



## Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America

By Barbara Ehrenreich, Publisher: Picador, 2011 (Picador Modern Classics, 2017)

Keep these questions in mind as you write your essay. They are meant to draw out your own ideas about each book and its theme.

**Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*** describes daily life among the low-wage workforce, most of whom work diligently yet still can't make ends meet.

1. Ehrenreich talks about the goal for her project in the book's introduction. To what extent does she achieve this goal? Consider the book's subtitle, "On (not) getting by in America," as you think about your answer, and what it would mean to have a "living wage."
2. When Ehrenreich works as a Walmart employee, she learns about the company's term "time theft." What *is* "time theft," and how does it affect workers?
3. What does Ehrenreich learn about how the low-wage workforce is viewed by employers and the society at large? Does "low-wage" always equal "unskilled"?