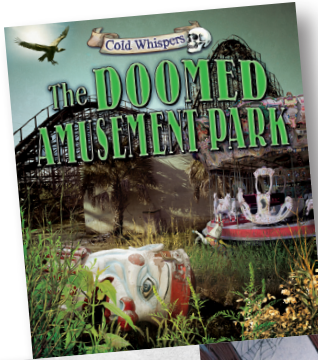


The Doomed Amusement Park COMBO



Teacher's Guide



Cold Whispers:
The Doomed Amusement Park

Scary Places:
Abandoned Amusement Parks

Fiction and Nonfiction

Use this Teacher's Guide to help students learn about fiction and nonfiction texts. The first section of the guide provides a basic overview of the genres, while the second section can be used as a lesson plan for comparing two individual titles about similar spooky topics.

CCSS Language Arts Standards

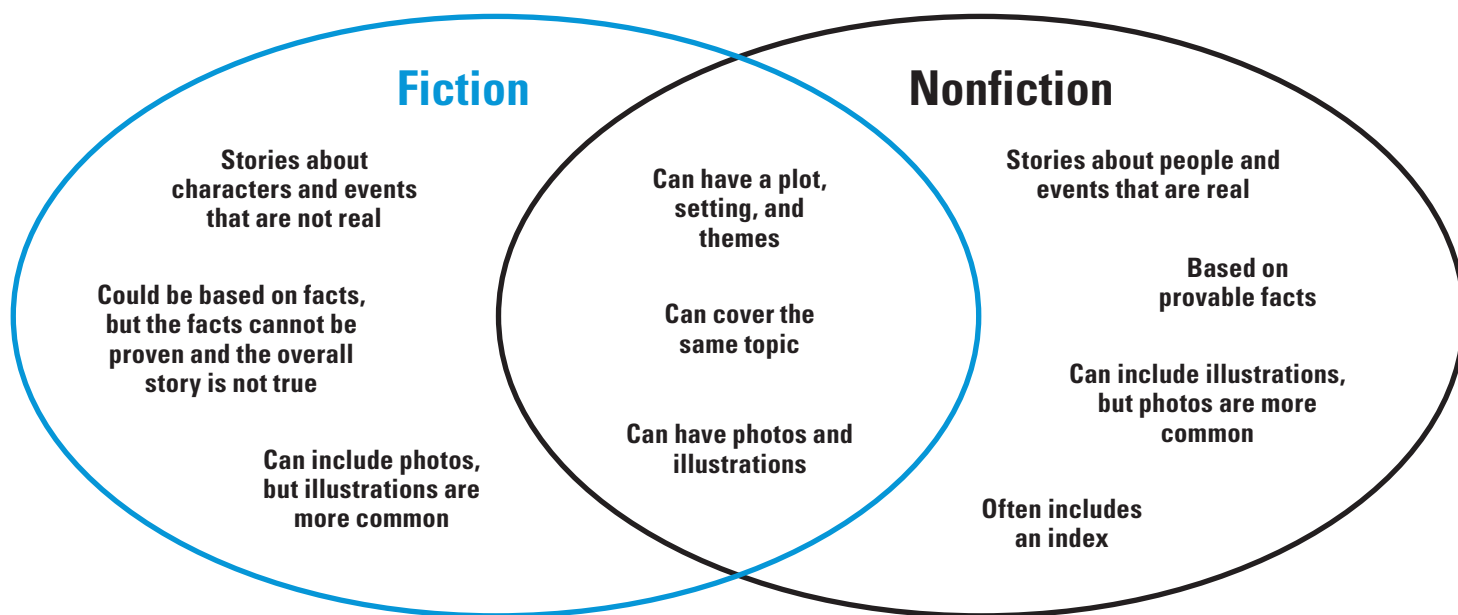
- RI3.9** Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- RI4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Discuss Fiction and Nonfiction

Prompt students to describe the genres of fiction and nonfiction. Ask them to cite examples of each genre. For example, fiction includes short stories and novels, while nonfiction includes newspapers and textbooks.

Create a Chart or Diagram

Help students establish what the differences and similarities are between fiction and nonfiction by using a Venn diagram or a chart. Place fiction attributes on one side of the chart and nonfiction attributes on the other side, with a space in the middle for shared attributes.



Define Important Terms and Concepts

Assist students in defining the following literary terms and concepts in order to help compare fiction and nonfiction texts.

- **Character** (a person portrayed in a novel, short story, or play)
- **Characterization** (the way the author describes a character)
- **Chronological order** (the order in which events actually happened)
- **Facts** (information that can be proven true)
- **Mood** (the way the reader feels when reading a text)
- **Plot** (sequence of events in a story where each event causes the next event to happen)
- **Setting** (where a story takes place)
- **Theme** (the main idea of a story)

As students further explore works of fiction and nonfiction, they can apply the terms and concepts they have learned to individual books and add new words to this list.

Remind Students

Fiction

Explain that some works of fiction can be based on fact. For example, a historical novel may use factual details about a particular time to create a realistic setting. Also, fiction can sound like the truth, even though the author has invented the information in the book.

Nonfiction

A nonfiction story, such as a ghost story, can include elements of fiction. For example, many visitors to the White House have claimed they saw the ghost of President Abraham Lincoln. While it's true that Lincoln lived at the White House and the visitors are real people who are certain about what they saw, there is no concrete evidence to suggest that the ghost actually exists.

A Closer Look

Cold Whispers: *The Doomed Amusement Park* and Scary Places: *Abandoned Amusement Parks*

Objective: To have students compare fiction and nonfiction texts about deserted amusement parks

1. Read

Have students read the Cold Whispers title, *The Doomed Amusement Park*. Then have them read the Scary Places title, *Abandoned Amusement Parks*. Ask students to take notes about the setting, characters, and any important themes as they read.

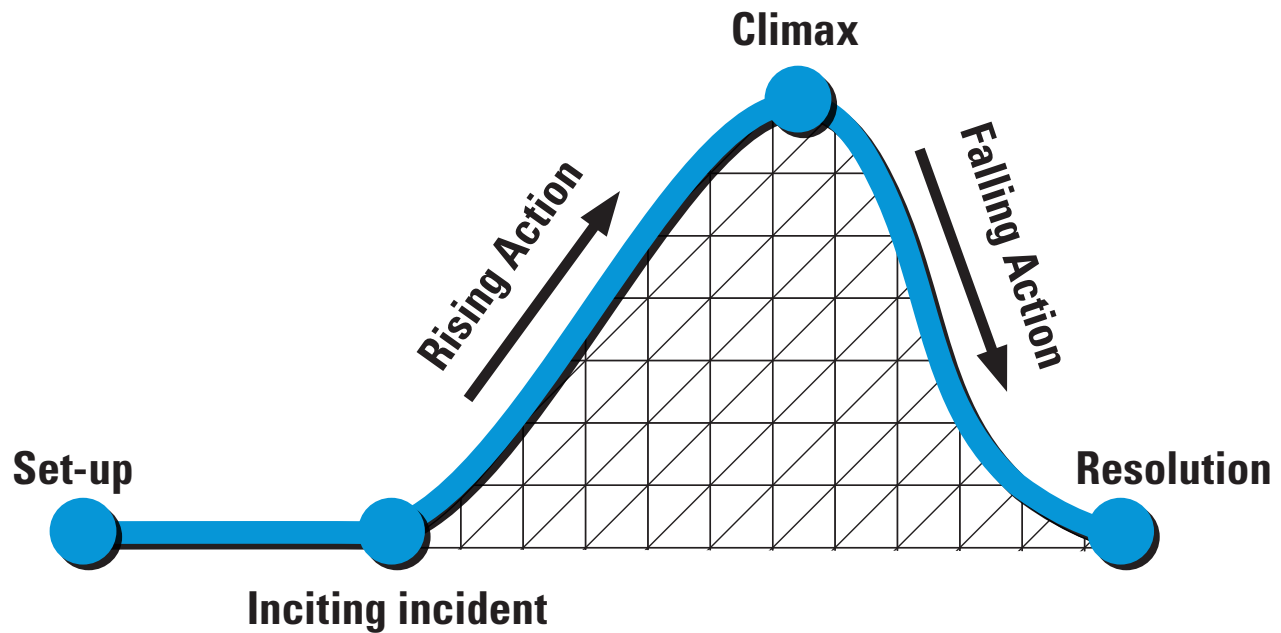
- Which of the stories is fiction? Which is nonfiction? How can you tell? Ask students what clues helped them figure out what genre each book falls into.

2. Compare and Contrast: Identifying Key Events

As a class, identify the key event that caused Thrill Time Amusement Park to become abandoned in *The Doomed Amusement Park*. Students should recall that Thrill Time closed after the fire that killed Leo's great-uncle Darren.

In *Abandoned Amusement Parks*, what were similar key events in each of the nonfiction stories? Divide the class into groups and have each group identify what event or problem caused each amusement park to close.

3. Challenge Students: Plot Roller Coaster!



Show students a plot diagram like the one above, and discuss the parts of a story's plot.

- **Set-up:** how the story begins
- **Inciting incident:** the first key event that starts the story's plot
- **Rising Action:** a series of events in the plot, building up to the story's climax
- **Climax:** the dramatic turning point in the story
- **Falling action:** a series of events tying up the story's conclusion
- **Resolution:** how the story ends

As a class, label a plot diagram with the sequence of events in Cold Whispers: *The Doomed Amusement Park*. For example: The set-up is that Leo has a scary dream in which he learns about a mysterious location. The climax occurs when Leo finds out why Thrill Time Amusement Park closed. Leo hears a voice, realizes it's his great-uncle Darren, and promises never to forget him.

Then, have students try to plot out a story from Scary Places: *Abandoned Amusement Parks*, such as "Nuclear Ghost Town" (pages 10–11), "Blaze and Burn" (pages 16–17), or "From Good Times to Ghost Town" (pages 18–19).

4. Extend Knowledge: Your Park

Ask students to imagine they have discovered an old, abandoned amusement park. Have them write a short story, comic strip, newspaper article, or diary account of how the park came to be abandoned, how they found it, and details of the park ruins. Students can include fiction elements in their accounts, such as ghostly sightings.

