

Name _____

Unit 1: Fiction and Nonfiction

Big Question Vocabulary—1

The Big Question: How do we decide what is true?

In your textbook, you learned words that will help you talk about what is true and what may not be true. These words can be useful in classroom discussions and when talking to friends in everyday conversation.

fantasy: an idea or a belief that is not based on facts

fiction: a story or book that is about imaginary people and events

realistic: based on what is really possible rather than on what one might wish for

true: based on facts

unbelievable: hard to believe because it does not seem probable

Lacy told the following story to Bill, Stuart, and Kim: “I was at home, minding my own business, when the doorbell rang. My mom opened the door to a woman that I never saw before. She was wearing lots of shiny jewelry and a long silver gown. She had a magic wand. She said, ‘Lacy, there you are! Come here my child, and I will grant you three wishes!’ I wished for three things. The next thing I knew all three wishes came true!”

Each of Lacy’s friends had a different reaction to the story.

DIRECTIONS: Use the word(s) given in parentheses to write what each friend said to Lacy.

(unbelievable, fantasy)

Bill

(realistic, true)

Stuart

(fiction)

Kim

Unit 1: Fiction and Nonfiction

Big Question Vocabulary—2

The Big Question: How do we decide what is true?

People must learn facts in order to make decisions. The following words can help you talk about how to separate facts from opinions.

decision: a choice or judgment that a person makes after discussion or thought

determine: to find out the facts about something

fact: a piece of information known to be true

opinion: a person’s belief about something

prove: to show that something is true by using facts and information

DIRECTIONS: *Fill in the dialogue using the word(s) in parentheses.*

“I think that you should study hard and get good grades so you can go to a good college,” Mario’s father told him.

1. Mario did not believe that he needed better grades to go to a good college. He said to his father: **(opinion)**

2. His father wanted to do some research to see if he was correct. He said: **(determine, fact)**

3. They looked at some college Web sites and Mario discovered that he would need A’s and B’s to be considered. His sister asked what they were doing. Mario responded: **(prove)**

4. Based on what he saw, Mario spent the afternoon studying instead of going to the park. He told his friends: **(decision)**

Sometimes it takes work to find out the truth. The following words will help you talk about how people work to get at the truth.

confirm: show that something is definitely true by getting more proof

evidence: a fact, an object, or a sign that makes you believe something is true

investigate: to try to find out the truth about something

study: to find out more about a subject

test: to examine something in order to get information

DIRECTIONS: *Read the passage. Then, fill in the dialogue using the words in parentheses.*

“Aha! said Dr. Trooper. “My experiment will prove that I am correct. Carrots improve eyesight!”

“How do you know that?” asked Mia.

“My dear, it has been my life’s work,” said Dr. Trooper. “Come to my laboratory. Let me show you.”

Mia followed Dr. Trooper into his laboratory. In the laboratory, they found Doug, Dr. Trooper’s assistant. He was eating carrots and reading very fine print on a sheet of paper.

Mia asked, “What are you doing?”

DIRECTIONS: *Use the word(s) given in parentheses to write what each friend said to Lacy.*

Doug (study, test, investigate)

Mia What have you discovered?

Dr. Trooper (evidence, confirm)

Learning About Fiction and Nonfiction

Literature may be either **fiction** or **nonfiction**. The following chart compares and contrasts these two types of literature.

Characteristics

Features

Fiction

Fiction tells about *imaginary* people or animals called **characters**. They experience a series of made-up events called the plot. The plot contains a problem, or *conflict*, that the characters must solve.

Nonfiction

Nonfiction tells about *real* people, animals, places, things, experiences, and ideas. Nonfiction contains only facts and ideas.

Sample Forms articles, essays, biographies,
autobiographies
Author's Purpose to entertain

short stories, novels

to explain, inform, persuade, to
entertain

A. DIRECTIONS: *Read each item. Decide whether it is an element of fiction or nonfiction, and then write fiction or nonfiction on the line provided.*

- _____ 1. a story about a talking horse
- _____ 2. a newspaper article that describes farming in France
- _____ 3. a magazine article that explains how to make a kite
- _____ 4. a novel in which a boy turns into a bird

B. DIRECTIONS: *This paragraph begins a piece of literature. Read it carefully. Then, decide whether it is fiction or nonfiction. Circle your choice. Then, on the lines below, explain what information led you to make your choice.*

Jerry was eager to perform with Harry in the school talent show. He had practiced with Harry for three days. Jerry was sure that Harry would be able to solve the math problem. After all, Harry was a hard worker. He was also a very smart dog.

Circle your choice: F I C T I O N N O N F I C T I O N

Explain your choice:

Additional Unit 1 Vocabulary

Use your textbook's glossary, Literary Terms glossary, or a dictionary to define the following terms.

1. character _____
2. plot _____
3. setting _____
4. narrator _____
5. point of view _____
6. 1st Person _____
7. 3rd Person _____
8. theme _____
9. novel _____
10. novella _____
11. short story _____
12. subplot _____
13. narrate _____
14. author's perspective _____
15. tone _____
16. writer's purpose _____
17. biography _____
18. autobiography _____
19. letters _____
20. journals / diaries _____
21. essay _____
22. informational text _____
23. speech _____