

American Literature
The Strike for Three Loaves
Projects

Directions: As a group select one of the following projects concerning issues raised in Chapter 5: *The Strike for Three Loaves*

1. Collect traditional bread recipes from a variety of cultures. Research and illustrate background information about the cultures represented and make a class presentation. Discuss why the word "bread" is sometimes used to mean "food" in general and sometimes "money." Why did European immigrant workers in the early 19th century sometimes say that they came to America "for bread"? Invite student cooks to bake bread for the class to eat together.
2. Using the Internet, research the history of the labor movement in the U.S., create a time line and prepare a class presentation. The library of the U.S. Department of Labor offers a wealth of resources on its Web site at library.dol.gov. At the site, learn about the 1998 U.S. postage stamp commemorating child labor reform. Design your own stamp on the theme. Explore the history of child labor reform under the heading "Library Topics." What roles have females and people of color played in the labor movement?
3. Research the issue of child labor abuses and sweatshops today.
4. Research the patterns of immigration to the U.S. since 1900 and illustrate the findings on a chart. In addition, research and illustrate the immigrant/migrant population for Connecticut. Report your findings to the class.
5. Invite labor union and management representatives from a local company to discuss issues confronting workers today. Be prepared to ask questions.