

Celebrate Women's History Month with *Into Literature*

Looking for fresh ideas for Women's History Month? *HMH Into Literature* can help! Highlight women's stories, perspectives, and contributions to literature with engaging stories and thematic pairings.

Two Texts that Explore Diverse Women's Perspectives



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1 Writing as Resistance

This excerpt from Marjane Satrapi's powerful graphic novel series, *Persepolis*, was inspired by true events. The story centers on a young girl growing up in Iran as the country rebels against totalitarian rule.



Find it in HMH Fresh Lit

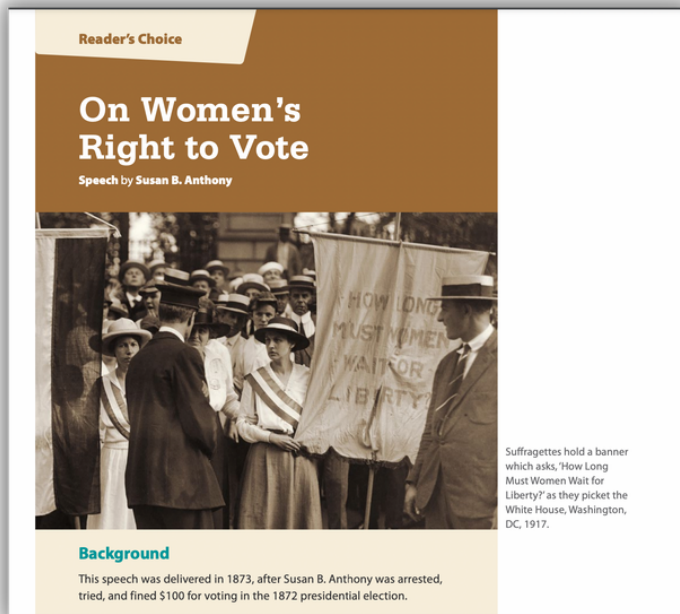
2 Telling Untold Stories

Stacy Lee's "This Beating Vessel" features diverse female representation in historical fiction. This selection, exclusive to HMH, tells the story of a young Asian American woman working on a Civil War hospital ship.

Three Thematic Pairings to Elevate Women's Voices and Achievements

1 Celebrate the Suffragettes

Pair Susan B. Anthony's historic speech, "On Women's Right to Vote" with the article "Why women bring their 'I Voted' stickers to Susan B. Anthony's Grave" to highlight the enduring impact of the original Women's Rights Movement.



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Engaging Activities:

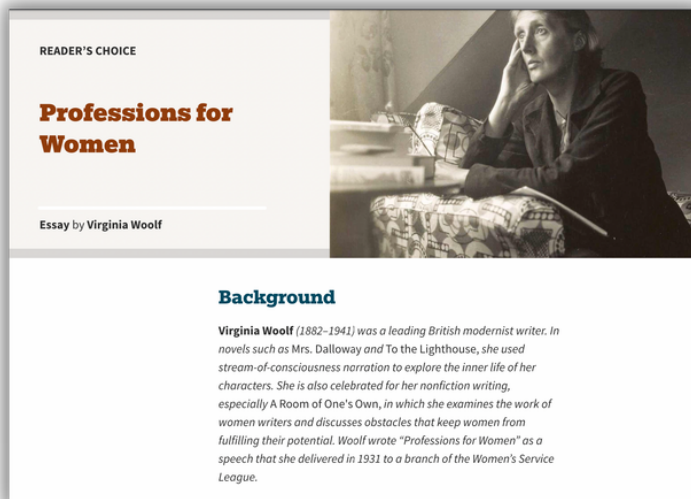
Have students choose an issue they are passionate about (or provide a list to choose from) and then write a speech to persuade others to take action on that issue.

Discussion Starters:

1. How have the actions of Susan B. Anthony and early suffragettes inspired women in the modern era?
2. How would the world be different without the sacrifices of the early suffragettes?

2 Women in the Workforce

Read Virginia Woolf's speech, "Professions for Women" with the article "Why Aren't There More Female Engineers?" by Rachel Nuwer for critical perspectives on the progress of women's equality in the workplace.



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Engaging Activities:

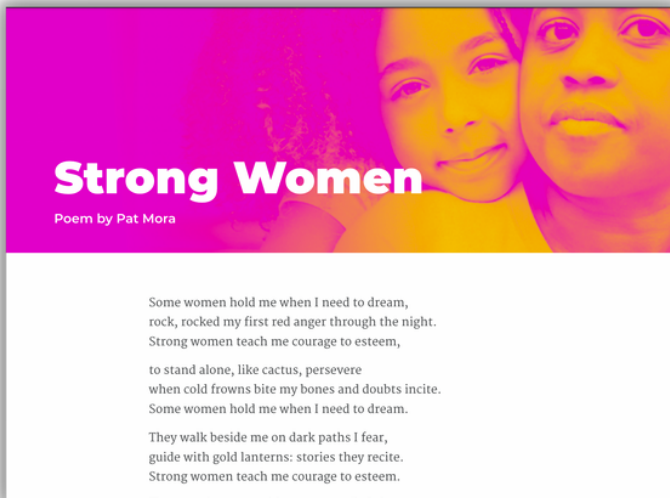
Create a simple graphic organizer in which students can brainstorm jobs traditionally seen as "for men" in one column and jobs traditionally seen as "for women" in another column. They can then use their ideas to draw a conclusion about why these jobs were seen as gender-specific, and what it shows about attitudes toward genders.

Discussion Starters:

1. How have the opportunities available to women changed since Virginia Woolf's 1931 speech?
2. In what ways can our society still be improved in order to make careers in STEM more accessible to women?

3 Women Empowering Women

Pair contemporary poem "Strong Women" by Pat Mora and TED poetry performance "If I should have a daughter" by Sarah Kay to highlight themes of mother-daughter relationships and explore the ways that women empower and support one another.



Find it in the HMH Leveled Text Library



[Click here to find it on YouTube](#)

Engaging Activities:

Have students write a poem about or a letter to a woman who has made a difference in their lives.

Discussion Starters:

1. Compare and contrast the ways that these poets describe their relationships with other women.
2. Are the relationships that women have with other women important? Why or Why not? Draw from the texts or your own experiences.

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