

Text Set to Accompany
American Spirits:
*The Famous Fox Sisters and
the Mysterious Fad that Haunted a Nation*

By Barb Rosenstock
Text Set by Lorraine Leddy

Primary Sources & Research Materials

These texts tell readers more about the Fox sisters and Spiritualism.



Library of Congress Archive: Rochester Knockings! Discovery and Explanation of the Source of the Phenomena Generally Known as the Rochester Knockings

This book, containing material from the March 1851 Buffalo Medical Journal, is a primary source readers can use to explore how the Fox sisters' abilities were perceived at the time.



Podcast: The Fox Sisters and the "Great American Hoax" | A New York Minute in History

In this podcast episode, historians Devin Lander and Lauren Roberts interview Tracy Murphy, historian for the Fox sisters' property in Hydesville, New York. This interview recaps events explored in *American Spirits* and gives context on what visitors can find today in Hydesville.



Video: The Rise and Fall of the Fox Sister Mediums

This YouTube video from BuzzFeed Unsolved explores the Fox sisters' connections to the Spiritualism movement. Viewers will make many connections to events explored in *American Spirits* as the video explores themes of celebrity within the movement.

Content Connections

These texts explore topics such as mediumship, mysterious happenings, and events of the 1800s.



Museum Exhibit: Conjuring the Spirit World: Art, Magic, and Mediums

This webpage contains artifacts and videos from the Peabody Essex Museum's 2025 exhibit on spiritualism, mediumship, and magic in the 1800s and early 1900s. Readers of *American Spirits* can watch the curator's video, click through select artifacts, and make connections to the objects and methods explored in *American Spirits*.



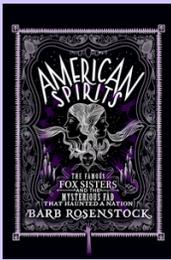
Podcast: Hysterical

This podcast series investigates a mysterious illness that spread among a group of high school girls in upstate New York in 2011. Readers of *American Spirits* will see parallels over a century apart. Are the stories of young women trusted? Who do we call "hysterical?"



Interactive Timeline: New York State in the Civil War

This Civil War timeline from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs contains articles covering events of the Civil War through the experiences of New Yorkers. Looking at this timeline alongside *American Spirits* will give readers historical context.

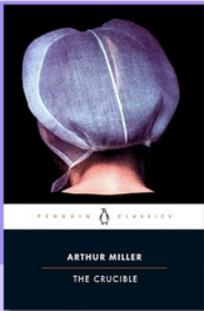


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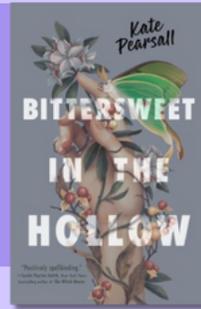
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Texts to Pair with *American Spirits*

These fiction and nonfiction texts can be read alongside *American Spirits* for deeper exploration of topics and themes covered in the book.



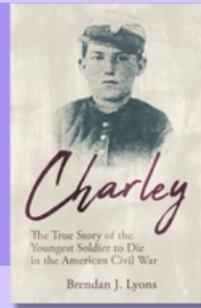
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Reading Arthur Miller's play alongside *American Spirits* allows readers to explore themes of who is trusted and who is questioned.



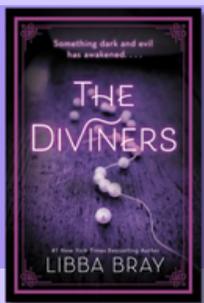
Bittersweet in the Hollow
by Kate Pearsall
Linden and her sisters were born with unusual abilities. Will their special gifts help when a girl goes missing?



Haunted Series
The *Haunted* series explores ghosts and strange phenomena in more than 35 states. Maybe one book explores strange happenings in your state!



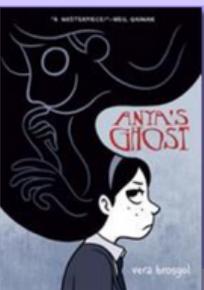
Charley by Brendan Lyons
This biography tells the true story of the youngest soldier to die in the Civil War. Readers will learn more about the war's impact on everyday Americans.



Diviners Series by Libba Bray
This supernatural historical mystery series is set in 1920s New York City. A 17-year-old girl's mysterious powers get her involved in investigations.



Festival of Shadows
by Atelier Sento
A young girl in a Japanese village is entrusted with assisting a troubled soul. Naoko must figure out what secrets a ghost is keeping.



Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol
In this YA graphic novel, Anya quickly learns that having a ghost for a friend might not be the solution to her friendship problems.



Ghost Roast
by Shawnelle Gibbs
High school student Chelsea can see ghosts. How will she protect their stories when others want to cast them out?