Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

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Cover Image BOBBIN GIRL Early Arred Mickelly	Title: The Bobbin Girl Author: Emily Arnold McCully Summary: Rebecca Putney is a bobbin girl who helps support her struggling family by working all day in a hot, noisy cotton mill. Working conditions at the mill are poor, and there is talk of lowering the workers' wages. Rebecca's friend Judith wants to protest the pay cut, but troublemakers at the mill are dismissed. Does Rebecca have the courage to join the protest? Grade Level(s): Grades 3-5 Topic/Theme: Child Labor Setting and Time Period: 1830's Lowell, Massachusetts Subjects: child labor, workers' rights, industrial revolution, textile mills, Lowell mills Key Vocabulary: textile, spinning, boardinghouse, petition
Primary Source Thumbnail	Title of Source Publication Information URL Book Notes
Hamile M. Mahair	Title: Harriet Jane (Hanson) Robinson, 1825-1911 Creator(s): Steel engraving by J.A.J. Wilcox Date Created/Published: [no date recorded on caption card] URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003669893/ Book Notes: The book's main character, Rebecca Putney, was inspired by Harriet Hanson Robinson (1825-1911), who, in 1835 at the age of ten, began work as a bobbin girl.
	Title: Massachusetts in the woman suffrage movement. A general, political, legal and legislative history from 1774, to 1881. By Harriet H. Robinson Author/Creator(s): Harriet H. Robinson Date Created/Published: 1883 URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbnawsa.n8049 Book Notes: The book's main character, Rebecca Putney, was inspired by Harriet Hanson Robinson (1825-1911), who, at the age of ten, in 1835, began work as a bobbin girl.

Last Updated: June 2012



Title: Fourteen year old spinner in a [?] Brazos Valley Cotton Mill at West. Violation of the law. Matty Lott runs six sides. See family group

and their story. Location: West, Texas. Creator(s): Lewis Wickes Hine, 1874-1940 Date Created/Published: 1913 November

URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/nclc.02873/

Book Notes: The book's main character, Rebecca Putney, worked in

the spinning room at the textile mill.



Title: Cornelius Hurley, right end of picture, 68 Adam Street, was at work in No. 1 Mill room in Merrimac Mill, Lowell, Mass., for six months. About 13 or 14 probably. Michael Keefe, 32 Marion Street been at work in No. 1 Mill room Merrimac Mill. Location: Lowell, Massachusetts.

Creator(s): Lewis Wickes Hine, 1874-1940 Date Created/Published: 1911 October

URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/nclc.02387/

Book Notes: The book's theme is child labor at a textile mill in

Lowell, Massachusetts



Title: The day book., March 01, 1915, NOON EDITION, Image 1

Creator(s): N.D. Cochran (Publisher)

Date Created/Published: March 15, 1915

URL: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1915-03-

01/ed-1/seq-1/

Book Notes: The book's main theme is child labor.



Title: "I was busy all my life."

Interviewee: Howard Jones, worm farmer

Interviewer: Susan Levitas

Date Created/Published: August 28, 1994

URL: http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-

bin/query/h?ammem/afcwip:@field(NUMBER+@band(afcwip+sla0180

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Book Notes: Howard Jones gives his first-hand experience working as

a child starting at the age of 10 years old.