

- Realistic fiction could really happen, but it didn't
- Settings are realistic and include common places (home, school, work, neighborhood, local businesses, parks, friends' homes)
- Include real-life problems like addiction, abuse, poverty.
- Family, friendships, and other social relationships are important to the story

GRADES
6-12

## Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks

## THREE FORMATS

## LET'S TALK ABOUT REALISTIC FICTION!

What does realistic fiction mean? How is this different from nonfiction?

Can you think of any realistic fiction TV shows or movis


## TECHNOLOGY

- Modern technology is prominent - it would not be realistic without it (except for wilderness survival stories or where characters refrain from using technology)
- Characters use technology regularly, carry cell phones, send emails, look things up online, use social media, listen to music, watch TV..
- Story may be partially or completely told via text message, social media posts, etc. (example: TTYL by Lauren Myracle)

Problems with technology may also be apparent - lack of privacy, cyberbullying, hacking, identity theft, reliance on technology, addiction

All slides and bookmarks are editable in Google Slides and PowerPoint. Bookmarks also include editable PDF format.

# PART I - WHOLEGROUP LESSON 



## WHY SHOULD WE READ <br> REALISTIC FICTION?

Promotes empathy - we can experience the

## WHO ARE THE CHARACTERS?

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { - Friends, former friends, teammates } & \text { - Parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles } \\
\text { - Acquaintances } & \text { - Siblings, cousins } \\
\text { - Love interests } & \text { - Neighbors } \\
\text { - Enemies, bullies } & \text { - Bosses and coworkers } \\
\text { - Teachers and coaches } &
\end{array}
$$

Part I reviews genre and describes characteristics of the realistic fiction genre, subgenres, and genre blends. Includes special emphasis on problem fiction, coming-of-age, and travel fiction, plus characteristics and examples of each.

## FOCUS ON THREE SUBGENRES

## PROBLEM FICTION

- Protagonists face serious problems that are not easily solved.
- The problem may remain, (or walk away from) the pro



## TRAVEL FICTION

- Characters take a cross-country road trip or travel abroad
They learn about themselves and grow up along the way
They will not return home as the same person
- Themes include independence, selfreliance, overcoming adversity, survival, discovery, and wonder
Characters gain self-confidence, learn life lessons, and discover hidden strengths and talents

Problem Fiction, Coming-of-Age, and Travel Fiction Each includes characteristics and YA \& MG sample titles

## PART II SCROLLING SLIDES

## TRIVIA QUESTION

Which of these genres blends
realistic fiction and fantasy?
a. dark fantasy
b. travel fiction
c. magical realis
d. Bildungsrome

word of the week foreshadowing
(noun) hints, warnings, or clues about what might happen later in the story

Foreshadowing helps build anticipation and allows readers to guess at what's coming up.

Music and weather often foreshadow
what's to come in movies.


Part II includes realistic fiction genre quotations, trivia questions, vocabulary, Would-You-Rathers, why read realistic fiction, and 5 things to include in every realistic fiction story.

## FUN FACTS \& TRIVIA

## REASONS NARRATORS MIGHT BE UNRELIABLE

- They lack the knowledge or experience of other characters
- Brain injury, cognitive disability, extreme trauma, or amnesia
- Child narrator just doesn't understand
- Mentally unstable
- Delusional - they are lying to themselves
- Thev are biased or have a limited perspective

- Inte
WOULD YOU RATHER

read a book set in your hometown

read a book set in another country


# 5 TIPS FOR WRITING REALISTIC FICTION 

## 5 TIPS FOR WRITING REALISTIC FICTION

Number I: Name your characters wisely.


- Don't go too crazy with making character names unique. Use names that are common in the country or region your book is set in. Leave the super-unique names to fantasy and science fiction.


## 5 TIPS FOR WRITING REALISTIC FICTION

## Number 2: Make your introduction strong.

If this baby were one of yc

- Readers want the action to begin quickly. The sooner you can logically introduce the conflict, the better.
- Add some foreshadowing of future events. Hook that reader!
- Do not spend lots of time telling the reader about the characters. Let readers get to know characters through their actions and what other characters say about them.



## CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY REALISTIC FIC QUOTATIONS


that work on loneliest guys in

the world. They got no family.
They don't belong no place."
~John Steinbeck. Of Mice and Men

## ALL TEXT IS EDITABLE

## REALISTIC FICTION SUBGENRES

- friendship drama
- family drama
- problem fiction
- travel fi on


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> Editable (all text, captions, and headers)

- workplace fiction
- school stories
le-of-life
ragical realism

Not editable (images)

Artwork has been locked to protect copyright.

REALISTIC FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 6-8)

GENERAL REALISTIC FICTION
New Kid (Craft)
Starfish (Fipps)
Hands (Maldonado)
From the Desk of Zoe Washington (Marks)
Tumble (Perez)
Hummingbird (Lloyd)
The Elephant in the Room (Sloan)
PROBLEMFICTION
The Benefits of Being an Octopus (Braden)
Ghost (Reynolds)
Simon Sort of Says (Bow)
The Stars Beneath Our Feet
(Moore)
Almost Home (Bauer)
COMING-OF-AGE
The Outsiders (Hinton)
Tiger Daughter (Lim)
Pay Attention, Carter Jones
(Schmidt)
The Crossover (Alexander)
TRAVEL FICTION
The Someday Birds (Pla) Clean Getaway (Stone) The First Magnificent Summer (Toalson)

## REALISTIC FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 9-12)

GENERAL REALISTIC FICTION
The Hate U Give (Thomas)
We Are All So Good At Smiling (McBride)
All My Rage (Tahir)
Phoebe's Diary (Wahl)
Ander \& Santi Were Here (Garza
Villa) Villa)
Breathe and Count Back From Ten (Sylvester)

## PROBLEMFICTION

Long Way Down (Reynolds)
Clap When You Land (Acevedo)
Bad Romance (Demetrios)
Speak (Anderson)
The First Part Last (Johnson)
Gym Candy (Deuker)

## COMING-OF-AGE

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (Saenz)
To Kill a Mockingbird (Lee)
American Born Chinese (Yang)
Fangirl (Rowell)

## TRAVEL FICTION

Me (Moth) (McBride)
13 Little Blue Envelopes (Johnson)
American Road Trip (Flores-Scott)
Four for the Road (Reilly)
An Abundance of Katherines

Editable list of recommended realistic fiction genre books for
Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Since the presentation focuses
on problem fiction, coming-of-age, and travel fiction, the bookmarks give multiple suggestions for each.

# MORE FOR SECONDARY 

## LIBRARIES




