

# Pairing Literature and Primary Sources

Source: "Pairing Children's Literature and Primary Sources" by Tom Bober (May 2021 - *School Library Journal*)

## Why Pair?

Pairing primary sources with literature can help students explore fiction using a unique, real-world perspective. The historical item can connect students to the author and the world when the story was written.

## Inspirations

When working with historically-based nonfiction and fiction, students may use a selected set of primary sources to look for evidence that the author's connection to the same items.

## Character Traits

When characters are portrayed as historical figures, student can analyze primary sources to identify traits of the individuals, location, or time period.

## Interaction

Teaching specific analysis strategies and modeling can assist students in developing the habits of historical thinking when working with these types of sources.

## Connection

Pairing children's literature and primary sources has multiple entry points, heightens student engagement, helps students construct meaning around story and source, and builds connection between the two sources.

## Resources

Library of Congress: Primary Sources  
<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/getting-started-with-primary-sources>

National Archives: DocsTeach  
<https://www.docsteach.org>

