

Hard Times

Coketown is the setting, in which to depict the plight of the poor and highlight the self-interest of the middle classes. Thomas Gradgrind raises his children according to the rational philosophy of fact and self-interest, devoid of human values. The oldest, Louisa, dutifully marries Josiah Bounderby, in whose bank the next, Tom, is apprenticed. Tom, robs the bank tries to implicate one of Bounderby's factory hands, is found out, flees the country and dies. The one good man, the factory hand, dies in an accident. Bounderby dies. Gradgrind renounces his philosophy, and Louisa, who does not remarry, learns warmth and compassion.

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