Riis, *Other Half*
Addams, *Subjective Necessity*

Study Questions

1. One of the early social investigators, Jacob Riis took middle class Americans on a tour of the sweatshops that produced much of the clothing manufactured in the New York garment district and sold in the great stores described by Leach and Benson. The job he gave himself was recording the *objective conditions* of the sweated urban poor. What working conditions did Riis find operating in the industrial homework at the turn of the century? What was the impact of those conditions on family life and morals, as Riis saw it? Whom and what did he blame? Do you see him as a sympathetic observer?

2. Jane Addams, the most prominent of the thousands of middle class settlement workers of the Progressive Era, addresses a different but related question in her piece: what are the *subjective conditions* that let thousands of Americans, mostly young, college educated women, to take up settlement work? What does her account reveal about the class position of those women? the intellectual and social sources of their sympathy for the poor? their attitudes toward class and gender? the limits of their reformism? Is Addams fundamentally concerned with social justice?