***Lyddie***

***Chapter 8 – Number Five, Concord Corporation***

Lyddie wakes up and is confused about where she is.  She sees five girls all getting up and trying to share one sink to wash their faces.  Then, Lyddie remembers Mrs. Bedlow, the coachman's sister, had given her a room at her [boardinghouse](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85597#curr) .

The boarding house was huge compared to what Lyddie was used to, but it was filled with so many girls it almost didn't feel big once she was inside.



Lyddie comes downstairs from her attic room to find Mrs. Bedlow who tells her that her clothes and boots [just won't do](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85598#curr) .  Mrs. Bedlow tells her that if she wants to get a job at the Concord Corporation she is going to need to look [presentable](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85600#curr) .  Lyddie decides she must use some of the money that Triphena [loaned](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85599#curr) her to get a new dress and boots.

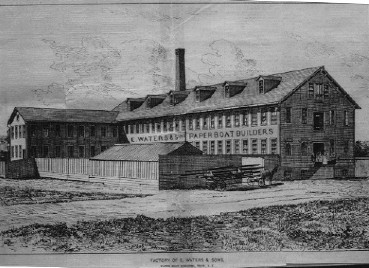
Lyddie goes into town to the store and buys herself these things, even though she really does not want to spend any money.



As Lyddie is helping to serve breakfast, a few girls come up to her and apologize for not getting to introduce themselves sooner.  Lyddie realizes that she was so tired the night that she arrived she had not even introduced herself to her roommates.  Lyddie meets her roommates, Amelia, Betsy, and Prudence.  Lyddie feels like these girls sound educated and like their names are important so she introduces herself as Lydia instead of Lyddie.



The next morning, Mrs. Bedlow takes Lyddie to the Concord Corporation Factory so that she can get a job.  Lyddie is [intimidated](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85601#curr)  by all of the new, huge, and noisy [machinery](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85602#curr) .  Lyddie and Mrs. Bedlow speak to a man who offers Lyddie a one year [contract](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85603#curr)  with the corporation.  Lyddie signs the contract and accepts the job even though she can't read the contract.  She promises herself that she will learn to read well enough to figure out what the contract says.



After getting her [smallpox shot](http://bookbuilder.cast.org/view_glossary.php?book=110477&word=85604#curr)  and waiting a few days until she was finally allowed to start work, Mrs. Bedlow walked with Lyddie to the factory for her first day.  Lyddie felt afriad and a little embarassed as she walked past all of the other girls.  Mrs. Bedlow knew Lyddie was afraid and said "this all must be scary for a simple farm girl".

Soon, Mrs. Bedlow gave Lyddie a little push towards the door of the weaving room and said "Mr. Marsden is expecting you!"

Mrs. Bedlow left and Lyddie went inside to start her first day of work.

*Lyddie* is a historical fiction about a girl who moves from farm to factory in the Industrial Revolution.

In chapter 8, Lyddie has left the farm to try to make it as a factory girl. She takes a coach, but on the way the coach gets stuck.  She impresses the driver by helping organize its unsticking.  She then meets the coach driver’s sister, Mrs. Bedlow.  Lyddie and Mrs. Bedlow become friends, and Mrs. Bedlow buys Lyddie clothes and gets her a job at a factory and a room in a boardinghouse.  Lyddie’s roommates also work at the same factory.

In chapter 9, Lyddie begins her job in the weaving room at the factory.  The factory is loud, dirty and dangerous, but she meets Diana Goss, who shows her the ropes.  Diana even helps Lyddie send letters home.  However, Lyddie’s roommates are skeptical of Diana, whom they call an agitator because she wants to advocate for higher wages and better working conditions.

In chapter eight of [*Lyddie*](https://www.enotes.com/topics/lyddie?en_action=hh_answer_body_click&en_label=%2Fhomework-help%2Fwhat-happens-chapter-8-479608%23answer-683163&en_category=internal_campaign) we find that Lyddie has left for Lowell. She is convinced that she will have a better chance at making a living by working in the factory in Lowell. Once Lyddie arrives in Lowell she is befriended by Mrs. Bedlow. Mrs. Bedlow takes a liking to Lyddie and gives her money to buy new clothes and arranges for Lyddie to get a job in the factory that is run by Concord Corporation.

Lyddie finds a place to stay at the boarding house in town. In this chapter Lyddie meets Amelia, Prudence and Betsy, who work in the factory as well. Lyddie is now starting a new phase in her life and she has met some of the women who will have a big influence on her.

Throughout the whole book, Lyddie struggles to find her place and take care of herself. She is essentially alone, with her mother having been put in a mental hospital and her father gone, so Lyddie has built up a wall around herself to try to protect her feelings. She doesn't realize it yet, but those walls are starting to come down with the help of these women.