

Terror in the Underground Tunnel













Scary Places: Dark Labyrinths

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

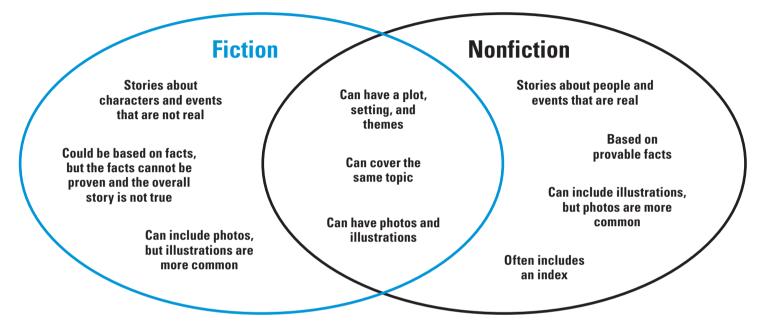
- **RI3.9** Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- **R14.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

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** (seguence 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 II: Terror in the Underground Tunnel and Scary Places: Dark Labyrinths

Objective: To have students compare fiction and nonfiction texts about underground labyrinths and tunnels

1. Read

Have students read the Cold Whispers title, Terror in the Underground Tunnel. Then have them read the Scary Places title, *Dark Labyrinths*. Ask students to take notes about the setting, characters, and any important themes as they read.

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

2. Discuss: Labyrinths

Use the questions below to begin a class discussion. Ask students to use examples from both texts to help them answer the guestions and contribute to the discussion.

- Why is the idea of an underground labyrinth so frightening? Examples from the books include: Being hundreds of feet below ground; pitch-black passages; getting lost; not knowing what could be lurking in the dark; old myths, such as: digging a subway would allow the devil to escape from the underworld; crawling or walking through a place that's infested with rats, snakes, spiders, or other creatures.
- What emotions do you feel when you think about being deep underground? Would the story in *Terror in the Underground Tunnel* have been as scary if it had happened in an aboveground train station?

3. Challenge Students: Trapped

In *Terror in the Underground Tunnel*, the ghost of Betty has been haunting the subway tunnels for more than 70 years. Ask students to think about what kept Betty trapped underground all that time. What was she looking for?

In Dark Labyrinths, identify ghosts that are said to haunt the labyrinths. How did these spirits become trapped underground?

4. Extend Knowledge: Dark Labyrinths—the Movie!

In Terror in the Underground Tunnel, Emma and David's mother is using the abandoned subway as a set for a movie. Choose one of the real-life places from Dark Labyrinths, and then write your own plot for a scary movie that takes place in that setting.

