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| About this Resource:  *This text set centers around the topic of a high-quality read aloud anchor text, in order to build students’ knowledge and vocabulary. Anchor texts are a part of Student Achievement Partners’ Read Aloud Project and full lesson plans are hyperlinked. Each Related Text is a suggested lightweight resource that connects to the topic of the read aloud and builds student knowledge and vocabulary. Also included are high-interest, topically related Optional Supporting Resources and Writing/Culminating Tasks in varied genres. Suggested resources are free or almost free (requiring a teacher license or sign on) and can be used as read aloud texts or for small group or independent reading depending on their complexity. All are intended to be optional resources for the classroom and teachers are encouraged to modify, adapt, or supplement these text sets with related resources. Text Sets are intended to support approximately two weeks of instruction. For additional suggestions for use, read this blog post:* [*https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/*](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/)*.* |

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| **Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)** | |
| Read Aloud:  The Boxcar Children  <http://achievethecore.org/page/2825/the-boxcar-children> | **Synopsis of Text:**  This story is about four orphaned children living on their own. They set out to find a safe place to live and overcome challenges. The children have to use common, everyday items in creative ways to satisfy their needs. They face issues like: how to keep their milk cold with no refrigeration, how to clean dishes with no soap, and how to stay safe with no adults to protect them. The children’s attitudes as they face the challenges provide strong examples of work ethic, ingenuity, moral choices, and family devotion. |
| Related Text 1:  Building a Railroad to Cross the Country  <https://www.readworks.org/article/Building-a-Railroad-to-Cross-the-Country/337114f2-f8f6-4734-a3f3-0f3abe35fa89#!articleTab:content/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This resource is supported with audio and will help students learn more about trains, allowing them to connect the boxcar where the children in the read-aloud text lived to its true purpose. This brief article explains why the railroad was built and shares some facts about the process of its creation. |
| Related Text 2:  History of Trains  <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/transport/history-trains/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This article informs students about the purpose of the railroad and expands students’ knowledge about trains. The article gives a brief history of trains and of the passengers riding on them. It also explains how this new mode of transportation initially made travel possible.  *Note: There are many different links on this page with further information about different types of trains. These could be clicked and read for additional information. All links provide information related to the topic for this text set.* |
| Related Text 3:  Taking the Train  <https://www.readinga-z.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=2568&lang=English> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This book about trains provides students with images of different types of trains and of people riding trains, to build understanding of what it would be like to be a passenger. The book also highlights different things that one could see if riding on a train. |

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| **Optional Supporting Resources** | |
| How Steam Trains Work  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wL1W_9U9JI&list=PLjy9T_KHAYYeeH0f_LchsoBE0-we6FG1B&index=14> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  The first half of this short video provides information about trains, and the second half is a song about trains. This resource explains with illustration and video how a steam engine works to propel the train forward. This would help give students a deeper understanding of trains by sharing exactly what makes a steam engine works. This video moves directly into a song showing many different types of trains and where they travel. |
| Trains for Kids  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUtnBHqrXd8> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  This two-minute song and video explains how a steam engine train works and goes down the railway, reinforcing the content of the other resources in the set. |
| **Writing/Culminating Tasks** | |
| Text Type 1: Narrative | **Description of task:**  Imagine you are going to take a ride on a train. Write and draw a story about your journey.  Include information about:   * What you see as you ride * Where you are traveling to * What it is like to be a passenger |
| Text Type 2: Opinion | **Description of task:**  Do you think that trains are an important invention? Decide whether or not you think that trains are important to people. Write and draw to share your opinion. Remember to share what you learned about trains that helped you make your choice. |
| Task Type 3: Informative | **Description of task:**  Write and draw to explain what you have learned about trains. Make sure you:   * Name your topic * Share some facts that you have learned * Include illustrations that support your facts |
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