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## **Historical role play/ time travel with teenagers, grade 7, Ljungbyskolan May, 1900 at the dairy in Råby, close to the village of Ljungbyholm**

### **Facts**

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great change and upheaval in Sweden. Many people left the countryside and the life as farmers, for an industrial job in the city.

There were many new technical inventions in the community, such as railways, cars, telephones, electricity etc. Most people believed in the future and thought that almost anything was possible. But there were still big differences between rich and poor, new and old.

Everybody read the news about discoveries, thrilling stories of great explorers and for example life in America, in the local newspaper. Many people emigrated to America (1,2 million Swedes altogether) to build a better future for themselves and their families. They wrote letters back and sent money to their relatives in Sweden. Some even came back after a few years. Others went to Germany to work for a year or two.

### **Scenario, The dairy at Råby 1900**

It is the year 1900 at the old Råby dairy, just outside the village of Ljungbyholm, 15 kilometres south of Kalmar. The owner, farmer Elof Johansson, wants to make a new start for the old dairy. He believes in the future and for better opportunities to sell his products. The biggest reason for his optimism is the opening of the new railroad between Kalmar and Ljungbyholm, only some weeks ago. The railway-station is situated in the centre of Ljungbyholm. There is also another reason. Soon there's going to be a big farmers' meeting in Kalmar and a competition in who is the best producer of dairy products in the area. It would be a good start for the businesses if Johansson's cheeses became well known for people outside Ljungbyholm. Perhaps they will even win a price. Johansson's wife, Ida has already made some extra big cheeses for this purpose.

Today neighbours and friends of the Johansson family are at Råby to help with the final preparations for the restart of the dairy. There has to be a lot of cleaning, the barn must be painted, the machines need to be checked. Johansson has, some weeks ago, ordered a new machine, a separator, for the dairy. He is expecting an agent from the company AB Separator in Stockholm to deliver the separator any day. Perhaps this is the day? Rumours about this new and fantastic machine have spread in the neighbourhood. Even the old school teacher Rydén, has urged the children at school to make a visit this day, in order to get a chance to see this revolutionary invention. Perhaps they can learn something new and even taste one of the new-made cheeses. And of course they will help in the cleaning and setting up the dairy. Hopefully they will get some food in return. If they are lucky, the fiddler comes by on his way to the dance later in the evening.

### **Key questions**

- What do we think of all new ideas and inventions? What do we want to keep of the old traditions and tools?
- How do we look upon strangers? From other regions? From other countries?
- How do we want the future to be? For ourselves? For the community?  
Should we stay or leave? Maybe even emigrate to America?

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### Roles

The teenagers are the schoolchildren from Ljungbyholm coming to help the Johansson's. The teachers and the people from the local historical society are neighbours and friends. There is a special list of those neighbours/ friends.

Two persons from the museum are Elof and Ida Johansson.

### Activities

The girls help the women to

- Prepare the new cheese
- Make coffee (roast, grind and boil)
- Prepare the meal – sandwiches and soup
- Churn butter
- Wash clothes, clean
- Embroidery, knitting, crochet

The boys help the men to

- Judge the quality of the new cheese
- Cut firewood
- Make red paint
- Paint the barn
- Polish the carriage
- Do wood work – rake teeth, clothes pegs etc.

### Time plan

07.00 Set up

09.00 The students arrive. Introduction

Change of dresses

Time travel

09.45 Start of activities

10.30 Coffee with rusks

The agent from AB Separator arrives

11.00 Activities continues

12.00 Meal

Music and dance

13.00 A photographer

13.20 Time travel back

Short reflection

Change of dresses

14.00 The students leave

Wash up, pack etc.

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Helen Eklund, Kalmar Läns Museum

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## Role cards

Octavia is one of the passenger ships operating the line Liverpool - Cape Town, at the turn of the century 1900. 1900 the ship has temporary been rented by General Redver Buller, who has taken a time-out from the Anglo-Boer War. He sails the ship from Hull to Kalmar with a cargo of coal and will bring timber back to Hull. He uses the ordinary crew of the ship but also take some passengers.

Octavia arrives in Kalmar in May and the crew and the passengers have some days off before loading the timber. Some of them take the new railroad from Kalmar to Ljungbyholm, to have lunch at the Railroad hotel in Ljungbyholm. But the hotel is closed. Instead they meet a person who is on her/ his way to the dairy in Råby. The person has been in America and speaks English. They get interested and accompany the person to Råby.

### Roles, Crew of Octavia

- **(First) Mate**
- **Cook**
- **Steward, stewardess**
- **Machine operator**

### Passangers on Octavia

- **The painter Robert Hillingford**  
He has made several paintings from the Anglo-Boer war  
(Bring papers and pencil for sketching/ drawing)
- **Other passangers**

Pick your own character and write your role card. You can choose if you are from the Cape Colony or from Europe. Use the knowledge you have about life in 1900 when writing your role card. Think about the key questions, too.

EW/KLM