . . . There's no work for us in the collieries with their new machines and new ways of doing things. We must do something! . . . In this town 75 percent of the mine workers are unemployed. The relief we're supposed to get

isn't half enough even for food; how about rent, light, gas, and water, clothes and tobacco? And we're entitled to a glass of beer once in a while, aren't we? Our kids and women want to take in a movie now and then. Also gotta pay our union, lodge, and church dues. . . . As for the "steeling" part of it, how did the different companies get their coal lands? In some cases they paid \$6 an acre; was that a fair price? In other cases they stole it from the Indians. Was that a nice thing to do? Well [laughing], we're the new Indians, taking what coal we can back from the companies. . . . We 'steal' coal in order to keep from becoming thieves and hold-up men, which, to keep alive, we probably would be forced to become if we didn't have these holes."

## Student Worksheet 3- Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is     Father Weaver    

My job is                     Priest                    

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

... the care of my parishioners.

My greatest concern is

... the physical and spiritual well-being of my church. I am concerned that good people [the bootleggers] are being labeled morally corrupt unfairly. [Reference #14.]

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

... to have the companies hire the people back. Illegal mining would stop.

### Witness Story:

List your arguments below **for**/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. It helps us heat our churches, schools, and parish houses.

[Reference #14: "I approached several parish priest, some of whom, I had heard, were accepting church dues in the form of bootleg coal and were using it to heat their churches, parochial schools, and parish houses.]

2. They are working land the companies probably would not have worked anyway.

[Reference #14: Besides, most of the bootleg holes were in places where the companies would never have bothered to take the coal out anyhow-which is true.]

3. Bootleg coal mining does not have a bad effect on the character of the worker.

[Reference #14: "Some of them . . .are my parishioners; honest, upstanding working people. I'm proud to be their priest."]

4. They are working to keep themselves from starving or becoming criminals.

5. Their work is dangerous, and these people deserve our admiration.

Father Weaver: "Some of them," he went on, "are my parishioners; honest, upstanding working people. I'm proud to be their priest. It is absolutely untrue that this bootleg coal situation is having a bad effect on the bootleggers' characters or that, as the companies say, there have developed in this town 'other rackets' in connection with, or as a result of, bootleg coal. Coal bootlegging has no bad moral effect on the people. It keeps them from starving and turning into criminals...Let the companies give the men work in the collieries and illegal mining will cease at once. The men are not bootlegging because they like it. They risk their lives every minute they work in those holes, and deserve everyone's respect and admiration. They have mine."

## Student Worksheet 3- Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is local government official (poor board member).

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

...providing relief to those in need.\_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concern is

... that during these hard times our board does not have enough resources to help everyone who needs it.\_\_\_\_\_

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

... to allow bootleg coal mining to continue as a way for needy families to help themselves.\_\_\_\_\_

...to give our agency enough funding to operate successfully and to provide the unemployed with work or create a federal program to do so.\_\_\_\_\_

### Witness Story:

List your arguments below **for**/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. Bootleg coal mining provides a way for families in need to help themselves.

[Reference #7: In the winter of 1930-31, when growing numbers of people appeared before township and county poor boards with requests for fuel, the board in not a few cases told them to get their own fuel. Where? How? The board members shrugged their shoulders or suggested that the nearby hills were full of coal.]

2. If the bootleggers could not operate their mines, we would have to increase taxes for more relief.

[Reference #7: Also, town and county officials cautioned the representatives of the various companies that unless they allowed the jobless to operate their holes,



taxes would have to be increased to pay for more relief, and some of these higher taxes would be levied on the coal mines.]

## Student Worksheet 3- Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is \_\_\_\_\_ Storekeeper \_\_\_\_\_

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

... to take care of family and keep my store in business. \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concern is

\_\_\_\_\_ making a living when people do not have much money to spend in \_\_\_\_\_  
stores. \_\_\_\_\_

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

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### Witness Story:

List your arguments below for/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. Bootleg coal is cheaper than other coal. It gives us a cheaper source of heat.

We use it to warm our stores and homes.

[Reference #13: "The storekeepers with whom I talked were unanimous in saying that, as far as their businesses were concerned, bootleg coal was a lifesaver.

Most of them burned illegal coal in their homes and stores. ]

2. It helps the local economy (which keeps us in business!).

[Reference #10: "The amount involved in the bootleg coal business in 1933 is estimated to have been between \$30,000,000 and \$35, 000,000 while in the last twelve months the illegal miners and truckers have 'stolen' from the anthracite companies' lands from four and a half to five and a half million tons of coal, involving between \$40,000,000 and 45,000,000; and most of this money stayed

right in the communities where the miners and truckers reside, and was spent and respent here. “]

[Reference#11: It keeps stores, banks, movies, restaurants, drinking places, gas stations open. It enables business people to employ help and buy advertising space in local newspapers. And so on.]

## Student Worksheet 3- Character Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is \_\_\_\_\_ Coal Truck Driver \_\_\_\_\_

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

... earning a living. \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concern is

... being able to deliver coal to customers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and other areas without being stopped on the road by the police for "stolen goods." [Reference #19] \_\_\_\_\_

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

... to be hired back by a coal company. \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness Story:

List your arguments below **for**/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. It is my source of income, my job.

[Reference #17: The coal is sold to truckers who come to the holes at from \$4.50 to \$5.75 a ton, depending on the quality...]

The images of coal being loaded into a truck from a bootleg coal mine can be used also.

## Student Worksheet 3-Debate Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My job is \_\_\_\_\_ Constable \_\_\_\_\_

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

the safety of the townspeople. \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concern is

a threat of violence if the company decides to employ armed force to eliminate  
the bootleg mines on their land. \_\_\_\_\_

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

I compromise the letter of the law in order to maintain peace in the local  
community. \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness Story:

List your arguments below for/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. I am "unreservedly" in favor of bootleg coal because it allows unemployed miners to provide for their families without becoming outright violent criminals.

[Reference #13: "The chief of police and a city councilman of Mount Carmel were unreservedly in favor of bootleg coal."]

[Reference #12: "We 'steal' coal in order to keep from becoming thieves and hold-up men, which, to keep alive, we probably would be forced to become if we didn't have these holes."]

## Student Worksheet 3-Debate Preparation

### Character Development:

My character's name is  Louis Adamic

My job is  journalist

I am **Pro**/Anti Bootleg Coal Mining (circle one).

My first priority is

to observe and write about labor development in the United States.

My greatest concern is

Observing trends that show the potential movement to the "left" (nationalization of coal mines, socialist development).

A way I would be willing to compromise would be

I may at times compromise my objective perspective by bringing my own set of beliefs to the topic I am studying.

### Expert Witness Story:

List your arguments below **for**/against Bootleg Coal Mining.

Use specific references from your source.

1. After observing the work conditions of the bootleg coal miners, I have nothing but admiration for these men.

[Reference #15: "...In fact, after I saw them work in and around their roles, my respect for the human race in general went up several notches. The sheer "guts" and stamina necessary to sink and work a bootleg coal hole is all but incredible."]

[Reference #16: Everybody who knows anything about the conditions under which bootleg coal is produced respects and admires the bootleggers, and often considers them heroes; and this-together with the fact that the whole thing is so typical of this resourceful, highly individualistic, anarchic, and fantastic America of ours-operates to create public sentiment strongly in favor of the illegal miners.]

2. Public sentiment is strongly pro-bootleg coal mining.

[Reference #15: see above]

[Reference #12: Naturally, then, nearly everybody in the towns where bootleg coal has become an established industry is very much in favor of it.]

Examples include:

[Reference #13: Storekeepers, police, newspapermen]

[Reference #14: priest]

3. Economic benefits are derived from the enterprise.

[Reference #10: "The amount involved in the bootleg coal business in 1933 is estimated to have been between \$30,000,000 and \$35, 000,000 while in the last twelve months the illegal miners and truckers have 'stolen' from the anthracite companies' lands from four and a half to five and a half million tons of coal, involving between \$40,000,000 and 45,000,000; and most of this money stayed right in the communities where the miners and truckers reside, and was spent and respent here. "]

[Reference#11: It keeps stores, banks, movies, restaurants, drinking places, gas stations open. It enables business people to employ help and buy advertising space in local newspapers. And so on.]

4. It may lead to the faster development of nationalization of mines because it challenges peoples' ideas of property rights.

[Reference #23: This "stealing" on such a grand scale in open daylight unquestionably causes hundreds of thousands of people-not only the bootleggers-to contemplate private property rights with less awe, and the eventual nationalization of coal mines possibly will come a bit easier and faster because of it.]