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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

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

SAMPLE



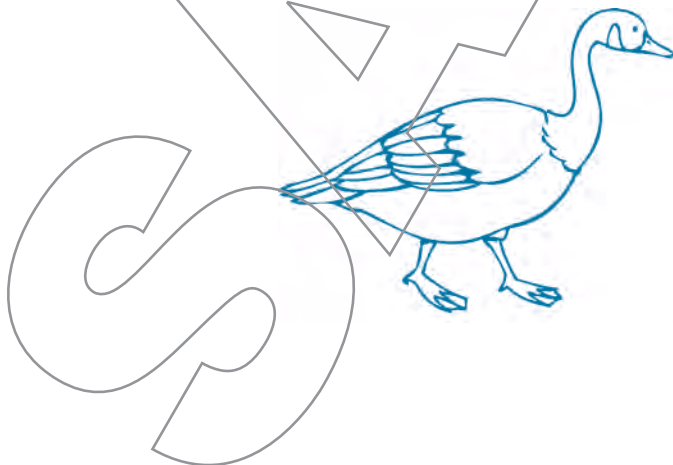
Guided Practice

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 _____

Middle _____

Ending _____

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.

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.

rude
not polite

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.



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?**

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?

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.

SAMPLE

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



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.

backstage
the area that
cannot be seen
by the audience

1 What type of story is this?

A fairy tale

B fable

C tall tale

D realistic fiction

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?

4 What happens in the middle of the story?



Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

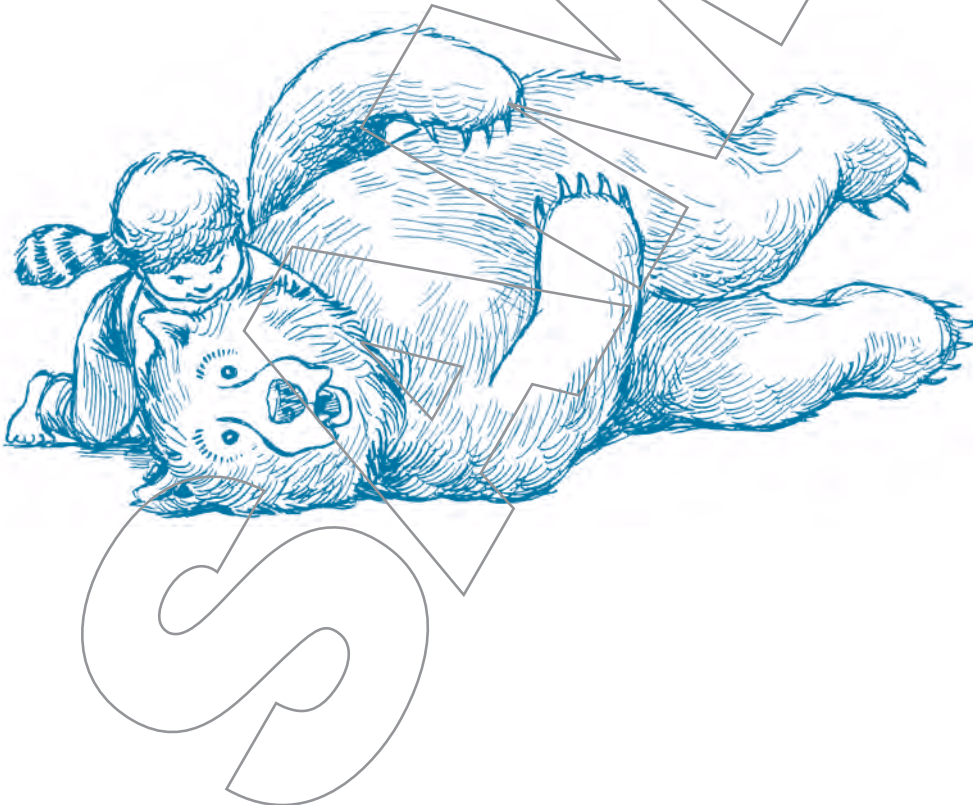
Davy Crockett and the Bear

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 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?

SAMPLE

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

Beginning _____

Middle _____

Ending _____

SAMPLE

