

gilded

Read the excerpt below.

There are some roomy and cheerful shops in the city. But there are hundreds that are not roomy and cheerful. The worst of these are owned and conducted by women. Look into this establishment, where Madame Fripperie, the fashionable dressmaker, holds her court. It is a handsome building ... Hour after hour, throughout the day, the carriages of Fifth-avenue ladies drive up before her door ... to consult with her about silk ...

While the question is being discussed, let us slip down these stairs into the basement. This is the workroom ... how it smells! There is no attempt at ventilation. The room is crowded with girls and women, most of whom are pale ... and are being robbed of life slowly and surely. The rose which should bloom in their cheeks has vanished long ago. The sparkle has gone out of their eyes. They bend over their work with aching backs and throbbing brows; sharp pains dart through their eyeballs; they breathe an atmosphere of death.

Madame pays her girls four dollars a week. She herself lives in as fine a style as the richest lady she serves.

Adapted from Sikes, W. (1868). Among the poor girls. *Putnam's Monthly*, 1 (4), 432–434.

Write two or three sentences that explain how the above excerpt is an example of the word **gilded**.