

Six Steps on Selecting Artifacts

Step 1. Choose literary text:

Decide on a literary text you will use for your lesson.

Step 2. Specify Goals:

Make your goals explicit: What cultural and historical connections do you want to explore by using an artifact in connection with the literature you have chosen?

Step 3. Identify time periods:

Identify time period of the text: When was the text written? What is the time period of the setting?

Step 4. Select appropriate artifacts:

Select an artifact that is contextually appropriate. In order for the artifact to be contextually appropriate, you will need to answer yes to at least one of the following questions:

- a. Was the artifact created when the text was written? Or does the time period the artifact was created correspond with the time period in which the novel is set?

AND

- b. Does the image fit with what you plan to do with the work of literature? (Just because it is from the right period doesn't mean the image tells the intended story).

Step 5. Read artifacts in context:

Do a close reading of the artifact: Who created it? Who is the audience? What assumptions can you make about it? Where and when was it created? What historical and cultural significance does it have?

Step 6. Connect artifacts and literary texts:

Identify connections between the artifact and the literature: How does the artifact enhance the historical context of the literary text? What additional cultural information can the artifact provide to increase critical thinking and reading?