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Book Six

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# Helping Hands New Deal!

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Weiner G.T.

# NEW DEAL

## new hope

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As soon as Franklin Roosevelt became President he offered what he called a “New Deal” --a way of getting people back to work out of the Great Depression. As soon as he took office he started programs that would give direct aid to those who needed it.

President Roosevelt was so loved that all across the nation towns and cities celebrated his birthday.

# TVA

\* The TVA addressed many problems that were the result of the Great Depression. It was one of the main programs in Roosevelt's "New Deal." View the [VIDEO](#). Most of the videos you have watched have shown historical footage --this video looks VERY different! What do you think about the format of today's video? What is the advantage of using historical footage with narrator audio over a graphic video with song lyrics? What is the advantage of using a graphic video instead of historical footage?

Books and reading always open doors. Watch this [VIDEO](#) about the Pack Horse Library! In the 1930s, NOT having books was a problem. What do you think are the reasons today many don't read?



In 1933, the New Deal Program called the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) began. It delivered food for starving bodies and reading material for hungry minds. States bordering Tennessee were part of the program. The TVA handled the problem of flood control and helped with other conservation projects. The Dust Bowl lessons were not forgotten. Farmers learned new ways to control erosion. Dams and power plants were built. For the very first time, residents had electricity!

Libraries supplied families with books. The TVA libraries were everywhere --even in the corner of a country store, on the shelves in the post office, or on a table in a gas station. This was the first time people had access to books!

# Helping Neighbors

\*\*\* so....What do you think about the “penny auctions” talked about in this article? Were they right or wrong? Explain your thinking.



Many organizations sprang up to help including the Red Cross and Salvation Army which distributed bags of leftover food from restaurants to homeless families. Goodwill accepted donations of clothing and household goods and then resold them at prices those in poverty could afford.

It was common for neighbors to share food and clothing. Those in cities planted community gardens. Civic groups and churches ran soup kitchens where anyone could get a hot meal.

Neighbors invented a clever way to save family farms when banks tried to foreclose (take the farm back because the farmer didn't have enough money to pay his mortgage). On the day of the auction to sell off the farmer's tools, machinery, etc., neighbors gathered at the sale. When the auctioneer asked for the opening bid, a neighbor shouted out a really low figure. A dime for a plow. A nickel for a cow. No one else would make a bid. Time ticked away. The banker was forced to accept the low price and lost a great deal of money. After it was over the neighbors gave the things back to the farmer. These became known as penny auctions.

# New Deal for the Arts

\* Watch the VIDEO. (this one is a little longer today)

\* Before the Federal Art Project, all art was from Europe or painted to look like art from Europe. What made the art from this project truly American art?

**Federal Project Number One started programs that helped unemployed artists, writers, musicians, and actors. This resulted in valuable cultural artifacts from that time period being created to preserve the history of the era.**

**Painters and sculptors created art for public spaces. Often the subject was people working! It provided for art exhibits for everyone.**

**Writers wrote stories of Americans and captured oral histories. Three hundred writers wrote over 2,900 biographies of people during that time.**

**Symphonies and orchestras were formed and played free of charge for the public. Operas and band performances were also part of the New Deal for the Arts, giving musicians a salary as well.**

# Dorthea Lange

\* Lange's most popular photograph is "Migrant Mother." Look at her other Depression photos [HERE](#) and select your personal favorite. Why did you select it?



Lange was a popular photographer with those who had money. The stock market crash in 1929 and the depression forced a change in Lange's career. There were fewer clients who could afford her portraits. Lange found herself observing the unemployed people wandering the streets outside her studio. One day in 1933, on an impulse, she went outside to photograph a breadline. The next day she hung one of the resulting prints, White Angel Bread Line, San Francisco, in her studio: "That's the first day I ever made a photograph actually on the street. I put it on the wall of my studio and customers, people whom I was making portraits of, would come in and glance at them. And the only comment I ever got was, 'What are you going to do with this kind of thing?' I didn't know. But I knew that picture was on my wall, and I knew that it was worth doing."

Lange began photographing migrant workers, the unemployed, and rural families, showing their dignity and spirit in the face of impossibly harsh conditions. Her photographs were very important in helping others care about those struggling.

# Fun in Gloomy Times



\*\*\* Pick one of the following to research. Make a poster with an image and two key phrases that capture the “FUN” person or event.

Shirley Temple; Circuses in the Great Depression; Buck Rogers radio show; Gone with the Wind (movie); “Our Gang” 1930 films; “The Wizard of Oz” (movie); “The Hobbit” by Tolkien (book); “The Grapes of Wrath” by Steinbeck; Babe Ruth; Lou Gehrig; Joe DiMaggio; Joe Louis (boxer); Jesse Owens; “Babe” Didrikson (Olympian); Woody Guthrie (musician); Duke Ellington (band leader); 1938 Superman comic; King Kong original movie.

[USE Haiku Deck to make your poster!](#)

**Americans have a history of being optimistic in even the worst of times. There is always within us a belief that things will be better. Americans have the ability to laugh --in the midst of struggle. The ability to have fun is what makes it possible for America to remain strong.**

**There were many things people did for fun even during the Depression. These ranged from circuses to the “talkies” (movies with speech!) to radio programs to books to sports.**

**People were persistent in the hope that happy days would come again. And when they did come, many looked back and recalled hardships --AND fun times.**