



A Mill Girl Tells Her Story of Work

Lucy Larcom worked in the mills at Lowell as a young woman. Forty years later, she described her experiences in her book *An Idyl of Work*. She dedicated the book “to working women.”

...When I first learned to **doff bobbins**
I thought it play
But when you do the same thing twenty times-
A hundred times a day-
It is so dull!...

Vocabulary

idyl: a short poem describing an ideal or perfect scene

doff bobbins: take off empty spindles and replace them with full ones

Source: Lucy Larcom, *An Idyl of Work* (Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1875) 49, from University of Virginia Library,

http://xtf.lib.virginia.edu/xtf/view?docId=chadwyck_ap/uvaGenText/tei/chap_AM0116.xml.

I. What feeling about mill work do you get from this passage?