

## **Match Boy, Match Girl**

Match boy, \_\_\_\_\_  
Match girl, \_\_\_\_\_  
Match boy, \_\_\_\_\_  
Match girl \_\_\_\_\_

Twelve hours a day in hot stinking rooms,  
Cutting up the splints or dipping the tips  
Twelve hours a day in the phosphorus fumes  
Rotting teeth, rotting jaw, sores on the lips.

When you strike a match, think of what it is you're using  
An instant flare of flame has a price beyond excusing  
The work of the children is not of their own choosing  
In the work that they do, their very lives they're losing.

Match boy, \_\_\_\_\_  
Match girl, \_\_\_\_\_  
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Cutting up the splints or dipping the tips  
Twelve hours a day in the phosphorus fumes  
Rotting teeth, rotting jaw, sores on the lips.

When you strike a match, know the manner of its making  
How a child will work almost every hour of waking  
How the phosphorus fumes cause decay and sores and aching  
Doesn't anyone care, the toll that this is taking?

Match boy, \_\_\_\_\_  
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Match girl \_\_\_\_\_

Twelve hours a day in hot stinking rooms,  
Cutting up the splints or dipping the tips  
Twelve hours a day in the phosphorus fumes  
Rotting teeth, rotting jaw, sores on the lips.

When you strike a match, do not find yourself denying  
That the child at work, whose matches you are buying  
Is breathing poisons that will keep her crying  
Or maybe it's too late, and she is dying.

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Match girl, \_\_\_\_\_  
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