

# Why Teachers Teach With Historical Fiction

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**FIVE TIPS**

- 1) Historical Fiction will grab a student's curiosity much more quickly than a text book.
- 2) It creates more equity. Students have varying degrees of prior knowledge from which to draw from. Reading a historical fiction account of a time period together promotes more of an even playing field, since no one knows this particular story. Then a rich discussion can take place afterwards.
- 3) Sometimes it's difficult for students to convert a few quick descriptions from a social studies text book and translate it into something meaningful for them. Historical fiction provides a detailed and enriched understanding of a time period.
- 4) Historical fiction recreates history and illustrates complex problems.
- 5) Historical fiction promotes diverse perspectives! In life we want our children to share their own perspectives and their ideas while continuing to respect the opinions of others. Characters in the book obviously have different points of view and will deal in unique ways with the challenges they face. Historical fiction embodies the interpretive nature of history as seen through individuals and institutions at the time.

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