



IQDA Teaching Resources: Transcript for audio clip

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RESP: ... there wasn't enough ambition or motivation [in school], like a lot of lads in particular didn't have an interest in school, their parents, fathers in particular, didn't see the need. Just before my generation now, I would say my older brothers and people older than that, for some reason they didn't have an interest in education and they were off to England at 16 or 17. Did okay, some of them, some didn't. Like if you go to Kilburn now you'll see Irish guys over there drinking you know and no future. Others did well you know. The girls were a bit better I think, even parents saw that girls might need education a bit more, but even that in some cases they went off to England as well. I remember like girls coming home near me, and the fellows were fine, they went over and went to work on building sites with other Connemara fellows and Mayo fellows. And I used to go over to my brothers in Kilburn and I'd speak more Irish over there for a day or two than I would at home, and they kept their own accents. But the poor girls who went over went to work in factories and I used to see girls coming home with a terrible English accent, and they'd no choice because they wouldn't make themselves heard or they couldn't communicate if they didn't kind of speak like the English with them. You see in Coronation Street there, you know the "Put the kettle on" sort of stuff? It was kind of sad to see a girl who was maybe talking Irish only up to a year before all of a sudden come home with slang, they'd no choice, they had to go into factories.