

NYS NEXT GENERATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS LEARNING STANDARD

1R5 Identify a variety of genres and explain major differences between literary texts and informational texts. (RI & RL)

Introduction

Read, or have students read, the instructional text. Define *fiction* for students and list the types of fiction given in the lesson. Provide or have students give examples of each type of genre. You may wish to read short examples aloud to illustrate the characteristics of each genre. Review the elements of a story (characters, plot, and setting), as well as the parts of a plot (beginning, middle, and ending).



LESSON
8

Types of Literature

There are many kinds of stories. Some stories are fiction. **Fiction** is made-up stories.

There are different kinds of fiction stories. **Realistic fiction** is a story that could happen in real life. **Traditional stories** have been around a long time. These are traditional stories:

VOCABULARY
 audience
 backstage
 jewels
 recital
 rude
 wrestled

Type of Story	Characters	Other Elements
fables	can have talking animals	very short teach a lesson
fairy tales	princes, princesses, kings, and queens magic creatures, like fairies	magic often ends with "And they lived happily ever after"
tall tales	based on real people	take place in the past exaggerated strengths
myths	gods and goddesses	explains how or why something happens

112 UNIT 3 Craft and Structure

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You learned about stories in Lesson 6. Stories have characters. Stories have a plot, or problem. Stories also have a setting. The characters work to fix the problem. Stories have a beginning, middle, and ending.

Part of Story	What Happens
beginning	tells about the characters tells about the setting begins to tell about the problem
middle	tells how the characters try to solve the problem
ending	tells how the problem was solved

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UNIT 3 Craft and Structure 113

Guided Practice

Guide students as they work together as a class, in pairs or groups, or individually. Offer assistance to students as needed.

Title: **The Goose That Laid Golden Eggs**

Genre: **Folktale**

Lexile® Measure: **300L–400L**

VOCABULARY

To help with comprehension, review these vocabulary words with students before they read the passage. Write the words on the board and keep them displayed so students can refer to them when they read independently.

golden, laid, strange

Guided Practice

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Goose That Laid Golden Eggs

an adaptation

- 1 One day a farmer's wife found a strange egg. It was in a goose's nest. The egg was very heavy. It was also yellow.
- 2 "Oh my, this is a golden egg!" she cried.
- 3 She checked the nest each morning. There was always another golden egg. The farmer and his wife became rich. But they wanted even more.
- 4 "That goose must be full of gold!" the farmer's wife said.
- 5 They made up a plan. They wanted to get all the goose's gold. That night, the farmer and his wife cut open the goose. But there was no gold inside. Now they could not get any more gold. They had killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.



Where might you find this story?

- A in an animal magazine
- B in a dictionary
- C in a book of fables**
- D in a history book

This tells a story that is not true. It teaches a lesson. Could this happen in real life?

What lesson does this story teach?

- A Do not try to get too much.**
- B Be kind to all animals.
- C Friends are a good thing.
- D Never have a goose for a pet.

A fable teaches a lesson. The farmer and his wife wanted even more. So they killed the goose to get all the gold. But there was no gold inside the goose.

Tell what happens in the beginning, middle, and ending of the story.

Beginning The farmer's wife finds a golden egg.

Middle The farmer and his wife get a golden egg every morning. They become rich. They want more gold. They decide to cut open the goose to get the gold.

Ending The farmer and his wife find out there is no gold inside the goose. Now they do not have any gold at all.

Think about each part of the story. Here is a sample answer:

Beginning—The farmer's wife finds a golden egg.

Middle—The farmer and his wife get a golden egg every morning. They become rich. They want more gold. They decide to cut open the goose to get the gold.

Ending—The farmer and his wife find out there is no gold inside the goose. Now they do not have any gold at all.

Title: **Toads and Diamonds**

Genre: **Fairy Tale**

Lexile® Measure: **400L–500L**

VOCABULARY

blamed, complained, jewels, jug, rude

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Toads and Diamonds

a French story

- 1 Once there was a woman. She had two daughters. The older daughter was mean and rude. The younger daughter was kind and sweet. But the mother loved her older daughter best. She made the younger daughter work hard.
- 2 One day, the younger daughter went to the stream. She filled her jug with water. Then a poor, old woman appeared.
- 3 “May I have a drink?” the woman asked.
- 4 “Yes!” the younger daughter said. She quickly gave the woman a drink.

rude
not polite



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UNIT 3 Craft and Structure 117

5 The woman was actually a fairy. She wanted to thank the girl. So she gave her a gift. Jewels and flowers would fall out of the girl’s mouth every time she spoke.

jewels
beautiful
stones that are
worth a lot

6 The younger daughter went home. She told her mother what happened. Roses and diamonds fell out of her mouth.

7 The mother wanted her favorite daughter to get a gift. She told the older daughter to go to the woods. She told her to give a drink to the poor woman. The older daughter complained. She did not want to do work. But she went.

8 The older daughter went to the same stream. A beautiful princess appeared.

9 “May I have a drink?” the princess asked.

10 “I do not work for you,” the older daughter said. “Get your own drink.”

11 The princess was the same fairy. She did not like the older daughter. So she gave the daughter a different gift.

12 The older daughter went home. She told her mother what happened. Toads and snakes fell out of her mouth.

13 The mother was very upset. She blamed her younger daughter. She kicked her out of the house. The younger daughter did not know where to go. She began to cry.

14 Soon a prince came along. He asked the girl why she was crying. She told him. Then pearls and lilies fell out of her mouth. The prince fell in love with the girl. The girl fell in love with the prince, too. Soon they were married.

How can you tell that this story is a fairy tale?

- A There is a woman with magic powers.
- B There are talking toads.
- C The woman has two daughters.
- D The story happens long ago.

Some of these could be in more than one kind of story. Which one is only true of fairy tales?

118 UNIT 3 Craft and Structure

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Who is **not** a character in this story?

- A a king
- B a prince
- C a fairy
- D a girl

Characters are who the story is about. Look for each of these people in the story. Who is missing?

What is the main problem in this story?

- A The older daughter wants to marry the prince.
- B The fairy is thirsty.
- C The mother is unkind to the younger daughter.
- D The younger daughter cannot talk.

Paragraph 1 tells you the main problem. It involves the mother and her two daughters.

How would this story be different if it were a fable?

It would teach a lesson at the end.

Look back at the chart. How is a fable different from a fairy tale? There is one important difference. Think about how this story ends.

Test Yourself

Have students complete the Test Yourself section on their own. Students can complete it at home or during class.

Title: **The Recital**

Genre: **Realistic Fiction**

Lexile® Measure: **300L-400L**

VOCABULARY

audience, backstage, bow, nervous, practiced, realized, recital, stage

Test Yourself

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Recital

by Amber Little

- 1 Jeff took a deep breath. He sat down on the piano bench. The stage lights were bright. He could barely see the people in the audience. That was good. He tried to pretend they were not there.
- 2 He looked up at his music. He looked down at his hands. He took another deep breath. His heart was pounding like a drum. It was his first piano recital. He had to play three songs. He had practiced and practiced. But he was still nervous. He did not want to mess up.

audience
the people watching a show

recital
a time for music or dance students to show what they have learned



SKILL STRATEGY

Literary Elements

See pages 18–20 of the teacher’s edition.

Answer Rationales

- 1. This story takes place in modern times. It is about a young boy. There are no elements of magic, talking animals, or exaggerated feats. It is an example of realistic fiction. Choice D is correct. **(1R5)**

3 Jeff’s teacher smiled at him. She was waiting backstage. She nodded at him. It was time to play.

4 Jeff began the first song. The music filled the room. Soon he forgot about the audience. He forgot that people were listening to him. He just played.

5 Suddenly he realized he was finished with his third song. He had done it! Jeff smiled. He stood up. Then he took a bow.

6 Everyone was clapping. He knew he had messed up a couple times. But he had just kept on playing. He knew the next time he would not be as nervous.

1 What type of story is this?

- A fairy tale
- B fable
- C tall tale
- D realistic fiction**

backstage
the area that cannot be seen by the audience

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LISTENING/SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Have students think about what might happen next in the story. Have them draw comic-style pictures to show another episode in Jeff’s life. The pictures should show what happens first, next, and last.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Have students think about a time that they needed help doing something. Did they try to do it by themselves first or did they ask for help? Have the students share their experiences with the class.

2. Recognizing that the story is realistic fiction, a reader would expect to find characters that are regular people. They would not have magic powers or incredible size. There wouldn't be animals that are acting like people. The story could include a silly little sister, though. Choice B is correct. (1R5)
3. The problem in a story is the main issue that the character is dealing with. In this story, Jeff is very nervous about performing for his first piano recital. (1R5)
4. The story can be broken into the beginning, middle, and ending. In the beginning, Jeff sits at the piano feeling nervous. In the middle, he looks at his teacher and begins to play his songs. He plays three songs. The ending is when Jeff realizes he has finished playing, and everyone claps for him. (1R5)

2 What type of character would you expect to find in this story?

- A a kind fairy godmother
- B a silly little sister**
- C a man who is 15 feet tall
- D a fox who wears clothing

3 What is the problem in the story?

Jeff is nervous about playing the piano for his recital.

4 What happens in the middle of the story?

Jeff is nervous. He looks at his teacher. Then he starts to play. He plays all three of his songs.

124 UNIT 3 Craft and Structure

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Title: **Davy Crockett and the Bear**

Genre: **Tall Tale**

Lexile® Measure: **300L–400L**

VOCABULARY

munching, squeezed, wandered, woodsman, wrestled

SKILL STRATEGY

Literary Elements

See pages 18–20 of the teacher's edition.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Davy Crockett and the Bear

an American tale

1 Davy Crockett was just a young boy. He was only 3 years old. One day, he was sitting in his family's log cabin. A big bear wandered into the kitchen. That bear was mighty hungry. The bear stuck his nose in the cupboard. He started munching on the family's food. Well, Davy jumped right up. He grabbed that bear in a big bear hug. He squeezed and squeezed with his little arms. Then that bear just fell right down. Davy had wrestled the bear to the ground. His parents knew right then that he would be a great woodsman.

Davy Crockett lived from 1786 to 1836. He grew up in the woods. He learned to hunt and trap. Later, he worked in politics. He died in a battle in Texas.

wrestled
fought something to the ground



- 5. Although this story features a real historical figure, it is not a true story. This is a tale about Davy Crockett that greatly exaggerates his strength as a young child. It is considered a tall tale. Choice C is correct. (1R5)
- 6. Students should recognize that a 3-year-old child would not be able to wrestle a bear. This tale exaggerates Davy’s strength, which makes it a tall tale. Tall tales are known for exaggerating characters’ size, strength, and speed. (1R5)

LISTENING/SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Have students read other examples of American tall tales, such as the stories of Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, and Brer Rabbit. Have students share characteristics of the different characters they encounter.

- 7. Despite its short length, the story can still be broken into three parts. In the beginning, Davy is in his family’s home and a bear enters the house. This sets up the conflict. In the middle, the bear begins to eat the family’s food, so Davy puts his arms around the bear and starts to squeeze. This is the rising action. In the ending, the bear collapses on the floor because Davy wrestled it to the ground. This is the climax and falling action. (1R5)

ELLs ACTIVITY

Discuss exaggeration with students. Help them to understand that exaggeration is making something much bigger or much smaller than it really is. This is a technique that is used in writing and is considered figurative language. They may also encounter exaggeration in everyday speech. Many people use it to emphasize something or to make a point.

5 What type of story is this?

- A fairy tale
- B fable
- C tall tale**
- D realistic fiction

6 How do you know your answer to question 5 is correct?

A tall tale is about a real person. Davy Crockett was a real person. It exaggerates something about the person. This story says Davy wrestled a bear when he was only 3 years old. A real 3-year-old could not wrestle a bear.

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7 Tell what happens in the beginning, middle, and ending of the story.

Beginning Young Davy Crockett is in his family's cabin. A bear comes in.

Middle The bear starts to eat the family's food. Davy puts his arms around the bear and starts to squeeze.

Ending Davy wrestles the bear to the ground.

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UNIT 3 Craft and Structure 127