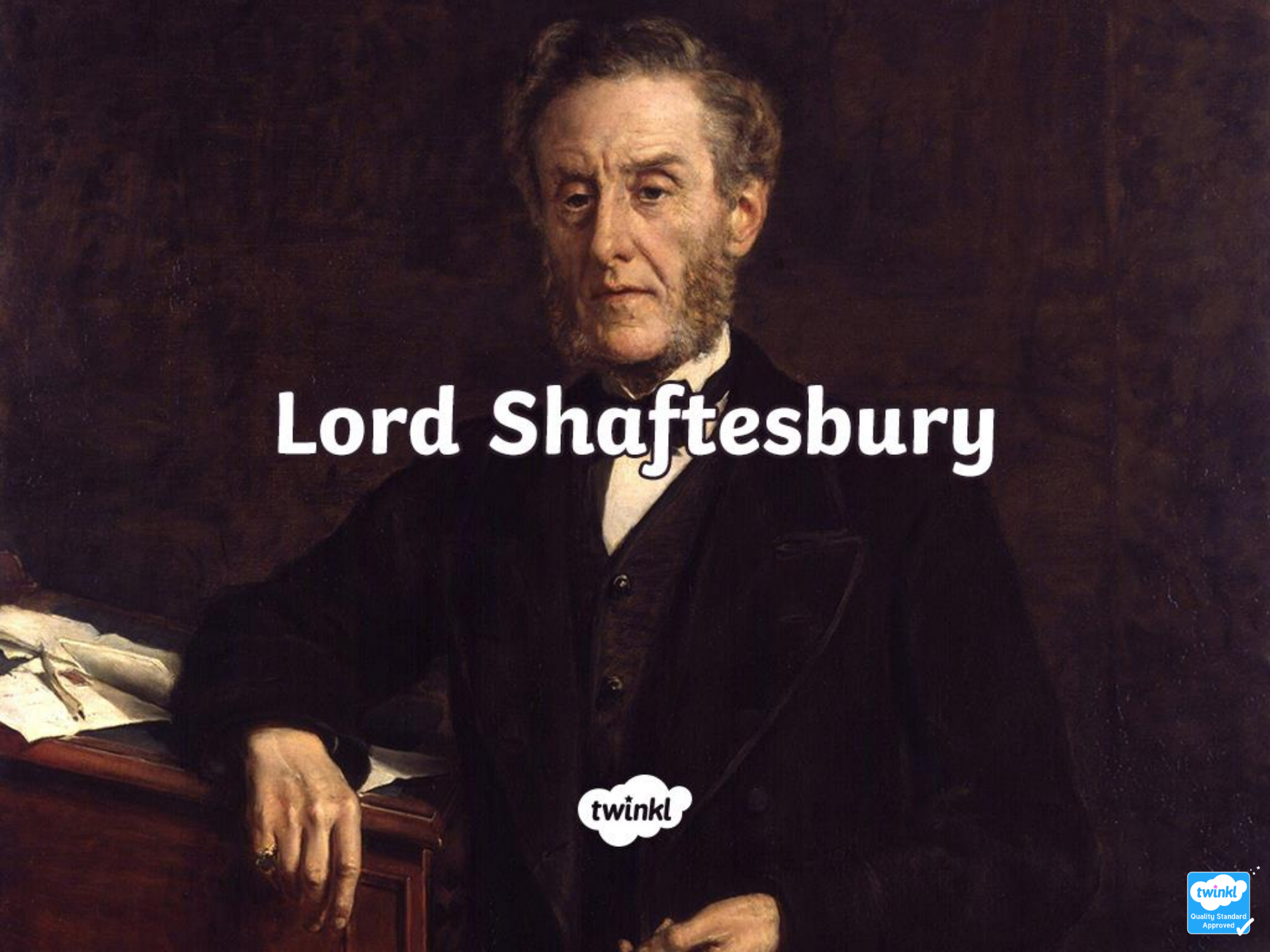
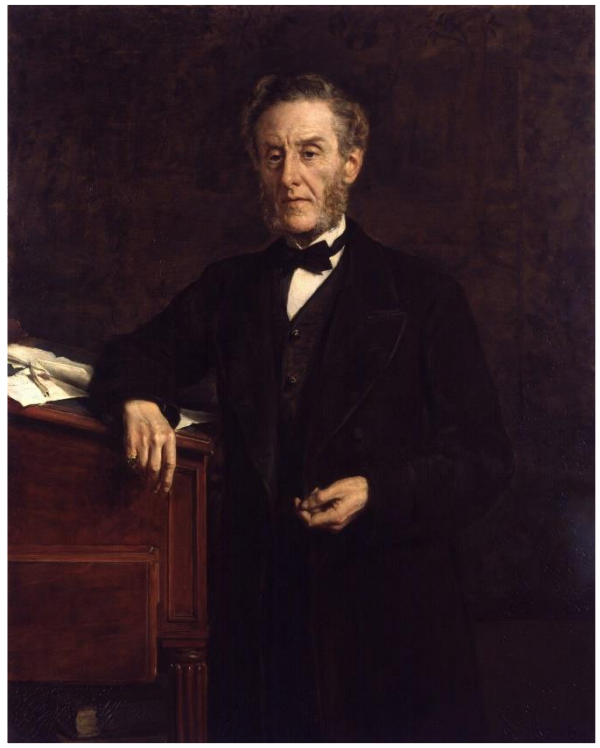

Lord Shaftesbury
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Lord Shaftesbury (1801 - 1885)

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, was born in London on 28th April 1801. He was known as Lord Ashley until his father's death in 1851, when he became Lord Shaftesbury.

Lord Shaftesbury was:

- an English politician;
- a philanthropist (someone who cares for and wants to make life better for others);
- a social reformer (someone who campaigns for and brings about change for the better in society).



Lord Shaftesbury and Asylums

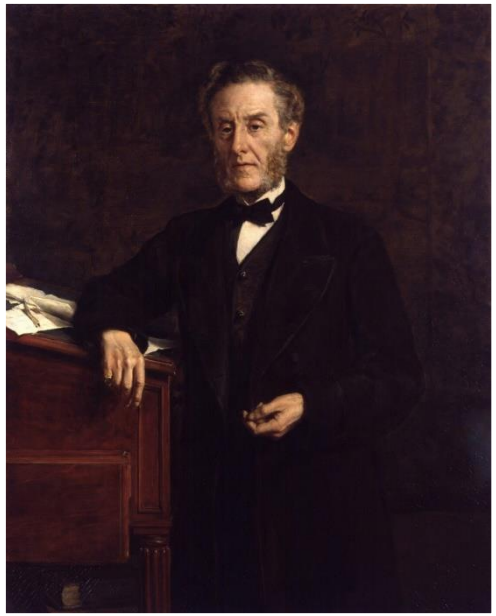
Lord Ashley was elected as a Member of Parliament in June 1826. In 1827, he began investigating the treatment of lunatics in asylums.

Lunatic was the word used at the time to describe people who were mentally ill and asylums were places where these patients were sent to live.

Facts about Asylums in the 1820s:

- Conditions were awful.
- Patients were treated badly. They were chained up and washed in freezing cold water.
- They were overcrowded.
- The food provided was dreadful.

Lord Shaftesbury became involved in the fight to improve conditions, care and treatment for these patients.



Lord Shaftesbury and Factories

Lord Shaftesbury was involved in reforming British factories; the working conditions and the length of a worker's day.

1833 – Lord Shaftesbury proposed a Bill for Parliament that children should work for a maximum of 10 hours a day. Factory owners did not like this! They were worried they would lose money. The government recognised that children needed protecting and passed their own Factory Act in that year.

1833 Factory Act facts:

- It was illegal for children under nine to work in textile factories.
- Children between nine and thirteen years could not be employed for more than eight hours a day.
- This Act was not often enforced and some children continued to work long hours.



1863 – Lord Shaftesbury published a report that showed children aged four and five were still working from six in the morning to ten at night in some British factories. A later Factory Act would eventually stop this practice.

Lord Shaftesbury and Coal Mines

In 1840, Lord Shaftesbury persuaded the government to investigate working conditions in coal mines.

Published in 1842, his report shocked people when it told of:

- the accidents;
- long hours;
- lung disease;
- horrific conditions of work suffered by the men, women and children who worked in mines.

Lord Shaftesbury brought the Coal Mines Act to Parliament in 1842, which meant that no boy under ten years of age and no women should work underground.



Lord Shaftesbury and Chimney Sweeps

Lord Shaftesbury was a strong supporter of banning the employment of boys as chimney sweeps. Many climbing boys suffered from injury and disease caused by cleaning chimneys.

In 1840, a Bill was introduced making it against the law to employ boys as chimney sweeps. This act was enforced in London, but it did not stop this happening elsewhere.

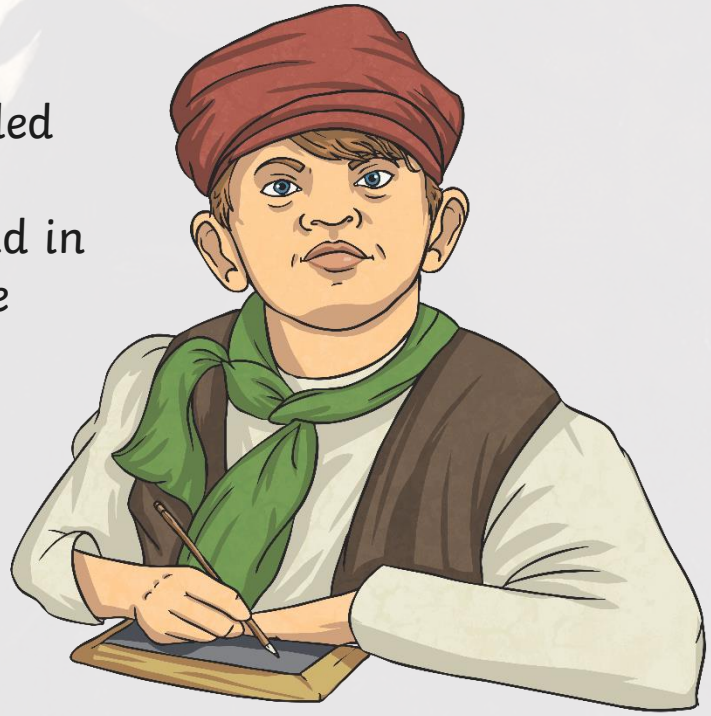
Lord Shaftesbury finally persuaded Parliament to pass the Chimney Sweepers Act in 1875. This stopped the employment of boys as chimney sweeps.



Lord Shaftesbury and the Ragged Schools

Lord Shaftesbury was president of the Ragged School Union, which promoted the education of poor children. He believed that children were to be treated and educated well. Lord Shaftesbury believed education was a way of freeing children from poverty.

Ragged Schools gave poor children some education for the first time. They were called Ragged Schools because many pupils had nothing to wear but rags. Classes were held in homes and halls during the day and in the evening to fit in with the children's work.



Lord Shaftesbury – The Poor Man's Earl

Lord Shaftesbury died on 1st October 1885, aged 84. His funeral service was held in Westminster Abbey and crowds of ordinary people, many who had lived better lives because of the causes he fought for, gathered outside.

In 1893, the Shaftesbury Memorial was placed in Piccadilly Circus. The Memorial is topped by a statue of the Greek God, Anteros. The statue is called the The Angel of Christian Charity, but many people know it as the Statue of Eros.



Lord Shaftesbury was known as the Poor Man's Earl because of the many changes he campaigned for and the help he gave the poor of Victorian Britain.


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