

# Fuel to the Fire

Listening Task | Screen 2 or 3

This script is an extract from Trinity College London's collection of scripts that have been purpose-written for screen. Each script provides a brief amount of context and some includes moments of direction. A glossary of screen-specific terms used can be found in the main anthology.

## Sample script



## LISTENING

Suggested playing age: 8-12  
 Suggested level: Screen 2 or 3  
 Approx length: 1 minute, 30 seconds

### FUEL TO THE FIRE

#### Context

A **CHILD** aged between eight and twelve stands listening to the new Chimney Sweepers Act as it is read out in the street. The story is set 1864. The child must live by its wits, always on guard, always hungry. The italics denote the Town Clerk reading directly from a newspaper.

#### EXT. STREET. EARLY MORNING.

A nameless **CHILD**, precise age unknown, listens to the **TOWN CLERK** reading aloud important news.

#### TOWN CLERK

Chimney Sweepers entering houses to sweep chimneys are not to bring with him Persons under Sixteen.

BEAT.

#### TOWN CLERK

It shall not be lawful for a Chimney Sweeper, on any Occasion of his entering a House or Building for the Purpose of sweeping, cleaning, or coring a Chimney or Flue therein knowingly allow a Person under the Age of Sixteen Years.../

BEAT.

#### TOWN CLERK

Stop distracting me, child! Silence as I continue...

BEAT.

**TOWN CLERK**

This Act maybe cited as “The Chimney Sweepers Regulation Act” and shall commence and take effect on the First Day of November One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

Which, my dear child, is today! Henceforth you are liberated!

BEAT.

**TOWN CLERK**

What’s troubling you, you scamp, I thought you’d be pleased!

**CHILD**

With no work, I’ll starve, Sir, and so will my family!

PAUSE.

**TOWN CLERK**

... What we give with one hand, we take with the other...

END.

# Acting for Screen scripts

Trinity's free-to-access collection of screen scripts includes over 60 specially written works. The scripts are non-gendered, include suggested playing age and have an approximate running time. All can be used for Trinity's industry-aligned Acting for Screen exams, offering engaging progression routes for learners aged 8 and over.



Access the full anthology  
[trinitycollege.com/ScreenScripts](https://trinitycollege.com/ScreenScripts)

