Resource Guide for Exploring Your Piano from the Inside Out
Notes from 2006 MTNA Convention workshop by Mary Smith, RPT with the Piano Technicians Guild

Books (Elementary Level):
1) Mary Blocksma, The Marvelous Music Machine: A Story of the Piano; Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984 (out of print, but used copies available at amazon.com). A history of the piano explaining how it is made, how it works, and many unusual facts about the instrument.
2) Sally Coveleskie, Henry the Steinway and the Piano Recital; Bright Sky Press, 2002. Ana is not ready to play in the piano recital, but Henry the Steinway helps her prepare.
3) Sally Coveleskie, Henry the Steinway: A Star is Born; Yorkville Press, 2003. Describes how Henry the Steinway was built, his life as a concert piano, and how he came to live in the house of a girl named Ana.

Books (Secondary Level):
1) Ernest Closson, History of the Piano; St. Martin's Press, 1944 (out of print, used copies available on amazon.com). A detailed history of piano evolution, especially good for its action diagrams.

Videos and DVDs:
1) Mason & Hamlin DVD Factory Tour, Building the World's Finest Piano; Burgett Inc., 2001. The factory tour portion has an especially clear description of how a piano is made. This video would be a wonderful presentation for a secondary general music class, followed by class discussion. Available from Mason & Hamlin piano dealers.
2) Steinway & Sons Factory Tour DVD, narrated by John Steinway. Available from Steinway piano dealers.
3) Martha Stewart Visits the Steinway Factory (VHS). Available from Steinway piano dealers.

Websites:
1) ptg.org – Piano Technicians Guild website is home to Piano Learning Center, which contains Piano Parts Word Searches, Elementary Lesson Plan on The Music Box, and much more.
2) musicplay.com – Demonstration of how piano actions function (link from ptg.org).