

Reform means to make things better. Jane Addams saw things in Chicago to reform. She saw poor people living in crowded neighborhoods. The houses were small. They did not have enough rooms for all of the people who lived in them. The streets were dirty. People did not have places to get clean water. They did not have places to wash. Jane Addams wanted to help poor people have a better life. She believed that helping poor people would make everyone's life better. She would make Chicago better.

In 1889 Jane Addams set up a place to help people. She called it Hull-House. Hull-House was a settlement house. It helped immigrants to Chicago. Immigrants are people who move to a new country. The immigrants needed to find homes. They needed to learn English. They needed to learn about the city. Jane Addams wanted to teach them the skills they needed to live well on their own. When people came to thank her, that was fine. But she liked it better when they did not come back. She was glad that they were independent.

Jane Addams had more than one idea about how to help the people of Chicago. One thing she did was to live in the same community where the poor people lived. This helped her to understand their problems. She listened to them. She helped them work together to change things in their neighborhood. She was one of Chicago's first community organizers.

Another thing Jane Addams did was talk to Chicago's leaders. Jane Addams was a powerful woman. She knew the Mayor. She talked to him and the other leaders about the problems of the poor people. Sometimes the leaders listened. Sometimes they did not. Someone once heard the mayor say "Here comes that woman again, let's get out of here."

But she kept trying. She made changes. She made the schools better. She helped to set up playgrounds. She made people's jobs safer. She fought for people to get better pay. She even became the Garbage Inspector in her ward. Then she could help clean up the neighborhood.

Jane Addams worked with many other people to help families. She helped neighborhoods. She became famous around the world for her hard work. She won a Nobel Peace Prize. That is a very important honor. Jane Addams left Chicago an important legacy. Hull-House is still in Chicago today. It still helps people make progress. She showed how one person can make progress for a whole city.

## Identify, analyze, and infer motive - Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question*

1. Why did Jane Addams move to the community where poor people lived?

- a. She was poor.
- b. She wanted to be near them.
- c. She wanted to understand them.
- d. She liked living there.

3. Why did Jane Addams like it if people did not come back to thank her?

- a. She had done her job well.
- b. They would ask for money.
- c. She could not help them.
- d. She was tired.

2. Why did the mayor want to avoid Jane Addams?

- a. She was angry.
- b. She demanded changes.
- c. She was difficult to talk with.
- d. She asked him for money.

4. Why would Jane Addams want to be Garbage Inspector?

- a. so she could make changes
- b. so she could see the streets
- c. so she could earn money
- d. so she could find out more

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Why did Jane Addams want to help people?*

---

---

---

### **TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	b	a	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
She wanted to enable them to have better lives.