Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

Adapted from Gail Petri, Educational Resource Specialist, Library of Congress http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/tpsdirect/pdplanbuilder/

By: Mary Ann Haines Date: March 22, 2010



Cover Image

Title: Finding Daddy: A Story of the Great Depression by Jo and Josephine Harper

Summary: Setting: Bonnie loves to sing while her father plays a fiddle. In better times, the family was happy in its modest home. But hard times took away Bonnie's father's job, then their house, and then even her father's fiddle. Hearing the unkind remarks of a neighbor, Bonnie's father leaves to search for work at the nearby port and to relieve the economic burden on his wife, who has started to take in laundry. A distraught Bonnie determines to take her dog, Caesar, and go find her daddy In her search, Bonnie discovers the pivotal part she can play in rescuing her family and restoring their lives.

Primary Source Thumbnail



Library of Congress Bibliographic Information and Book Notes

Title: Migrant agricultural worker's familyCollection: Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress)

URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b29525

Book Notes: General caption for this series of images: Circleville, county seat of Pickaway County. Average small Ohio city, depending upon surrounding rich farmlands for its livelihood. Because of its non-industrial surroundings, retains much of old-time flavor. Outstanding industries: Eshelman's Feed Mill. Employs 150-200 men the year 'round. Pay averages about eighty-five cents an hour. Container Corporation of America makes paper out of straw, can absorb by-product of all neighboring farms. In addition, a number of canneries and feed mills. During depression many farms of the district were foreclosed. People who lost homes naturally gravitated toward the town. A town of its character is unable to house new influx of population. Consequently there sprang up around it an extensive Hooverville. Circleville got its name through having been built in a circle as a better protection against the Indians. For further information Chamber of Commerce, Circleville, Circleville is the home of Ted Lewis



Title: Family on relief

Collection: Farm Security Administration - Office of War

Information Photograph Collection

URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b38862

Book Notes:

Family on relief living in shanty on city dump. Herrin,

Illinois.CREATED/PUBLISHED

1939 Jan.



Title: Happy Days Are Here Again

Collection: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs

Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/thc.5a37081

Book Notes:

Song portion of "Happy Days are Here Again". First page of

sheet music.