Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
→ He wrote first anti-slavery tracts in America
→ Wealthy but first wife from wealthiest family in Boston
→ Was not looking to be saved—thought he already was
→ Calvinist
→ Only one to repent for Salem witch trials

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
→ Tension between the different sects of Christianity
→ Culturally important to prove women have a wife
→ Race is an issue—he talks about black people turning white
→ Women required by society to be conservative
→ Taking off gold, silver, or rings not ok
→ Physical violence was socially acceptable
→ Obsession with marriage—relationship of exchange

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
It's a diary—he writes about his day-to-day life. He's writing more formally because he knows it's going to be published versus William Byrd's secret diary.
Sewall was not as radical as Edwards. Edwards was a preacher (which scared the congregation), Sewall was a judge.

Additional Comments from Rosy: Marriage as exchange—constant references to investment in courtship (through recording of prices of gifts) — courtship as investment—
Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
- Bradford owned a "red Turkey suit" and a "great deer bough".
- Bradford was elected governor 30 times in 35 years.

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
- Although the Puritans were escaping religious persecution, they themselves persecuted others such as the Quakers and the American Indians.
- Briefly discuss the formation of the Mayflower Compact, which was the first form of government in the New World.

Additional Comments from Rosy: Examples of situations in which they perceive God’s hands at work (e.g. the death of the ‘lusty sailor’) as coping mechanism, in response to so much death, sickness, hunger and precariousness in first few years.

As well as need to justify selves and make their labours, community building seem honorable in the eyes of descendants (he’s writing a history), thus encouraging retention of the faith.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
- It was written to show a Puritan’s perspective from the Old World to the New World.
- This text is written more formally and is much more descriptive than the other texts. It was written with the audience in mind.
Author: John Winthrop
Title: A model for Christian charity
Date (in course pack): 1630

Interesting Fact about Author/Text: He was the governor. The text was written on the ship during migration. Winthrop was known as the Moses of his people.

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
During the 1600's, Puritans were encouraged to come together as one to face the struggles and hardships. They thought of themselves as the model society because they were chosen by God. The "City on the Hill" title hints to the fact that they thought they were looked up to.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
It seems as if it was written to rally together the Puritans. The text also describes how the Puritans should have unity amongst the fluctuating religious doctrines in Europe.

Additional Comments from Rosy:
Communitarian- giving surplus to others, acknowledging need for collectivity in order to establish colony- without this, covenant with God "breach[ed]" anti-individualist threads- "seeking great things for ourselves" and "own posterity" represented as against God's will in this situation.
Author: Jonathan Edwards  
Title: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"  
Date (in course pack): 18th century

Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
- first time describing God as angry/furious
- threat of Hell and Suffering

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
- want to scare people back to Calvinism, prepare them for God's grace.
- people didn't believe that they can have a personal relationship with God.
- men were inherently viewed as sinners.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
- want to scare people back to Calvinism
- prepare them for God's grace
- use of God's wrath as motivation to progress their society.

Additional Comments from Rosy:
Insect/object metaphors (constantly shifting and proliferating imagery), belittling of congregation, attacking complacency.
Author: William Byrd
Title: Secret diary
Date (in course pack): 1674-1749

Interesting Fact about Author/Text: He is a womanizer, aristocrat, rational, and not too keen in the way of puritans. He read various languages such as Greek. A known intellectual with a huge library.

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
There were different people and way of life, not just puritans. There is wealth in America as seen by his library. Not all people are driven by religion. This gives us an insight of a person full of puritan. There is also classification still with servants.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
It was to keep records of his life and show his legacy. It's different because it is a sort of non-puritan perspective.

Additional Comments from Rosy:
Juxtaposition of concluding sentences of diary entries - description of immoral or sinful act, followed by a prayer for forgiveness, or thankfulness towards God. Lack of change in behaviour casts doubt on sincerity, and proximity of description of immorality and deity seems rather blasphemous.
----returning to Greek/Latin/Hebrew as expressing neoclassical sentiments - returning to pre-Christian knowledges as marked departure from Puritans’ concern with early church---