

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the homeschool student will be able to analyze the historical context of "The Rat Catcher's Daughter" and demonstrate their understanding through a writing activity.

Materials and Prep

- Copy of the book "The Rat Catcher's Daughter"
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook or loose-leaf paper

Prior knowledge: Basic understanding of the plot and characters in "The Rat Catcher's Daughter".

Activities

1. Start by reviewing the main events and characters in "The Rat Catcher's Daughter". Discuss any questions or confusion the student may have.
2. Introduce the concept of historical context. Explain that it refers to the social, cultural, and historical circumstances surrounding a literary work. Discuss how understanding historical context can enhance our interpretation and appreciation of a story.
3. Guide the student in conducting research on the historical context of "The Rat Catcher's Daughter". Encourage them to explore topics such as Victorian London, child labor, and the role of women during that time period.
4. Have the student write a short essay or journal entry reflecting on how the historical context of "The Rat Catcher's Daughter" influenced the characters and events in the story. Encourage them to use specific examples from the book to support their analysis.
5. Review and provide feedback on the student's writing, focusing on their ability to analyze the historical context and make connections to the story.

Australia: Year 7 Talking Points

- "The Rat Catcher's Daughter" is set in Victorian London, a time period known for its significant social and economic changes.
- "The Rat Catcher's Daughter" explores themes such as social inequality, child labor, and the struggles faced by women in the Victorian era.
- The main character, Sarah, is a young girl who works as a rat catcher to support her family. This reflects the harsh realities of child labor during that time.
- Discuss the role of women in Victorian society and how it is portrayed in the book. Consider the limitations placed on women's rights and opportunities.
- Encourage the student to think about how the historical context of "The Rat Catcher's Daughter" adds depth and meaning to the story, and how it can help us understand the characters' motivations and actions.