

8th Grade Social Studies Summer Reading Guide for *Children of the Great Depression*

This book is a history of the experiences of children in the Great Depression through words and photographs. It provides a context for the Great Depression and shows its human face. Listed below are topics with which you should be familiar after you read the text. Below the topics is an explanation of how to approach a photograph as a primary source. It is suggested that you practice this technique with several of the photographs in the book and choose the ones that you feel are the most powerful.

Topics to look for while reading:

1. Farm Security Administration
2. Causes of the Great Depression
3. Role of First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt
4. Depression impact on African Americans
5. Specific consequences of Depression on lives of children
6. Roles of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt
7. Effect on schools
8. Children at work
9. CCC, NYA
10. Impact on farmers, Dust Bowl
11. Okies
12. Boxcar Kids
13. Forms of Entertainment
14. Impact of World War II

Technique for approaching a photograph as a primary source:

1. Observe the source. Study the source for 2 minutes. What type of source is it?
2. Describe the source. Make a list of things you notice – details, physical characteristics.
3. Gather clues. Ask questions and give possible answers – who created this source, when and why was it created, who was the intended audience?
4. Apply knowledge – What do you already know about the time period?
5. Interpret meaning. Draw conclusions based on information you collect and your background knowledge of the time period.