

## Building Prior Knowledge

While gateway activities and cultural data sets are intended to build particular kinds of strategic knowledge, texts may also require that students build background knowledge about the historical context of the setting or period in which the literary work was produced. Using expository texts and videos are useful in helping students to have relevant historical background knowledge (e.g. knowledge about Puritan ideals in reading The Scarlet Letter; knowledge about Jim Crow in reading Invisible Man or Native Son, etc.)