

Placing Literature

A Teaching Resource

www.PlacingLiterature.com

Explore the American Revolution Through the Eyes of Johnny Tremain While Meeting Common Core Standards.

Placing Literature allows teachers to tailor unique lesson plans that help students connect literature, history and geography to the real world.

Esther Forbes wrote *Johnny Tremain* at the outbreak of World War II, hoping to instill pride and a sense of responsibility in a new generation that would soon be asked to sacrifice for their country.

Today, nearly 75 years later, students can still learn from Johnny's story. By using Placing Literature, the novel jumps off the page and into the real world by overlaying history and events from the book on an interactive map of modern Boston.

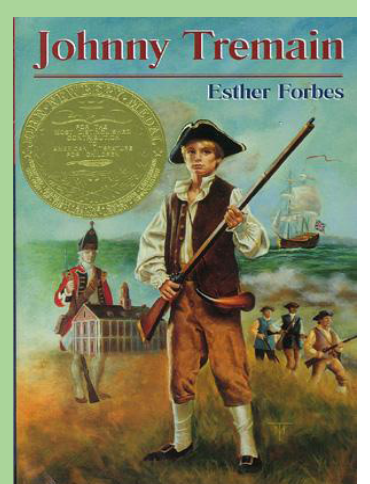
Using Placing Literature, a crowd-sourced website that maps novels, students can understand the context of these events in the real world and place themselves in the center of the action. Photos and links to additional information can be added, enriching the reading material and providing a platform for integrating knowledge and ideas.

This tool connects literature, history and geography to the physical world - and helps teachers achieve success with Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

The Year: 1773. The Place: Boston.

Johnny Tremain is 14 and apprenticed to a silversmith. He is gifted and lords his skills over the other apprentices, until one day his hand is horribly burned by molten silver. Johnny's dreams of silversmithing are over. Depressed, he finds work as a dispatch rider for the Committee of Public Safety, a job that brings him in touch with Boston patriots—and the excitement that will lead him to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington.

Grades 6-8

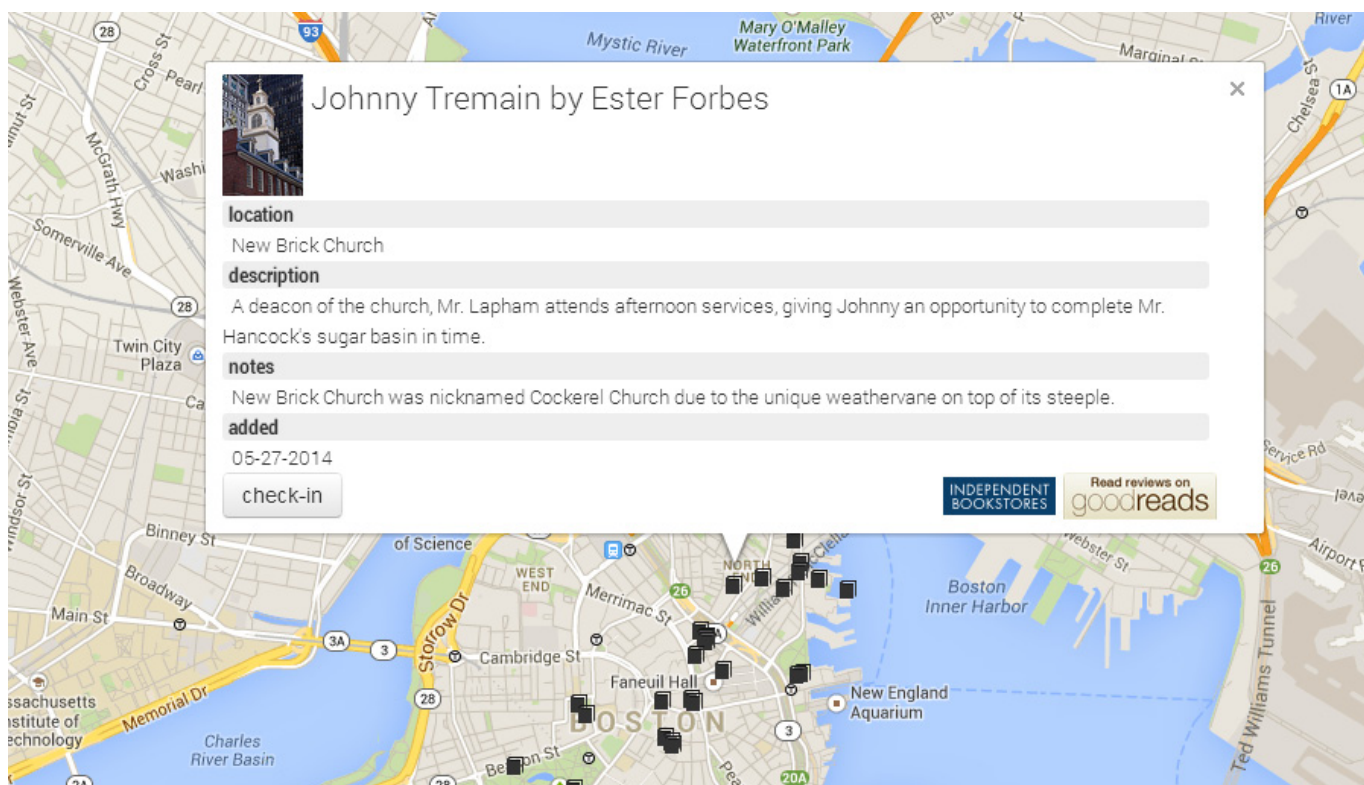


Johnny Tremain in the Context of Common Core Standards

Imagine students being able to stand in the footprints of Johnny Tremain as he deals with tragedy, picks himself up and finds purpose in life. Empathy builds and a connection grows with others who may be going through a difficult time.

Students can follow the events of the American Revolution on a map of Boston as someone of their age at that time would have experienced them. This provides historical context into how people lived in colonial Boston, how the landscape has changed and how issues have been addressed.

Placing Literature makes it easy to get students to think critically about how they would have handled the tough decisions presented to Johnny and fellow colonists. Students are encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of the characters as they lived and worked in Boston.



A Flexible Tool For Creating Lesson Plans

Teachers can utilize Placing Literature to create lesson plans directly related to Common Core requirements. Any piece of historical fiction can be mapped and put into context of our world today. Teachers can map stories and share relevant content, or instruct students to do the mapping themselves. Flexibility exists so teachers can address the unique needs of each classroom.

Placing Literature Creates a Platform to Develop Competencies for CCSS

- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly.**
Students enter summaries of scenes including plot points and character development directly on the Placing Literature map.
- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #3: Describe how the plot unfolds and moves towards resolution.**
Students explore plot points chronologically and geographically as they follow characters throughout the story. They analyze how place contributes to plot and character development.
- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #5: Analyze the impact of structure on story development.**
Students compare location with prose and dialogue to determine how place impacts sentence structure, word choice and style.
- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #7: Evaluate literature in various formats and media.**
Students adapt literature to an interactive website that other students explore to achieve greater understanding of the text. This includes adding context with mapping and research tools.
- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #9: Compare texts in terms of different approaches to themes.**
Students compare literature from the same or similar locations while identifying differing ways authors were inspired by the place.
- ✓ **6-12 Reading Standards for Literature #10: Comprehend grade-appropriate literature with scaffolding.**
Students use Placing Literature as a visual aid to analyze a story scene by scene.

