

Why did some children turn to crime?

Source: Prison Admissions register <http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/netrules/prison.htm>

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Look carefully at the pages from the prison admissions register. The information recorded there gives us some very useful clues. But some questions remained unanswered:-

Isabella Petry was 14 when she stole some sheets. She had been born in Scotland and worked as a servant. She had scars on both her arms.

Key questions for you to discuss:-

- Why had she stolen the sheets?
- Why steal something so basic?
- What do you think had happened to her to leave the girl scarred on both arms?
- Why had she left Scotland?

John Parker was 15 when he stole some cotton waste. He had been born in Nottingham and worked as a porter. He had a scar on his left wrist and another under the left side of his chin.

Key questions for you to discuss:-

- Why had he stolen cotton waste?
- What had happened to John to leave him scarred on his left wrist and under his chin?

Both these children had turned to crime.

- Why had they risked being punished so harshly for so little gain?
- What had driven them to take such desperate steps?

