Teaching Women’s History through Literature

EIU SRC (Student Reading Council)
http://www.eiu.edu/~reading
Using Literature to Teach SS

One educator describes social studies textbooks as “deadly dull” and suggest that “history is a story and textbooks eliminate the story”.

Dennis Denenberg, “Teaching with Heroes,” Millersville Review
Primary Grades

Young children have experienced emotions so that they can make connections. Examples: love/hate, fear/security, good/bad, courage/cowardice

Use developmentally appropriate time language. Example: before; after; long, long ago

Select historical events that capture interest and curiosity.

Timelines: manipulative, interactive, visual
Primary Examples

*Miss Bridie: Choose a Shovel*
by Leslie Connor, 2004

*You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!*
Written by Shana Corey, 2000
Intermediate Grades

Begin with historical narratives.
Assess student’s misconceptions.
Use active learning through the use of primary sources, artifacts, use of children’s literature and problem solving.
Intermediate students must see the relevance of the study of history.
Intermediate Examples

*Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator*  
by Nikki Grimes, 2002

History Comes to Life

Lucille Ball

(August 6, 1911 – April 26, 1989) was an American comedienne, film, television, stage and radio actress, model, film and television executive, and star of the sitcoms *I Love Lucy, The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour, The Lucy Show, Here's Lucy and Life With Lucy*. She was a television star in the 1950’s.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucille_Ball
Resources

Notable Tradebooks for Young People
http://www.socialstudies.org/notable

NCSS Sale of Books, Starting in February 2010: 5 for 50!
http://www.socialstudies.org/publications/booksale

Teaching Women’s History through Literature: Standards-Based Lesson Plans for Grades K-12 Kay A. Chick NCSS Bulletin No. 107, 132 pp. 2008

Seeing the Whole Through Social Studies by Tarry Lindquist, 2002.

Ways that Work: Putting Social Studies Standards into Practice, by Tarry Lindquist, 1997.
Children’s Books

Phoebe the Spy by Judith Berry Griffin, 1977.
Tales of Famous Heroes by Peter & Connie Roop, 2010.
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, 1952.
The Double Life of Pocahontas by Jean Fritz, 1983.