There is no doubt that books are important. That said, here are a few other kinds of texts to keep in mind when reading with your class.

**Why they work**

1. Low-risk
2. Expands students’ range
3. Allows for experimentation
4. Powerful when paired

**Short Stories**

1. Great way for students to get comfortable wrestling with meaning in challenging texts
2. Frequently resistant
3. Helps students develop a more sophisticated vocabulary

**Poems**

1. Reinforces and works alongside ideas in novels
2. Helps to build students’ knowledge base
3. Creates familiarity with non-fiction form

**Articles, Essays, & Excerpts**

1. Pick two examples of satire, two unreliable narrators, and two third-person narrators. Compare and contrast across the different kinds of text, mining the differences in literary technique.

2. Use short bursts of Close Reading to unpack tricky sentences or phrases. Close Read the poem "Jabberwocky" today as preparation for such analytically rigorous texts as "Slaughterhouse-Five" in future.

3. Read articles and essays alongside fiction. Use them as outside examples. Think of how many book reports students write without ever reading a published book review.