

Word Study Read

Remember to annotate as you read.

Notes

Lined area for taking notes.

Historical Fiction

Dust Storm Days

- 1 Mother stands on the porch and stares at the darkening horizon with despair in her eyes. I quickly become aware of why she is concerned. An enormous black cloud is rolling toward us. It's time to prepare for another dust storm!
- 2 As the storm approaches, my sister and I scurry around the barnyard rounding up chickens. The gritty air tears at our faces. Once the chickens are in their coop, we dash back to the house. Mother and I carefully arrange wet sheets over the windows to keep out the dust. The sheets provide temporary protection, but soon everything will be covered with grime.
- 3 By now, the storm has blocked the sunlight, and it is dark outside. Father has been in the barn checking on our mare. When he returns, he is covered with dust and is holding a damp cloth to his mouth so he can breathe.
- 4 Any damage caused by this dust storm can be repaired, but I'm not sure my family has the forbearance to remain here. Mother swears it's time to move to California, but Father disagrees. He declares that farmers like us aren't welcome in California. It seems unfair, but there's no work for us there. Still, our crops are devastated, and the dust clogs our lungs and wears out our spirit. I wonder— are we strong enough to survive these dust storm days?

BuildReflectWrite

Build Knowledge

What do you think was the author's purpose in writing poems instead of a historical report about people's experiences during the Dust Bowl? What are some of the differences in the two approaches?

Large empty box for student response.

Reflect

How does access to resources influence people's lives?

Based on this week's texts, write down new ideas and questions you have about the essential question.

Lined area for reflection notes.

Research and Writing

Informative/Explanatory

"Seattle: Up and Down— and Up Again" describes how Seattle was affected by a gold rush in the 1800s. Research another city that was affected by a gold rush, and write an informative report about how the gold rush affected that city.

Write Your Report

Draft, revise, and edit your informational report using facts, concrete details, quotations, and examples from your sources. Share your report with your peers.