



Write Through Chicago: Learn About a City by Writing About a City

Mark Henry Larson, Bob Boone

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Write Through Chicago offers both teachers and students a unique opportunity to connect with Chicago and its remarkable history. Young writers will mourn at Lincoln’s Chicago Funeral, marvel at the Columbian Exposition, gather with the crowd at the Haymarket Riot, drive to Riverview Amusement Park, chomp down on the first McDonald’s Burger, and celebrate at Grant Park as Barack Obama delivers his presidential acceptance speech. They’ll craft a wide range of written forms, from stories and poems to polemics, monologues, diaries, letters and more. All *Write Through Chicago* writing activities align to NCTE & Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and are supported by a website that provides students with ready access to specifically selected research materials. This unique design leaves teachers free to concentrate on helping students truly “learn about a city by writing about a city.”

Deborah Will, former President, Illinois Association of Teachers of English: “*Write Through Chicago* is the best present an English teacher could receive. This book brings to the forefront a logical yet creative way of addressing what is truly important: engaging students to think creatively and insightfully about the world around them. By allowing students to write themselves into Chicago history, Larson and Boone have seamlessly brought together the best parts of teaching and writing. This is the kind of book that makes teachers want to teach.”

Richard Reeder, author, *Chicago Sketches*: “In this era of social media saturation, coherent writing often finds itself sorely missing from the toolbox of today’s students. Thankfully *Write Through Chicago* provides students with imaginative learning tasks that allow them to discover the people, places and events that comprise the rich history of Chicago through writing and other forms of creative expression. Boone and Larson’s book should be on the desk of every Social Studies teacher in Chicago.”

Peter Kahn, Spoken Word and Black Literature Educator, Oak Park and River Forest High School: “*Write Through Chicago* will introduce teachers and students to the people, places and events—from Gwendolyn Brooks to Riverview to the Beatles at Comiskey Park—that have built up Chicago’s bulky shoulders. As Studs Terkel said, ‘I hope that memory is valued—that we do not lose memory.’ *Write Through Chicago* will make Chicago’s history memorable to teachers and students alike.”

Laura Dershewitz, Test Development Supervisor; Gifted Program Coordinator: “*Write Through Chicago* is like time travel. The assignments lead students into exciting moments in the past, letting them document what they observe, feel, and think along the way. The brilliance of the book is that it enlists writing to help young people channel their natural fascination with what happened before their own time.”

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