



**ENGLISH**

# American Tapestry

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## American Tapestry:

### Immigrant Children of the Bread and Roses Strike

In January of 1912, a Massachusetts labor law reduced the workweek from fifty-six to fifty-four hours. Mill owners reduced the salaries of struggling men, women and children who lived and worked under miserable conditions. The pay reduction increased tensions between workers and mill owners. As a result, thousands of immigrant workers speaking twenty-five different languages joined forces to fight for justice in what was later known as the Bread and Roses Strike. The workers' demands were: A pay increase of 15%, overtime pay for people who work more than 54 hours per week, and no punishment of workers who went on strike after they returned to their jobs.

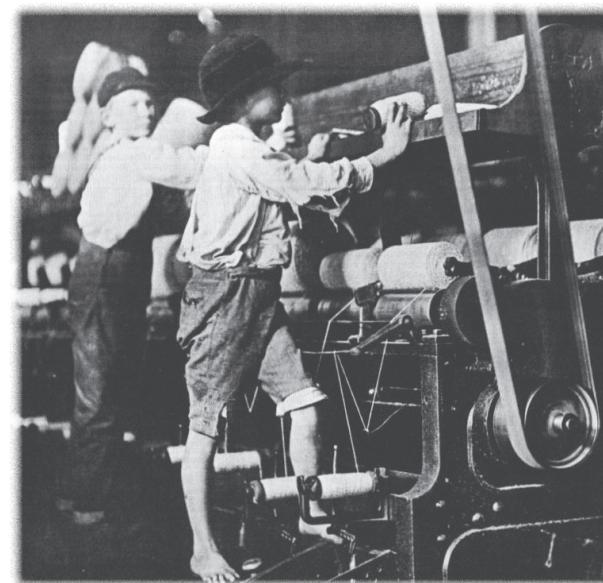
The winter strike meant that workers had little money for food and other necessities. In February, families attempted to relocate some of the children from Lawrence to other cities for their health and safety. Violence between strikers and local police reached a dangerous level. In one clash, police used brutal force to prevent parents from putting their children on a train to Philadelphia. In March of 1912, a Congressional investigation into conditions at the mills was launched and a delegation of child strikers from Lawrence testified in Washington D.C.

At the hearing, strikers testified about the poor working and living conditions in Lawrence, and asked that the mill owners grant their demands. Representatives from the mills testified that workers were paid fairly, according to their skill level. They argued that mill owners couldn't afford to pay their workers more, and if they were forced to do so the mills would go out of business, leaving thousands of workers unemployed. They claimed that union leaders from outside of Lawrence started the strike, and that many workers were intimidated to join once it started.



## Tisidu Amerikanu

Na Janeru di 1912, Stadu di Massachusetts faze un lei ki mingua hora di trabadju pa sumana di sinkuenta y seis pa siquenta y kuatu. Donus di fabrika di fazenda mingua pagamentu di homis, mudjes e mininus ki ta viveba y trabadjaba nun situasau mofinu. Es diminuisau di pagamentu kria konfusau entri trabadjador y donus di fabrikas. Komu risultadu, milharis di trabadjador imigranti di vinti y sinku differenti lingua djunta mon pa briga pa justisa, nu ki mas tardi ben ser konxedu pa Grevi di Pon ku Roza. Trabadjador pedi 15% di aumentu pa hora extra, pa tudu inpregadu ki trabadjas mas di 54 hora pa semana, tanben ki ninhun trabadjador ki mete na grevi dadu kastigu o kes torna ba pa tras.



Es grevi di Invernu kauza falta di dinheru pa konpra di kumida y otus prudutu. Na mes di Fevereru, familias tenta manda ses fidjus di Lawrence pa otu sidadis pa garanti ses saudi y suguransa. Viulensia entri manifistantis y pulisia traze grandi prigu. Nun konfrontu, pulisia uza brutalidadi pa stroba pais po ses fidjus na un konboiu

pa ba Philadelphia. Na Marsu di 1912, Kongresu mada invistiga kondisau di trabadju na fabrikas di fazenda. Un grupu di minunus, manifistantis, di Lawrence ba sirbi tistimunha na Washington D.C.

Na audiensia, manifistantis da tistimunha ma kondisau di vida y di trabadju na Lawrence e mau y es pidi pa donus di fabrika di fazenda aprova ses pididu. Riprzentantis di fabrikas tistimunha ma pagamentu era justu y konformi habilidadi di kada un di kes trabadjador. Es insisti ma donus di fabrika ka pode paga ses trabadjador mas txeu, y si es for obrigadu a paga mas, fabrikas ta fitxa, u ki ta dixaba milharis di trabadjador dizinpregadu. Es alega ma foi xefis di sindikatu di fora di Lawrence ki organiza grevi, y ki txeu trabadjador djunta ku-es dipos d-es ser amiasadu.

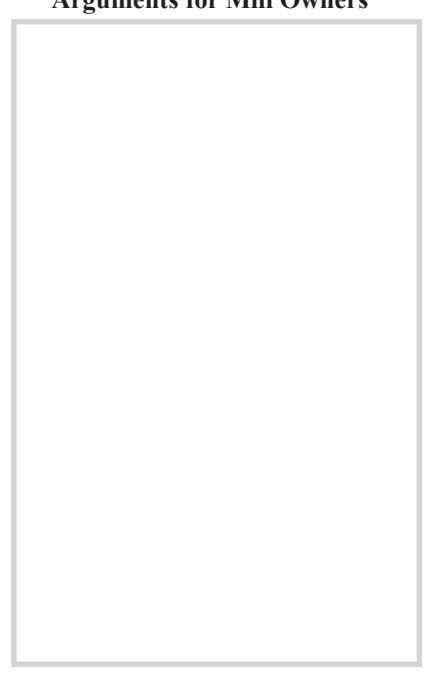
**American Tapestry**

**American Tapestry** transports audiences to the Congressional hearings of March 1912. As members of the Congressional committee charged with investigating conditions in Lawrence, you will decide how to end the strike and improve conditions for working families. You will witness key moments of these dramatic events, question witnesses, sift through conflicting testimony, debate the issues with your classmates, and vote on a solution.

**Questions to consider**

- Should companies be held responsible for the health and well-being of their workers? If so, under what condition? If not, why?
- Is it fair for people from outside of a community to put workers' livelihood at risk for a larger cause?
- How are children and other vulnerable people affected by a wide-spread conflict such as the Bread and Roses strike?
- Should people give up on a strike when it affects the health and safety of their family?
- How can opposing sides work together to resolve a conflict?

**Arguments for Workers****Arguments for Mill Owners**


**American Tapestry**

**Tisidu Amerikanu** ta leba publiku pa audiensia di Kongresu di Marsu di 1912. Komu membru di Kumite di Kongresu responsavel pa invistiga kondisau di trabadju na Lawrence, bu obligasan e disidi kumodi ki bu ta kaba ku es grevi y midjora kondisau di trabadju pa es familias. Bu ta ten opurtunidadi di asisti mumentus impurtanti des akontisimentus dramatikus, faze tistimunhas pergunta, izamina ku kuidadu dipuimentus kontrariu, dibilete es asuntus ku bu kulega di klasi y vota pa un sulusau.

**Perguntas pa analiza**

- Konpanhias debe ser responsavel pa saudi y ben star di ses inpregadus? Si bu ta pensa ki sin, di ki manera? Si bu ta pensa ma nau, pamodi?
- Bu ta atxa ma e kuretu pa gentis ki ka faze parti dun kumunidadi po vida di trabadjador di kel kumunidadi na prigu pa un grandi kauza?
- Kumodi ki mininus y argen koitadu ta ser afetadu pa un konflitu grandi sima Grevi di Pon ku Roza?
- Argen debe dizisti di faze grevi si grevi ta afeta saudi y suguransa di se familia?
- Kumo ki dos grupu di diferenti opiniau pode trabadja djuntu pa rezolve un problema?

**Opiniau di Trabadjador****Opiniau di Donus di Fabrika**



**January 1, 1912:** The Massachusetts legislature passes a new labor law reducing the work week from 56 hours to 54. To make up for the loss of profits, Mill owners in Lawrence and elsewhere decide to decrease weekly wages and speed up their machines.

**January 12, 1912:** A strike is officially declared at the Lawrence mills in response to the decrease in wages and the unsafe working conditions created by faster machines.

**January 13, 1912:** Lawrence's Mayor deputizes 20 firemen as police officers. By the following week, approximately 800 men served as a militia.

**January 20, 1912:** Packages containing dynamite are found in three Lawrence locations. A Syrian man linked to the mill workers is arrested as the mastermind of the dynamite plot. It is later discovered that the former mayor's son John Breen planted the dynamite to make it appear as though the strikers were using violence.

**January 26, 1912:** Mill owner William Wood agrees to meet with strike leader Joseph Ettor to discuss strikers' demands.

**January 29, 1912:** Anna LoPizzo, age 33, is killed by a stray bullet while passing a clash between strikers and police near her home.

**February 10, 1912:** Elizabeth Gurley Flynn helps arrange for 150 children to be sent to live with sympathetic families who live in other states. The children arrive safely in New York and Vermont.

**February 24, 1912:** Armed militia and police gather at the train station to prevent striking families from putting another group of children on a train to Boston and Philadelphia. Police arrest 15 of the 46 children present and several parents.

**February 26, 1912:** As a result of press coverage of the violence at the train station, the House Committee on Rules decides to investigate the strike. Representatives from both sides of the conflict are called to testify.

#### Timeline Reflection Questions

1. What were some of the reasons for the Lawrence strike?
2. List three things that happened as a result of the strike.
3. How were children affected by the strike?
4. Why were some people suspicious of the striking workers?

**1 di Janeru di 1912:** Lijislatura di Massachusetts pasa novu lei di trabadju ki mingua hora di trabadju pa sumana di 56 pa 54 hora. Donus di fabrika di fazenda di Lawrence y otus lugar disidi mingua salariu pa sumana y uza makinas mas rapidu.

**12 di Janeru di 1912:** Trabadjador di fabrikas di Lawrence faze grevi pamo disizau tumadu pa donus di fabrika di mingua salariu y tanbe pa kondisau prigozu kriadu ku uzu di makinas mas rapidu.

**13 di Janeru di 1912:** Prizidenti di Kamara di Lawrence numia 20 bonberus pulisia. Un sumana dipos, quazi 800 homis ba sirbi di milisia.

**20 di Janeru di 1912:** Kartuxus di dinamiti ta atxadu na tres lugar na Lawrence. Un Sirianu ligadu a trabadjador di fabrikas, ta prendeu komu kabeza di konspirasau di expluzau di dinamiti. Mas tardi, ta ben diskubridu ma John Breen, fidju di prizidenti di kamara, e ki po kes dinamiti pa faze otus pensa ma trabadjador ki faze grevi staba ta uza viulensia.

**26 di Janeru di 1912:** William Wood, donu di un fabrika ta seta riuni ku lider di grevi Joseph Ettor pa es kobersa sobri kuzas ki trabadjador sta ta pidi.

**29 di Janeru di 1912:** Anna LoPizzo di 33 anu ta more pertu di se kaza, vitima di un bala pirdidu, duranti un gerra entri manifestantis y pulisia.

**10 di Fevereru di 1912:** Elizabeth Gurley Flynn ta ranja manera di 150 mininus bai vive ku familias di otu status sulidariu ku manifestantis. Mininus ta txiga New Yorki y Vermont san y salvu.

**24 di Fevereru di 1912:** Milisia armadu y pulisia ta djunta na stasau di konboiu pa stroba familias di trabadjador ki sta na grevi po un grupu di mininus na konboiu di Boston pa Philadelphia. Pulisia ta prenre 15 di 46 mininus ki sta la y txeu pais.

**26 di Fevereru di 1912:** Notisia di viulensia na stasau di konboiu pa impresa ta leba Kamara di Diputadu disidi invistiga grevi. Kamara tanben ta txuma riprisentantis di kes dos ladu involvidu na insidenti na stasau di konboiu pa da tistimunha.

#### Perguntas sobri Historiku/Data

1. Kual foi alguns razau pa grevi na Lawrence?
2. Skrebe tres kuza ki kontise pamo grevi.
3. Kumodi ki mininus foi afetadu ku es grevi?
4. Pamodi ki alguns algen sta ta diskunfia di trabadjador ki faze grevi?

**American Federation of Labor (AFL):** one of the first labor unions in the United States, formed in 1886 under the leadership of Samuel Gompers. Women, former slaves, and immigrants were not allowed to join the union.

**Anarchist:** a person who believes in the elimination of government in favor of a social system based on voluntary cooperation.

**Exodus:** the departure of a large number of people. This term was used to describe the movement of the Lawrence children to New York City during the Bread and Roses Strike.

**Foreman:** a person in charge of a department or group of people in a factory.

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW):** also known as the Wobblies, this labor union provided support and leadership to the Lawrence strikers in 1912, and particularly reached out to immigrants and their families.

**Labor Union:** an organization formed for the purpose of maintaining fair wages, benefits, and good working conditions.

**Militia:** a group of volunteer citizens enrolled as soldiers, who are called upon during a time of emergency.

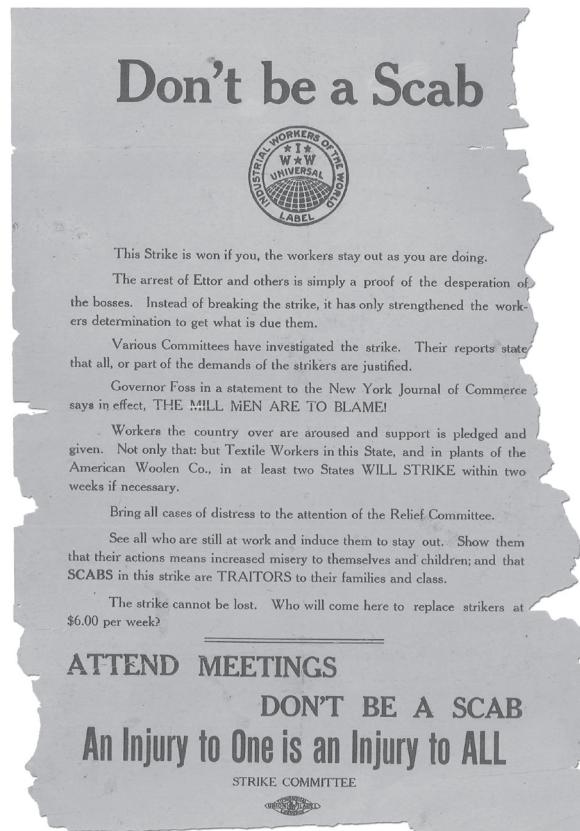
**Overtime:** work done beyond an employee's regular working hours.

**Picket Line:** a line of strikers or protesters outside a place of business. This tactic was used for the first time in New England during the Bread and Roses Strike.

**Scab:** a worker who refuses to join a labor union, participate in a strike, and takes a striking worker's place on the job.

**Strike:** to suspend work until employees' demands are met.

**Wage:** the amount of money an employee is paid, usually per hour.



**Federasau Americanu diTrabadju:** Un di kes primeru sindikatu di trabadjador di Stadus Unidu fundadu na 1886 sob lidiransa di Samuel Gompers. Mudjes, antigua skravus y imigrantis ka ta dixada entra nes sindikatu.

**Anarkista:** Un algen ki ta prifiri ilimina guvernu a favor di un sistema susial baziadu na kuoperasau vuluntariu.

**Ezudu:** Un monti di algen ki ta fuji di un lugar. Es palavra foi uzadu pa mostra numru grandi di minus di Lawrence ki pa Sidadi di Nova Yorki duranti Grevi di Ponku Roza.

**Kapatas:** Algen responsavel, o xefi dun dipartamentu, o un grupu di gentis nun fabrika.

**Trabadjadoris di Industria Mundial:**

Tanbe kunhesudu como Wobblies, es sindikatu di trabadjador ta da ajuda y lidiransa a trabadjador di Lawrence na grevi di 1912 y spsialmenti es djuda imigrantis y ses familia.

**Sindikatu:** Un organizasau fundadu pa mante salariu justu, binifisiu, y bon kondisau di trabadju.

**Milisia:** Un grupu di sidadau, voluntariu, ki ta atua kuma soldadu duranti imirjensia.

**Hora Extra:** Trabadju fetu dipos di hora rigular.

**Piketi di Grevi:** Un fila di manifestantis fora di un idifisiu o lugar di trabadju. Es tatika foi uzadu pa primeru bez na Nova Inglaterra duranti Grevi di Ponku Roza.

**Fura-Grevi:** Un trabadjador ki ta rikuza ser membru di sindikatu, partisipa na grevi y ta bai trabadja na lugar di trabadjador ki sta na grevi.

**Grevi:** Paralizasau di trabadju te ki izijensia o pididu di trabadjador e kunpridu pa donus o xefis di trabadju.

**Wage:** Salariu o ordenadu ki un impregadu ta rasebi, giralmenti pa hora.



## Russian

Я не понимаю (Ya nee pahneemayoo)	I don't understand.
Галубчик (galoopchik)	little dove
Hem (nyet)	no
Emo все (Etta vsyaw!)	That's it!
Милюй (mealy)	dear

## Italian

Dio mio! Che giornata!	My God! What a day!
Ah, miei piedi!	Ah, my feet!
Ai, é 'na disgraziata.	That's a shame!
Cosa?	What?
Mo ch'pozzu fare?	What am I supposed to do?
tesora	darling
na brava ragazza	a nice girl
mi dispiace	I'm sorry
Buonna notte	Goodnight
Si, certo	Yes, of course
e niente	it's nothing
tanti soldi	a lot of money
aspetta	wait
polizia	police
grazie	thank you
sciopero	strike
Tutto sarà bene!	Everything's going to be fine!
ciao	goodbye
carina	dear
Lasciate le macchine!	Leave the machines!
Più pane!	More bread!

## Polish

Za niskie wyplaty!	Short pay!
Przestajmy pracowac!	Stop working!
Strajk!	Strike!
Więcej chleba!	More bread!
Witaj moja droga	Hello my dear
Tak	Yes
Kocham cie!	I love you!
Po co?	Why?

## Rusu

Я не понимаю (Ya nee pahneemayoo)	N ka intende.
Галубчик (galoopchik)	ponbinha/ ponba nobu
Hem (nyet)	Nau/nou
Emo все (Etta vsyaw!)	Dja sta!
Милюй (mealy)	kirida /kretxeu

## Italianu

Dio mio! Che giornata!	O Deus! Forti Dia
Ah, miei piedi!	O nha pe!
Ai, é 'na disgraziata.	Ki virgonha/ ki tristeza
Cosa?	Kuze?
Mo ch'pozzu fare?	Kuze ki e pan faze?
Tesora	kretxeu/ kirida/ amor
na brava ragazza	minina bonita
mi dispiace	diskulpa/diskulpan
Buonna notte	Bon noiti
Si, certo	Sin, konsirteza
e niente	e ka nada
tanti soldi	dinheru txeu
aspetta	spera
polizia	pulisia
grazie	obrigadu
sciopero	grevi
Tutto sarà bene!	Tudu ta fika dretu
ciao	Deus ba ku bo
carina	kretxeu
Lasciate le macchine!	Dixa kes makinas!
Più pane!	Mas pon!

## Pulaku

Za niskie wyplaty!	Pagamentu mofinu o poku!
Przestajmy pracowac!	Para trabadju!
Strajk!	Grevi!
Więcej chleba!	Mas Pon!
Witaj moja droga	Ola kretxeu
Tak	Sin
Kocham cie!	N ta amabu; N ta ama-bu!
Po co?	Pamodi? Modi?

## Union Leaders

**JOSEPH ETTOR**, known as “Smiling Joe,” began leading the IWW Local 20 strikers in Lawrence after receiving a telegram from young Italian striker Angelo Rocco. Ettor urged peace, but violence often followed his speeches, and he was blamed for the actions of others.

**WILLIAM “BIG BILL” HAYWOOD** founded the Industrial Workers of the World, or “one big union,” in 1905. In the Lawrence mill strike, Haywood introduced a new strike tactic: the endless picket line.

## Representatives of the Mills

**AUSTIN P. WADE**, cashier of the Ayer Mill, which was owned by the American Woolen Company. Wade testified on behalf of the mills at the Congressional Hearings. In the play, Wade is played by a woman as “Mrs. Austin P. Wade.”

**WILLIAM WOOD**, president of the American Woolen Company, owned the Ayer and Wood Mills in Lawrence. Because the Wood Mill was the largest in the country, he became a primary target for strikers.

## Child Strikers

**SAMUEL GOLDBERG** began working for the American Woolen Company at age 14. He testified at the Congressional hearings about the wages and long hours at the mills. He also witnessed violence against strikers at the mills and at the train station during the children’s exodus.

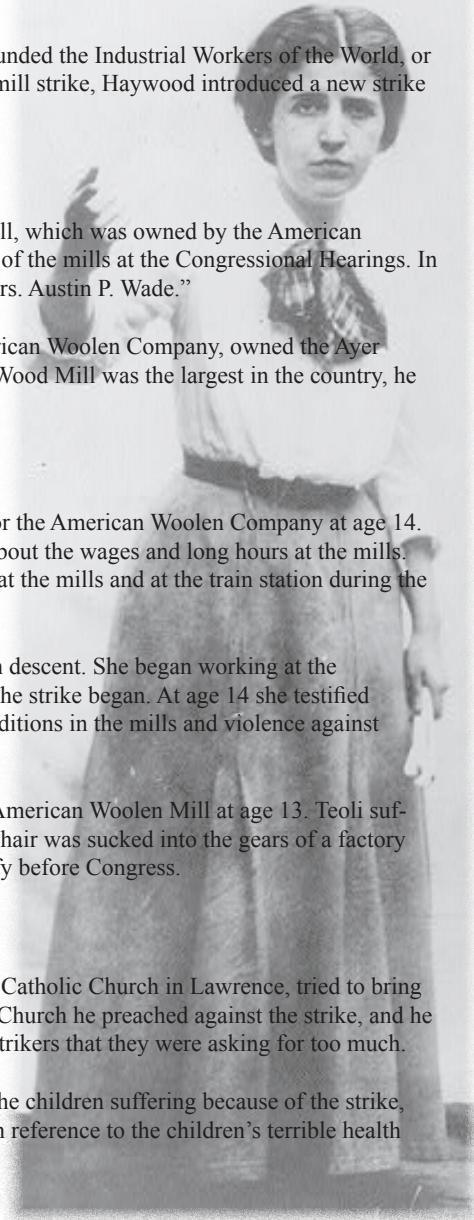
**VICTORIA WENNARYZK** was of Polish descent. She began working at the American Woolen Mill five months before the strike began. At age 14 she testified before Congress about terrible working conditions in the mills and violence against strikers.

**CARMELLA TEOLI** began working for American Woolen Mill at age 13. Teoli suffered a serious injury to her scalp when her hair was sucked into the gears of a factory machine. She was the twelfth child to testify before Congress.

## Community Leaders

**FATHER MILANESE**, acting head of the Catholic Church in Lawrence, tried to bring about a peaceful resolution to the strike. In Church he preached against the strike, and he even went door to door trying to convince strikers that they were asking for too much.

**MARGARET SANGER** nursed many of the children suffering because of the strike, and testified at the congressional hearings in reference to the children’s terrible health under the mill management.



## Dirigentis o lider di Sindikatu

**JOSEPH ETTOR**, kunhisidu komu “Joe Surridenti,” kumesa se lidiransa na IWW (Trabadjador di Industria Mundial) ku 20 manifestantis na Lawrence dipos kel rasebe un telegrafo di un manifestanti Italianu, di idadi poku, di nomi Angelo Rocco. Ettor ta apela pa paz, ma se diskursu txeu bez era sigidu ku viulensia, y el era senpri kulpadu pa asau di otus.

**WILLIAM “BIG BILL” HAYWOOD** funda Trabadjador di Industria Mundial, o “un grandi sindikatu.” na 1905. Na grevi di fabrika di fazenda di Lawrence, Haywood aprizenta un novu tatika kunhisidu pa: piketi di grevi sin fin.

## Riprzentantis di Fabrika

**AUSTIN P. WADE**, Kaxeru di Fabrika Ayer ki pirtenseba a American Woolen Company (Konpanhia di Lan Amerikanu). Wade tistimunha a favor di fabrikas na Audiensia di Kongresu. Nes pesa di tiatru, papel di Wade e fetu pa un mudje ku nomi di, “Dona Austin P. Wade.”

**WILLIAM WOOD**, prizidenti di Konpanhia di Lan Amerikanu di Ayer y Woods Fabrika di Lawrence. Pamodi Fabrika Wood era mas grandi ki tinhia na pais, William era prinsipal alvu di manifestantis.

## Mininus Manifestantis o grevistas

**SAMUEL GOLDBERG** kumesa ta trabadja pa Konpanhia di Lan Amerikanu a partir di 14 anu. El foi tistimunha na Audensia di Kongresu sobri pagamentu y horas di trabadju longu na fabrikas. El sta prizenti y el tistimunha viulensia kontra manifestantis na fabrika y stasau di konboiu.

**VICTORIA WENNARYZK**, di disendensia Pulaku. El kumesa ta trabadja na Konpanhia di Lan Amerikanu sinku mes antis di grevi kumesa. Kantu el tinhia 14 anu el sirbi tistimunha na Kongresu sobri mau kondisau di trabadju na fabrikas y viulensia kontra manifestantis.

**CARMELLA TEOLI** kumesa ta trabadja na Konpanhia di Lan Amerikanu ku 13 anu. Teoli foi vitima di un firimentu gravi na kabesa kantu engrinajen di makina puxa se kabelu. El foi desimu sigundu mininu ki tistimunha na Kongresu.

## Dirigenti o Lider di Kumunidadi

**FATHER MILANESE**, director en sirvisu di Igreja Katolika na Lawrence, el tenta ranja sulusau di paz pa grevi. Na Igreja el ta prega kontra grevi, y ate el anda di porta en porta ta tenta konvense manifestantis ma es staba ta izigi dimas.

**MARGARET SANGER** el tuma konta di txeu mininus ki sta ta sufre pamo grevi, y el tistimunha na Kongresu a rispeitu di mau kondisau di saudi ki mininus tinhia baxu di administrasau di fabrikas di fazenda.

As members of the U.S. Congress, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the following key players. Write down some questions that you may ask.

**Mrs. Austin P. Wade**, a cashier at the Ayer Mill:

**Carmella Teoli**, a young mill worker on strike, who suffered a head injury while working at the American Woolen Mill:

**Father Milanese**, a Catholic priest who has ministered to the needs of many working families in Lawrence and believes that workers should end the strike:

**Samuel Goldberg**, another young mill worker, also on strike, who witnessed the confrontation between families and militia at the Lawrence train station:

Komu membru di Kongresu di Stadus Unidu, bu ten opurtunidadi di faze pregunta a signisit ator impurtanti. Skrebe alguns perguntas ki bu pode faze.

**Bà Austin P. Wade**, Kaxeru na Fabrika Ayer:

**Carmella Teoli**, un trabadjadora, di poku idadi ki faze grevi, y ki sufre un ferimento gravi na Fabrika de Lan Amerikanu:

**Father Milanese**, Padre Katoliku ki kuida di txeu nisisidadi di trabadjador di Lawrence y ki ta akridita ma trabadjador debe kaba ku grevi:

**Samuel Goldberg**, un otu trabadjador di fabrika, di poku idadi, ki tanben faze grevi y tistimunha konfrontu entri familias y milisia na stasau di konboiu di Lawrence:

**TheatreEspresso** performs at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston (in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Court), and in schools and museums throughout New England. The company thanks Mass Humanities and the following foundations for their generous support.



Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust Fund, Clipper Ship Foundation, Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park, Foley Hoag Foundation, Immigrant City Archives, National Endowment for the Arts, C. Pringle Charitable Foundation, Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation, and the White Fund

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Since 1992, **TheatreEspresso** has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. **TheatreEspresso**'s work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations, based on actual historical events, that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. By asking students to consider themselves participants in the drama, the company engages students in examining contradictory events and testimony in order to reach their decisions.

**TheatreEspresso** does not advocate any one viewpoint, but hopes to compel students to relate historical events to contemporary issues. **TheatreEspresso** is in residence at Wheelock Family Theatre.



For further information, visit our website at  
[www.TheatreEspresso.org](http://www.TheatreEspresso.org)