Task 1

Look at the following selection of book covers and theatre posters for this text. What can you infer from the images, font style, lighting, and general mood?
Task 2

Read the following sequence of events and then decide: Who is responsible for what happens? You could discuss this in pairs or groups.

A young girl is working in a minimum wage job. She is sacked for asking for a pay rise.

She job hunts for a few weeks, and is then offered a job at a respectable store. She is sacked because a rich customer gets upset with her.

She can’t get any more work, and turns to prostitution, where a man takes pity on her, feeds and houses her. When he needs the relationship to end, she is turned out onto the streets again.

She meets another man who is kind to her, but takes advantage of her when he is drunk. She falls pregnant, but they split up because his parents don’t know about her and wouldn’t approve of her.

She goes to a charity to ask for their support, but the fake name that she chooses upsets one of the charity leaders. They refuse to help her.

Finally, the girl is found dead, having taken her own life.

Task 3

The text is set in 1912. Look at the following facts about this British era, and consider your reaction to them. How does this compare with modern day Britain?

- The First World War would start in two years.
- The Titanic sank.
- Only 40% of people were literate.
- Women were subservient to men. Rich women had the potential to be married and live comfortably, but a poor woman (married or single) was seen as cheap labour.
- Women earned around 55% of the wage men were paid, and an average working week was 56 hours.
- The richest 10% of the population owned 90% of the money in the UK. What did that leave for the other 90% of the people?
- The upper and lower classes did not mix.
- The rich were happy with life as it was, but the poor wanted a better future.