

Genres of Literature

Fiction

Realistic Fiction is a fictional story with characters who take part in activities that could have happened.

Historical Fiction is a fictional story set in the past with characters who take part in historical events and interact with real people from the past.

Science Fiction is a fictional story that involves actual or projected scientific phenomena.

Fantasy/Fairy Tale is a fictional story that is set in make-believe worlds, often with non-human characters.

Mystery is a fictional story with characters who try to solve a crime or an unexplained event.

Poetry

Poetry is words arranged in metrical pattern, often using rhymed verse in an imaginative style.

Folk Tale

Folk Tale is an anonymous, timeless, and placeless story that was originally told rather than written.

Play

Play is a story for stage performance by actors.

Non-Fiction

Biography is a person's life written by another person.

Autobiography is a person's life story written by himself or herself.

Information is a book or article that introduces the reader to various topical material and how-to information on subjects such as science, art, and specific craft projects.

Newspaper is a daily or weekly publication of current events.

Reference is an information source such as an encyclopedia, yearbook, directory, or atlas.

Is That a Fact?

There are two main types of literature: fiction and nonfiction. Fiction is written from an author's imagination and is usually intended to entertain. Nonfiction is factual writing which provides information about a particular topic.

The titles of some books, articles, and stories are listed below. Write each title in the correct box to show whether the work is likely to be fiction or nonfiction.

India's Population Problem

The Life Cycle of a Beetle

Maynard the Moose

The Haunted House Mystery

"The Magician's Cat"

The Civil War

"Waffle Making"

"Michael the Bear for Congress"

Amy's Pet Pumpkin

The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln

"The Flying Saucer"

"Maria and the Magic Mirror"

How to Repair Your Own Car

Physical Fitness and Your Health

"How to Make a Quilt"

Ethan's Underground Monster

"The Sales Tax Must Pass"

Birds of Prey

"The Bed That Could Fly"

The History of Central America

Fiction

Nonfiction

The Long and Short of Fiction

Most fiction is written in the form of a novel or a short story. The main difference between these two forms of fiction is their length. A novel is a long (book length) fictional story. A short story, on the other hand, is a short fictional narrative that can usually be read in one sitting.

Novels and short stories are written about a wide variety of subject matter. Some deal with very serious topics, while others are light-hearted comedies. Some portray realistic characters with real-life problems, while others are fantasies that portray outrageous, unbelievable characters. Because a novel is longer than a short story, its plot and characters are usually much more complex than those in a short story. Short story plots are generally brief and uncomplicated.

Read each statement below and decide whether it describes a novel, a short story, or both. In the blank before each statement, write N for novel, S for short story, or B for both.

1. ____ I am a form of fiction.
2. ____ I can usually be read from start to finish in a short amount of time.
3. ____ I am written in prose (everyday language).
4. ____ I am sometimes humorous.
5. ____ I have a plot.
6. ____ I usually portray a wide variety of characters.
7. ____ Sometimes I am only a few pages long.
8. ____ My subject matter can be very serious.
9. ____ I usually contain several chapters.
10. ____ My plot is generally not very complex.
11. ____ Some parts of me can be true, but other parts are made up by my author.
12. Think about your favorite novel. How do you know it is a novel rather than a short story?

13. How would writing a novel be similar to writing a short story? How would it be different?

Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to the figures of speech an author uses to add to or clarify the meaning of writing. Here are some of the most common figures of speech:

- A simile is a comparison of two unlike things that includes the words *like* or *as*.
- A metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things that does not include the words *like* or *as*.
- Personification is giving human characteristics to something that is not human.
- Hyperbole is the use of extreme exaggeration to clarify meaning.

Read each sentence below. Identify which figure of speech it is by writing simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole in the blank.

- _____ Her eyes were shining stars.
- _____ The rustling leaves whispered my name.
- _____ Grandpa's hair is as white as snow.
- _____ The road was a ribbon of moonlight.
- _____ Her face drooped like a wilting flower.
- _____ The rain on my windowpane sang a lullaby to me.
- _____ My cousin eats like a bird.
- _____ I laughed my head off at the joke.
- _____ That piece of chocolate cake is calling my name.
- _____ She cried buckets of tears at the sad movie.
- _____ Her smile was a ray of sunshine on that dark, sad day.
- _____ The sky was a blanket of stars.
- _____ He runs faster than a speeding bullet.
- _____ He was so angry smoke poured from his ears.
- _____ The tall corn danced in the fields.
- _____ My bedroom is so cold a polar bear could live in my closet.

Create your own examples of figures of speech on the lines below.

- Simile: _____

- Metaphor: _____

- Personification: _____

- Hyperbole: _____

Name. _____

Setting and Mood

The setting is where and when a story's action takes place.

List the two elements of setting included in each passage below: where the action occurs and when it occurs.

1. Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson shared quarters at 221B Baker Street in London. It was early in April in the year 1883 when Watson awoke one morning to find Sherlock Holmes standing fully dressed by his bed. Watson looked up at him in surprise.

Where: _____

When: _____

2. The story of "Rikki-tikki-tavi" takes place in the bungalow and gardens belonging to Teddy and his parents. They live in a British military station in Segowlee, India, in the late 1800s.

Where: _____

When: _____

3. The clocks had just chimed the hour of three, but it was already quite dark on this Christmas Eve. Fog and darkness prevailed as Ebenezer Scrooge sat in his counting-house, listening to the people outside stomping about through the snowy streets of London.

Where: _____

When: _____

Mood is the feeling a reader gets from a story. It is created by the author's use of specific words to describe certain situations and actions. It is important to remember that mood describes the feelings the reader has, not necessarily the feelings of the characters in the story.

Read each passage below, then circle the letter of the mood it conveys.

4. It stood all alone among the barren trees. Tattered curtains struggled to cover broken panes of glass as vines attempted to conceal the ever-widening cracks in the stone. Every trace of the home's once stately appearance had vanished.
- a. anticipation b. regret c. despair d. excitement
5. It was a beautiful morning. The sunbeams danced among the trees, and the beautiful flowers bobbed their heads in the fresh breeze.
- a. happiness b. eagerness c. contentment d. fear
6. "O.K. I'm ready. Let's go!" Ryan called to his friends as he grabbed his coat from its hook in the closet. As he stepped into the hall of his dorm, however, he noticed a deafening silence. No clicking of computer keys. No students' chatter. Confused, Ryan looked around.
- a. terror b. mystery c. sorrow d. sadness

More Nonfiction

Diary

A diary is a written record of a person's experiences and thoughts. It is usually updated every day or every few days. A person normally writes in a diary to keep a private account of events in his or her life. Diaries are not usually created for others to read.



1. One of the most well-known diaries is *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It describes a young Jewish girl's experiences while she and her family hid from Nazi soldiers in a secret apartment in a warehouse in Amsterdam during World War II. In what ways do you think *The Diary of Anne Frank* differs from a textbook description of life during the war?

2. Would you rather read *The Diary of Anne Frank* or a textbook description of life during the war? Explain.

History

A history is a written record of the past. Authors write histories about many different aspects of the past, including people, politics, economics, and culture. Historians research their topics by investigating things like traditions, artwork, letters, diaries, objects from the past, and interviews with people who witnessed an event.

3. Imagine that after reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* you decide to write about the Nazis' treatment of Jewish people in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II. Make a list of specific sources you would use to find information for your work.

Two Types of Nonfiction

Nonfiction writing is based on fact. It is written primarily to inform readers about a specific topic. Much of what you read in textbooks, newspapers, and magazines is nonfiction.

Two popular forms of nonfiction are biography and autobiography. A biography is an account of a person's life written by someone else. The author of a biography uses a variety of sources to research facts about his or her subject's life. An autobiography is an account of a person's life written by that person. The author writes about important events in his or her own life.

1. When the author of a biography works closely with the subject and receives his or her approval of the information it contains, the book is called an authorized biography. What are some possible advantages of reading an authorized biography rather than an unauthorized biography?

2. What are some possible events a person might choose to include in his or her autobiography?

3. Many biographies and autobiographies are written about famous people. Think of someone famous you admire. Would you rather read that person's biography or autobiography? Why?

4. Imagine you are writing the biography of the person you thought of when answering question #3. What questions about that person would you like your book to answer for readers?

The Long and Short of Fiction

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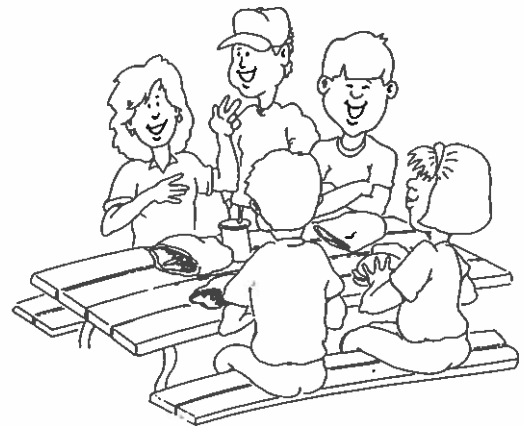
13. How would writing a novel be similar to writing a short story? How would it be different?

Facts and Feelings

An essay is a composition that expresses an author's opinion or analyzes a subject. The most common types of essays are expository essays and persuasive essays. Expository essays present facts and explain them in detail. Encyclopedia entries and books that explain how to do something are examples of expository essays. Persuasive essays attempt to convince readers to agree with the writer's opinion. Editorials and reviews in newspapers and magazines are examples of persuasive essays.

Determine whether each of the following articles is expository or persuasive. Write expository or persuasive in the blank.

1. All students should attend the school picnic on Friday evening. This is a wonderful time to get to know your new classmates and to renew old friendships. Last year's picnic was not well attended. We need to restore our sense of school spirit by participating in school-sponsored activities.



2. Wednesday night's hockey game between the Townsend Eagles and the Lexington Lions ended in a 5-5 tie. Mark Penway scored three goals for the Eagles, tying the team record for most goals scored in a game.
3. The closing of Orchard Avenue between Edgar Road and Moore Drive will create a huge traffic problem on adjacent streets. Why close one street to through traffic and cause problems for residents of other streets? Springdale residents should strongly oppose this closing. Vote "No" at the August 5th town meeting.
4. This spring will be unusually warm. We can expect early spring flowers this year. Crocuses can now be seen, and jonquils and hyacinths should be in bloom by next week. Meteorologists predict that this year's average spring daytime temperature will be at least 5° higher than last year's average of 50°.

A review is a type of essay in which an author expresses and gives reasons for an opinion. There are many different kinds of reviews, including restaurant reviews, movie reviews, and book reviews. Choose a restaurant you've visited, a movie you've seen, or a book that you've read. On the back of this paper, write a review of it. Be sure to give plenty of details to support your opinions.

Plot and Theme

The events that occur in a story make up the plot, or story line. The plots of most stories have five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

Answer the questions below about the plot of the story "Little Red Riding Hood."

1. The exposition gives background information, tells where the story takes place, and usually introduces the characters. Why does Little Red Riding Hood go for a walk in the woods?

2. The rising action reveals the problem(s) or conflict(s) in the story. Whom does Little Red Riding Hood meet as she walks through the woods? What problem or conflict does this character present?

3. The climax is the turning point in the story. It is the most intense or suspenseful part of the story. The climax begins when Little Red Riding Hood arrives at her grandmother's house. How does the author build suspense during this part of the story?

4. The falling action explains the result of the climax. What happens just after the climax?

5. During the resolution, the problem(s) or conflict(s) is resolved. How is the conflict resolved in "Little Red Riding Hood"?

Theme is the central idea or lesson about life that an author conveys in a piece of literature. A fable's theme is stated at the end of the story as a moral.

Read each fable below, then write a sentence that states the moral (theme) of it.

6. A crow sat in a tree, holding a piece of cheese in his beak. A sly fox smelled the cheese and said to the crow, "How handsome and noble you look today. Your wings are so shiny and black. I wish I could hear you sing, for I'm sure that your voice must be as beautiful as the rest of you." In an attempt to impress the fox with his wonderful voice, the crow opened his mouth and croaked, "Caw! Caw!" Down fell the piece of cheese right into the clever fox's open mouth.

7. A female fox was proudly tending her large brood of offspring. She scoffed at a lioness because the lioness never bore more than one cub at a time. "Only one," the lioness replied, "but it is a lion."

Name _____

Characterization and Conflict

Characterization is the development of the characters in a story. Often a reader learns about a character through description, dialogue, the character's actions, or the reactions of other characters to the character. Most stories present two opposing characters. The protagonist is the main character. The antagonist is a character that works against the protagonist.

1. In the well-known fairy tale "Cinderella," who is the protagonist? _____
2. Describe some of the character traits of this protagonist.

3. Who are the antagonists in "Cinderella"?

4. Briefly describe some of the character traits of the antagonists.

5. A dynamic character develops and grows in response to events in the story. A static character stays the same throughout a story. Name a dynamic character in a story or play that you have read.

6. On the lines below, briefly describe how the dynamic character changes. What brings about the change? How is this change important to the story?

Conflict is the struggle that a character must face. The conflict of a story produces tension and drives the action of the plot. Internal conflict involves a character's struggle with his or her own personal issues. External conflict involves a character's struggle against an outside force, such as another character, a force of nature, or law or another aspect of society.

Write I in the blank before each description of an internal conflict. Write E before each description of an external conflict.

7. ___ Susan sees the answers to an upcoming test on the teacher's desk. She knows it is wrong, but she is tempted to jot down some of the answers.
8. ___ A man is lost in a blinding snowstorm and struggles to find shelter.
9. ___ Two families are involved in a feud that has lasted several generations.
10. ___ Tim finds a wallet containing fifty dollars. Although there is an I.D. card inside, he is tempted to keep the wallet and money rather than return it to its owner.

Two Types of Nonfiction

Nonfiction writing is based on fact. It is written primarily to inform readers about a specific topic. Much of what you read in textbooks, newspapers, and magazines is nonfiction.

Two popular forms of nonfiction are biography and autobiography. A biography is an account of a person's life written by someone else. The author of a biography uses a variety of sources to research facts about his or her subject's life. An autobiography is an account of a person's life written by that person. The author writes about important events in his or her own life.

1. When the author of a biography works closely with the subject and receives his or her approval of the information it contains, the book is called an authorized biography. What are some possible advantages of reading an authorized biography rather than an unauthorized biography?

2. What are some possible events a person might choose to include in his or her autobiography?

3. Many biographies and autobiographies are written about famous people. Think of someone famous you admire. Would you rather read that person's biography or autobiography? Why?

4. Imagine you are writing the biography of the person you thought of when answering question #3. What questions about that person would you like your book to answer for readers?

Using the Imagination

Fiction is writing that an author creates using his or her imagination. There are several types of fiction. Historical fiction is based on actual people, events, or periods in history, but it may contain made-up characters. Science fiction writers use science and technology to create extraordinary plots in which the seemingly impossible becomes believable. Fantasy stories, on the other hand, contain characters and events that could not exist in real life and have no basis in science. Mysteries are stories based on puzzling crimes. The main character in a mystery must use common sense and intelligence to solve the crime.

Read the book descriptions below. In the blank, write the type of fiction each book is likely to be: historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, or mystery.

1. *Peter Meets the President* During the early 1960s, a young boy on a tour of the White House becomes separated from the rest of his group and meets John F. Kennedy.

2. *Journey to Jupiter* This story, set in the future, tells of a family's exciting journey to the planet Jupiter.

3. *The Disappearing Diamond* A valuable gem disappears during a jewelry show. Curt Masters sets out to find the thief.

4. *Sally's Sudden Smallness* A young girl wakes to find that she is suddenly only two inches tall.

5. *Lord Lunchbox* A boy becomes king of the tiny world that exists in his lunchbox.

6. *The Search for Sam* A family attempts to find their missing dog.

7. *Josh Jones: Freedom Fighter* A young colonial boy joins his older brother to fight for independence during the American Revolution.

8. On the lines below, invent your own title and description for a fiction book. What type of fiction would your book be?

Through the Woods

Events that occur in a story make up the plot, or story line. Most plots have five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. The exposition gives background information, tells where the story takes place, and usually introduces the characters. The rising action reveals the problem(s) or conflict(s). The climax is the turning point in the story. It is the most intense or suspenseful part of the story. The falling action explains the result of the climax. During the resolution, the problem(s) or conflict(s) are resolved.



Think about the story "Little Red Riding Hood," then answer the questions below.

1. What information about Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother is usually presented in the exposition?

2. What problems or conflicts are introduced in the story's rising action?

3. The climax begins when Little Red Riding Hood arrives at her grandmother's house. What is the actual climax of the story? How does the author build suspense during this part of the story?

4. How is the conflict resolved in this story?

And the Moral Is . . .

Theme is the central idea or lesson about life that an author conveys in a piece of literature. Sometimes the theme is obvious, while at other times the reader must think carefully about a work in order to identify its theme.

A fable's theme is stated at the end of the story as a moral. Read each fable below, then write the letter of the moral that states its theme.

- A. It's easy to criticize what you cannot have.
- B. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
- C. Liars are not believed, even when they tell the truth.

1. _____ A shepherd boy watching a flock of sheep caused a group of villagers to come running to his aid twice by crying, "Wolf! Wolf!" Each time the villagers arrived, the boy laughed and boasted that he had fooled them. The next day, a wolf really did come, but when the boy cried out the villagers paid no attention. They thought the boy was trying to trick them again. The wolf was able to eat the boy's sheep.
2. _____ A hungry fox saw some grapes hanging from a high vine. After trying unsuccessfully several times to jump up and reach the grapes, he walked away, saying, "Those grapes are probably sour anyway."
3. _____ A milkmaid was walking to market to sell the milk she carried in a pail upon her head. As she walked, she thought about what she would do with the money. "I will use the money to buy a hen who will lay many eggs. Once the chickens that hatch from those eggs are grown, I will sell them for a great deal of money. I will use the money to buy a new gown. I will look so lovely that all the boys will wish to speak to me, but I will simply toss my head and turn away." As she said this, the girl tossed her head. The pail fell, and the milk spilled onto the ground.

In most stories, the theme is not directly stated. It is conveyed through a character's thoughts or actions or through a sequence of events. Choose one of the themes listed below or choose one of your own and write a short story that teaches that lesson. Begin your story on the lines below and continue on the back of this page.

- A. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
- B. Be careful what you wish for; you might get it.
- C. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

What a Character!

Characterization is the creation and development of a character. A character is a person in a story. Often a reader learns about a character through description, dialogue, the character's actions, or the reactions of other characters to the character.

The hero in a story is called the protagonist. The person who works against the hero is called the antagonist. On the lines below, list some traits you think might be common in protagonists and antagonists.

Protagonist

Antagonist

A static character is a character that stays the same throughout a story. He or she does not learn or grow in any way. A dynamic character is a character who changes because of what happens to him or her. Think about the stories and plays you have read, then fill in the information below.

1. Write the name of a dynamic character in a story or play you have read.

2. Describe how that character changes.

3. What brings about the change?

4. How is that change important to the story?

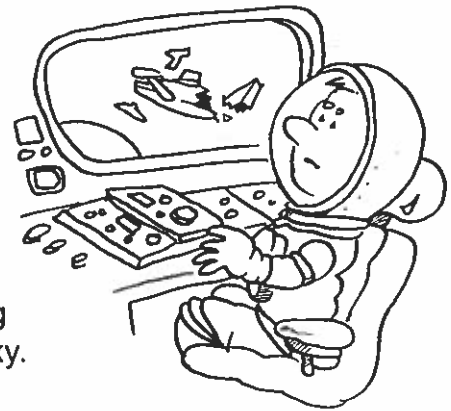
Where and When

The setting of a story or play includes where and when the action takes place. Read each passage below, then describe its setting. Remember to identify where and when the action takes place.

Colleen looked out at the endless ocean before her. She tried to imagine what the United States would look like, this foreign land she and Sean would learn to call home. The decision to leave their family and friends in Ireland and sail west to America had been a hard one, and she had known the trip on the Atlantic Ocean would be long and difficult. Now, however, all of her doubts faded away, and she breathed deeply, smelling the cold, salty air. She and Sean would soon have a house of their own, just in time for the arrival of their first child. It was 1847, and the Potato Famine that had ravaged their home country had driven many Irish to emigrate to America. As Colleen looked around the ship, she could see many people from her town huddled together to escape the cold.

1. What is the setting of this passage?

Lieutenant Hoffman took a deep breath then firmly pressed the red button, releasing the escape pod from the rest of the ship. He knew he had no choice, yet as the pod moved farther and farther from the smoking ship he could not help but wonder what he could have done differently. His vast training at the space academy had not prepared him to deal with the loss of an entire crew, and he was saddened at the memory of all those he had grown close to during the four-year voyage into the far reaches of the galaxy.



2. What is the setting of this passage?

"I'm experiencing the turn of the century," thought Ryan. Even spending New Year's Eve baby-sitting five rambunctious children couldn't dampen his enthusiasm about starting out the twenty-first century.

3. What is the setting of this passage?

More Than Meets the Eye

A symbol is a person, place, event, or object that suggests a deeper meaning than its literal meaning. A rose, for example, is a symbol for love and beauty.

Write a letter to match each symbol below with what it typically represents.

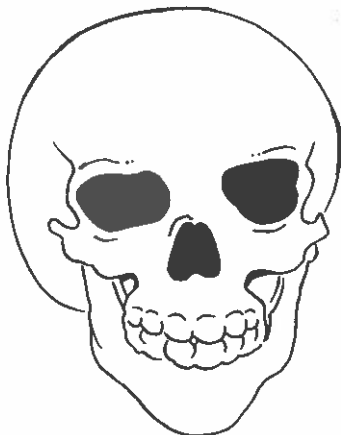
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. _____ a heart | A. freedom |
| 2. _____ a dove | B. courage |
| 3. _____ the color red | C. peace |
| 4. _____ the Statue of Liberty | D. anger |
| 5. _____ a lion | E. love |



Write the name of a symbol that you think could represent each of the ideas below.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 6. _____ | happiness |
| 7. _____ | bravery |
| 8. _____ | honesty |
| 9. _____ | danger |
| 10. _____ | wisdom |
| 11. _____ | beauty |
| 12. _____ | strength |

Write a quality that each symbol below might represent.



- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 13. _____ | a circus |
| 14. _____ | a tree |
| 15. _____ | a skull |
| 16. _____ | a book |
| 17. _____ | a crown |
| 18. _____ | an apple |
| 19. _____ | a long stretch of road |
| 20. _____ | a rocking horse |
| 21. _____ | the United States flag |
| 22. _____ | a broken heart |
| 23. _____ | a thorn |
| 24. _____ | an ambulance |

Mood Making

Mood is the feeling a reader gets from a story. The mood of a story is created by the author's use of specific words to describe certain situations and actions. It is important to remember that mood describes the feelings the reader has, not necessarily the feelings characters in the story have.

Read each example below, then circle the letter of the mood it conveys.

1. My favorite team was down by one run in the final game of the World Series. It was the bottom of the ninth inning. The final batter stepped up to the plate.
a. worry b. peace c. excitement d. anger
2. The children played cheerfully along the water's edge. Their laughter and the noise of the rushing stream masked the sound of the hungry bear lumbering toward them through the woods.
a. dread b. happiness c. annoyance d. hope
3. As Mary Beth skated gracefully across the ice, a single tear rolled slowly down her cheek. She remembered her sister who had died last year and would not be able to watch her performance in the Olympics.
a. fear b. sorrow c. mystery d. excitement
4. The dark room was filled with hushed giggles and whispering as the children waited for the birthday girl to appear. Someone whispered loudly, "Here she comes!"
a. doubt b. sympathy c. anticipation d. anger
5. Mr. Jones paced the floor with his eyes glued on the big double doors, waiting for the surgeon to appear to report on the outcome of Mrs. Jones's heart surgery.
a. worry b. happiness c. anger d. friendliness
6. Tom quickened his pace in the dimly lit alley as the heavy footsteps behind him grew louder. Frantically, he looked around for a safe place but found none.
a. joy b. enthusiasm c. quiet d. fear
7. Julia's eyes welled up with tears as she listened to the description of the deadly car crash. She did not yet know that it was her boyfriend who had been killed.
a. annoyance b. excitement c. sorrow d. happiness
8. The small boy stood still, tears streaming from his eyes. Still, the older children continued to tease him, calling him names and mocking his fear of them.
a. excitement b. doubt c. anger d. happiness

A Constant Struggle

Conflict is a struggle that a character must overcome. The conflict of a story produces tension and drives the action of the plot.

There are the four main types of conflict:

1. man vs. man—a character struggles with one or more other characters
2. man vs. nature—a character struggles with some force of nature
3. man vs. self—a character struggles with his or her own personal issue(s)
4. man vs. society—a character struggles with the law or some other aspect of society

Read the sentences below, then write the letter of the type of conflict represented.

- a. man vs. man
- b. man vs. nature
- c. man vs. self
- d. man vs. society

1. ____ A boy finds himself unjustly accused of a crime and has been put in jail until his trial.
2. ____ A woman reevaluates her life after turning fifty years old. She takes a trip to all the places she has always wanted to see and is gone for nearly two months.
3. ____ In the woods, a man strays from the rest of his camping group. It becomes dark, and he finds himself alone with a grizzly bear.
4. ____ Ralph doesn't wish to enlist in the army as his brother Jake has. No one in his family is putting any pressure on him to do so, but he feels torn.
5. ____ A father is forced to fight his neighbors in defense of his land.
6. ____ A college student struggles with pressure from his parents to do well in school. They want him to become a doctor, but he wants to be an actor. He tells them of his wishes, but they won't listen.
7. ____ A young woman fights to stay alive during a raging blizzard.
8. ____ A feud has existed between two neighboring families for decades.
9. ____ A young girl hopes to become the first female starting quarterback at Lincoln High, despite years of tradition.
10. ____ A woman and her children run for cover during a tornado.

Forward and Back

Foreshadowing and flashback are two literary elements authors use to help readers understand a story's plot. Foreshadowing is the use of clues to suggest something that is going to happen. Occasionally the reference is obvious, but more often it is only hinted at through characters' dialogue and actions. This creates anticipation for the reader so that he or she will want to read further to discover the outcome of the story.

Flashbacks are interruptions in the story's sequence of events which take the reader back to an earlier time. A flashback allows the reader to understand something that happened in the past. It helps the reader piece together fragments of the plot.

Read each part of a story below. Write FL if the sentences lead into a flashback. Write FOR if the sentences contain an example of foreshadowing.

1. _____ The carefree boy sailed toward the distant shore, unaware of the dark clouds forming behind him. He whistled his favorite tune and thought about the fun day he had planned on the island.
2. _____ Sue loved Jason. As she accepted his proposal, she decided to ignore the nagging voice in her head that suggested that perhaps he was too good to be true.
3. _____ The day of the race had finally arrived. Ken stood nervously waiting for the pop of the starter's pistol. Just ten days ago he hadn't been sure he'd ever be able to run again. It all began when he decided to take a quick jog to the convenience store.
4. _____ Laurie pushed back the hair from her face as she looked at the floor she had just finished cleaning. "One job done. Thousands more to go," she groaned. Little did she know that those humdrum chores would soon become cherished memories. She picked up her bucket and mop and headed to the next room.
5. _____ As I walked onto the stage to receive my diploma, I thought back to the day I first set eyes on the University's campus. It was a sunny August day, and I felt the apprehension most freshmen feel when arriving at a new school.

6. Think of a play or television show that included an example of flashback. How was it made clear that there was an interruption in the sequence of the story?

Comparing This and That

Like a simile, a metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things. However, a metaphor does not include the words *like* or *as*. A metaphor states a comparison as if it were fact.

During June, the classroom was an oven, and the students baked inside it.

In the example above, the hot classroom is being compared to an oven.

Find the metaphor in each set of sentences below. Circle the letter of the two items being compared.

1. The conductor on the train called out to the passengers. His voice was a bass drum echoing throughout the car.
a. voice, drum b. conductor, drum c. train, station
2. Jimmy looked out the window and said, "The river is a blue ribbon winding through the mountains."
a. window, river b. river, mountains c. river, ribbon
3. The Sunday afternoon crowd was enthralled with the antics of the skydiver. Johnny exclaimed, "Look, Mother, he is an eagle!"
a. skydiver, eagle b. Johnny, eagle c. crowd, skydiver
4. The Carrolton family was heading west in a Conestoga wagon. The winds gathered strength, and the wagon became a tossing ship on the prairie.
a. winds, strength b. winds, wagon c. wagon, ship
5. Jane's legs turned to marshmallows as she stood before the crowd, preparing to give her speech.
a. Jane, marshmallows b. legs, marshmallows c. crowd, marshmallows

Create metaphors by completing the statements below.

1. The angry princess is _____.
2. The fancy hotel is _____.
3. My brother is _____.
4. My feet are _____.
5. Her voice is _____.

A Bit of Humor

Satire is a special form of humor. The purpose of satire is to expose and make fun of behavior which the writer thinks is wrong, outdated, silly, or even harmful. The scene below is an example of satire.

DELLA (*talking on the phone*): Really, Susan. I can't take it anymore. Tanya is constantly talking about other people. She goes on and on, gossiping about people's personal problems and pointing out their faults. But she's so nice to everyone face to face. Oh, hold on! There's my other line. I'll be right back. (*She pushes a button.*) Hello. Oh hi, Tanya. How are you? I'm so glad you called. I'm talking to Susan on the other line and have I got news for you about her. I'll call you back in a minute. (*She pushes button again.*) Susan, are you still there? Anyway, as I was saying, I just can't stand gossipers. . . .



1. Explain why this scene is an example of satire.

2. What behavior is the writer making fun of?

3. Name another behavior you believe could be the subject of satire.

4. Write a scene that uses satire to make fun of the behavior you listed in #3. Continue on the back of this paper.

What Did They Say?

Dialogue is the words characters say to one another in a story. It is often much more effective to use dialogue rather than simply tell the reader what has happened.

A character's speech should be appropriate for that character. Decide which line below would be most appropriate for a wealthy older woman who is very cranky:

"Sue, why must I always remind you to bring my tea?"

"Sue, would you please bring me my tea?"

The first line makes a clearer statement about the character's crankiness and possibly her sense of superiority.

Write dialogue that the following characters would be likely to say for each situation. Remember to include quotation marks around the dialogue.

1. A "cool" teenage boy asks his father if he can borrow the car.

2. An evil witch threatens a young boy.

3. A very shy young girl asks a boy she admires to go on a date with her.

4. A crabby old man tells a stranger to avoid walking on his grass.

5. A very professional businesswoman introduces a speaker at a meeting.

6. A goofy teenage girl asks her friend to repeat something she doesn't understand.

7. A snobby girl declines a date from a popular boy.

8. A boy who is afraid of dogs screams as he is being chased by a collie.

9. A very proper music teacher tells her class she is not pleased with their singing.

10. A sports reporter describes a talented athlete.

What Will Happen Next?

Suspense is the quality that keeps a reader turning pages, wanting to know what will happen next. The events that a writer describes, as well as the words he or she uses, can help develop suspense for a reader. Read the story beginning below.

Tap. Tap. Tap. Just as Morgan had almost convinced himself he hadn't heard anything, the sound began again.

This certainly wasn't part of the scenes he had imagined when he thought about spending a week at his grandparents' house. He knew their old stone home was rather isolated and gloomy, but his grandmother's laugh and his grandfather's stories always seemed to make the place warm and cozy. No one could have predicted the car trouble that kept his grandparents in the nearby town late into the night. The mechanic was staying late just to finish the repair. Morgan was sure his grandparents would be home soon. In the meantime, however, he'd feel much better if he could find the source of the strange tapping sound.



Morgan had already established that the tapping could barely be heard from the bedrooms upstairs. On the main floor, Morgan could hear the sound, but not clearly. The only place left to check was the basement.

Morgan stood with his hand on the large brass knob and gathered his courage. "Now," he said to himself. As Morgan opened the door to the basement, he immediately felt the damp, musty air against his skin. He flipped the light switch, turning on a single bare bulb in a far corner of the crowded room. Its light shone on the piles of crates and chests there, creating all sorts of strange shadows on the walls and floor. As Morgan descended the long, dark stairway his eyes darted from side to side, alert for the slightest movement.

1. What events and language did this writer include to help build suspense in the story?

2. What other details might you add to create additional suspense for a reader?

Tragedies and Comedies

Dramas are a form of literature commonly known as plays. The two main types of drama are tragedy and comedy. A tragedy is a serious drama in which the hero struggles against some form of evil. The evil can be another character, something in society, or even nature. The hero eventually loses the struggle, often because of a character flaw or an error in judgment.

A comedy is a light-hearted drama. It may involve a conflict of some kind, but its outcome will not be tragic. The main purpose of a comedy is to make the audience laugh.



Decide whether each set of lines below is from a comedy or a tragedy and explain your reasoning.

INTERVIEWER (*with a tight voice as if in pain*): I'm sure my toe's not broken. I'll be fine. (*Standing near the front of the desk, he rubs his toe gingerly.*)

JOE: These rolling chairs can be tricky. (*As he rolls closer to the desk, the interviewer jumps out of the way and hurries behind the desk.*) I'm just the man you're looking for to run your crystal shop. (*He leans forward, spilling coffee across the desk. The interviewer begins dabbing coffee from his stacks of papers.*)

INTERVIEWER: Well, I really think you've covered everything . . . (*under his breath*): literally. I'll be in touch. (*He stands to convey that he wants Joe to leave.*) (*Joe closes his briefcase then struggles to free his tie from the latch.*)

JOE: I assure you, sir, I'll do a bang up job. (*While reaching for the interviewer's hand, he knocks a picture frame from the desk.*)

INTERVIEWER (*exasperated*): There's no doubt about that.

1. I know the lines above are from a _____
because _____

SARAH (*struggling to free herself from the handcuffs*): Please! You don't understand. It was a mistake. You can't do this to me! You don't know all the details!
SHERIFF: We know the most important detail, ma'am. Your husband is dead, and your temper is to blame.

2. I know the lines above are from a _____
because _____

How Poetic

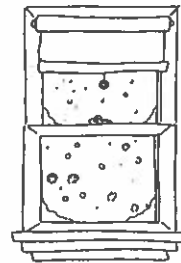
A poet carefully chooses the words in a poem so their meaning and sound convey his or her thoughts and feelings. There are many different forms of poetry. They vary according to their length, their rhyme scheme, and their rhythm, or meter. Haiku and limericks are two well-known forms of poetry.

Haiku

Haiku is a form of poetry that began in Japan. A haiku is a three-line poem that does not rhyme. The first and third lines contain five syllables. The second line contains seven syllables. Haiku are usually written about nature.

Example:

*Whirling, twirling flakes
Come to rest upon the pane.
Soon they are no more.*



1. Write an original haiku on the lines below.

Limerick

A limerick is a humorous five-line poem. Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme, and lines 3 and 4 rhyme. It consists of thirteen beats, or stressed syllables. Limericks can be written about any topic.



Example:

*There **once** was a **young** boy named **Jude**
Who **had** a **strange** habit with **food**.
He'd **talk** to each **snack**
Though they **never** spoke **back**.
Perhaps he thought **they** were quite **rude**.*

2. Write an original limerick on the lines below.

FUN Ideas

Dinner Party

Invite your students to a creative character feast. Challenge students to combine 6 characters from 6 different novels or books and write a conversation script as if they were all at a dinner party. Have the student include himself or herself in the conversation to make things even more interesting. When the script is ready, make a place setting for each character that depicts his or her personality, location, time period, and so on. Combine the place settings and the script together for students to present in front of the class.

Traits of a Character

Use poetry to discuss character traits. Select a character from a novel and invite students to complete a Bio-Poem. Use the format below.

Character Bio-Poem

First name _____
Four traits that describe the character _____
Friend of [list three people] _____
Lover of - [list three things or people] _____
Who feels - [three items] _____
Who needs - [three items] _____
Who fears - [three items] _____
Who gives - [three items] _____
Who would like to see - [three items] _____
Resident of _____
Last name _____

Winnie the Pooh

Winnie

Cheerful, optimistic, friend, full of fluff
Friend of Piglet, Christopher Robin, and Eeyore
Lover of honey, songs and hums, his red t-shirt
Who feels adventurous, protective of Piglet, and hungry for honey
Who needs advice from Christopher Robin, his friends, and his honey pot
Who fears empty honey pots, Tigger's bounces, and bees
Who gives love to Christopher Robin, Eeyore his house,
and the game "pooh-sticks" to his friends
Who would like to see Christopher Robin remain a child forever,
the return of 'small' and Eeyore
Resident of 100 Acre Wood and Christopher Robin's imagination
The Pooh

B. Non-Fiction Text Features:
Match the picture with the right definition

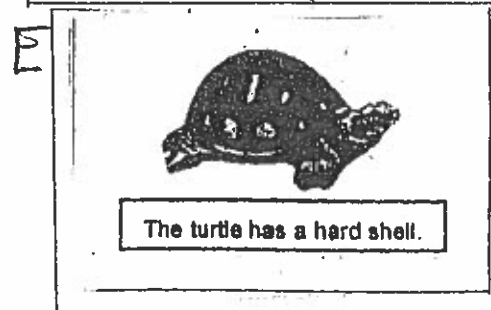
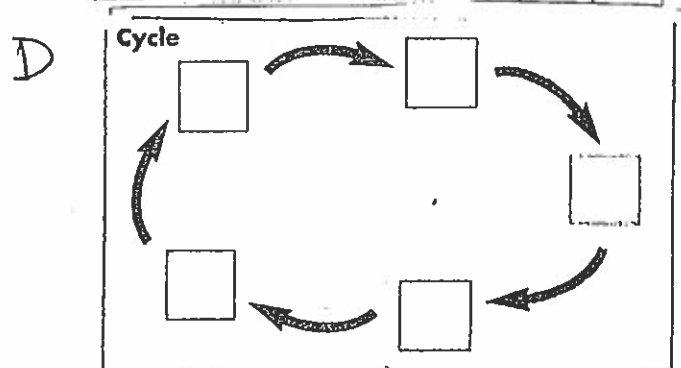
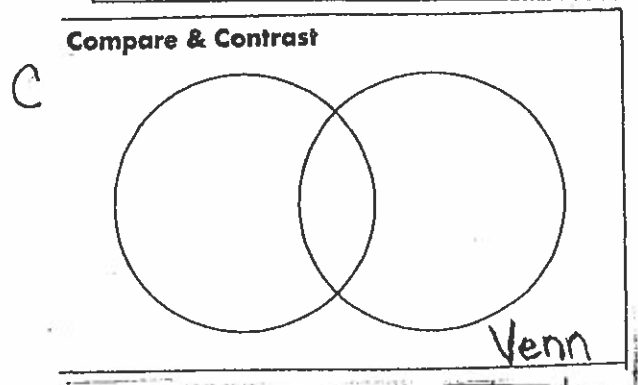
1. The Table of Contents are at the beginning of most non-fiction books. It outlines the ideas covered and the page numbers. _____
2. A Venn diagram compares two topics. How these are alike is where there is overlap in the circle. _____
3. An index is at the back of the non-fiction text outlining key terms in alphabetical order and what page they can be found in. _____
4. A caption is a picture and a supporting text box explanation is usually right under the picture. _____
5. The cycle chart shows the relationship or stages in a cycle, usually has arrows flowing in a circle. _____
6. This is a graphic organizer where ideas are outlined in a web, usually in point form. (ex we use this for journal topic idea generator). _____
7. A fact box is text written in a box to explain information or a fact. It is usually brief. _____
8. This is a labeled diagram where there is a picture and parts are labeled. _____

A

den	8, 22
giraffe	15, 18, 20
hyena	9, 21
jungle	4, 12, 24-26
lion	23, 20

B

A deciduous tree loses its leaves in the winter.
An evergreen tree keeps its leaves all year.



H.

Animal Habitats Contents	
Forest	3
Ocean	12, v
Mountains	19
Desert	25
Arctic	31

