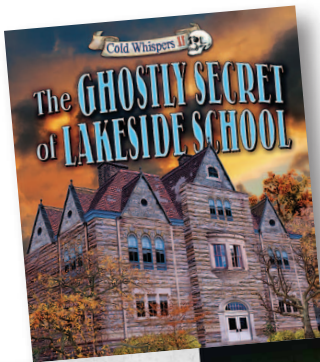


The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School COMBO



Teacher's Guide



Cold Whispers II: The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School

Scary Places: Spooky Schools

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

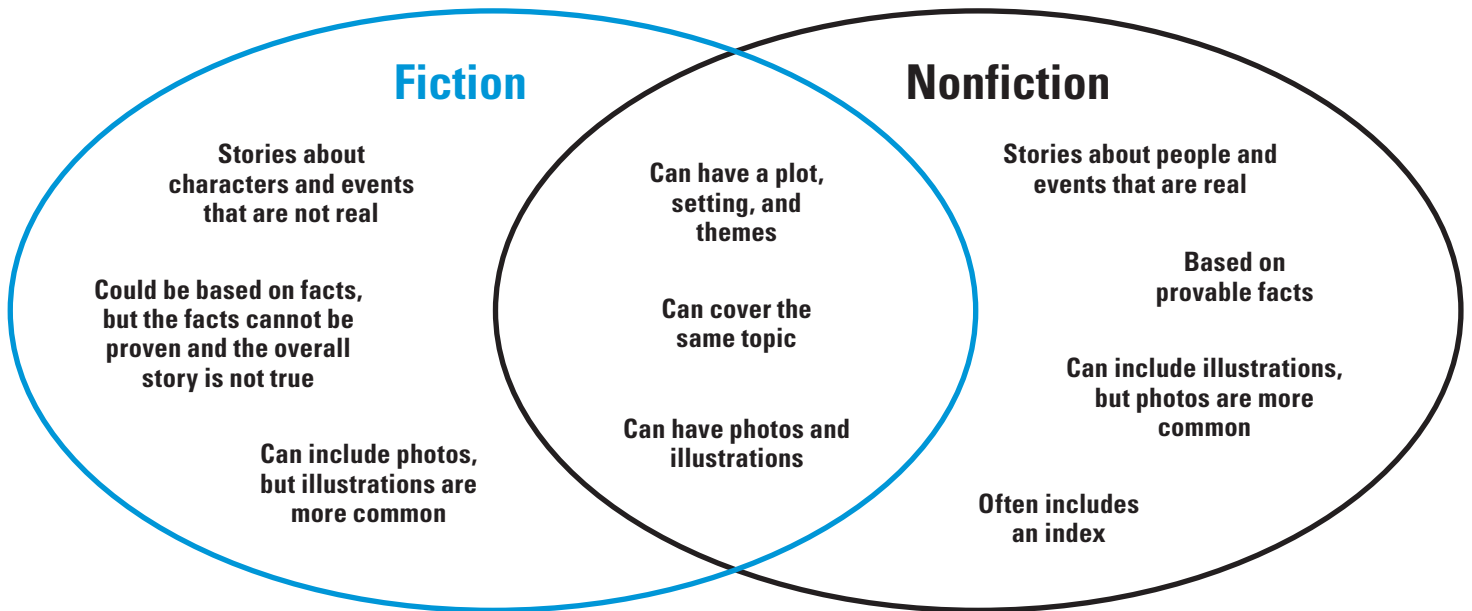
- RI.3.9** Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- RI.4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

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 II: *The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School* and Scary Places: *Spooky Schools*

Objective: To have students compare fiction and nonfiction texts about haunted schools

1. Read

Have students read the Cold Whispers title, *The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School*. Then have them read the Scary Places title, *Spooky Schools*. 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.

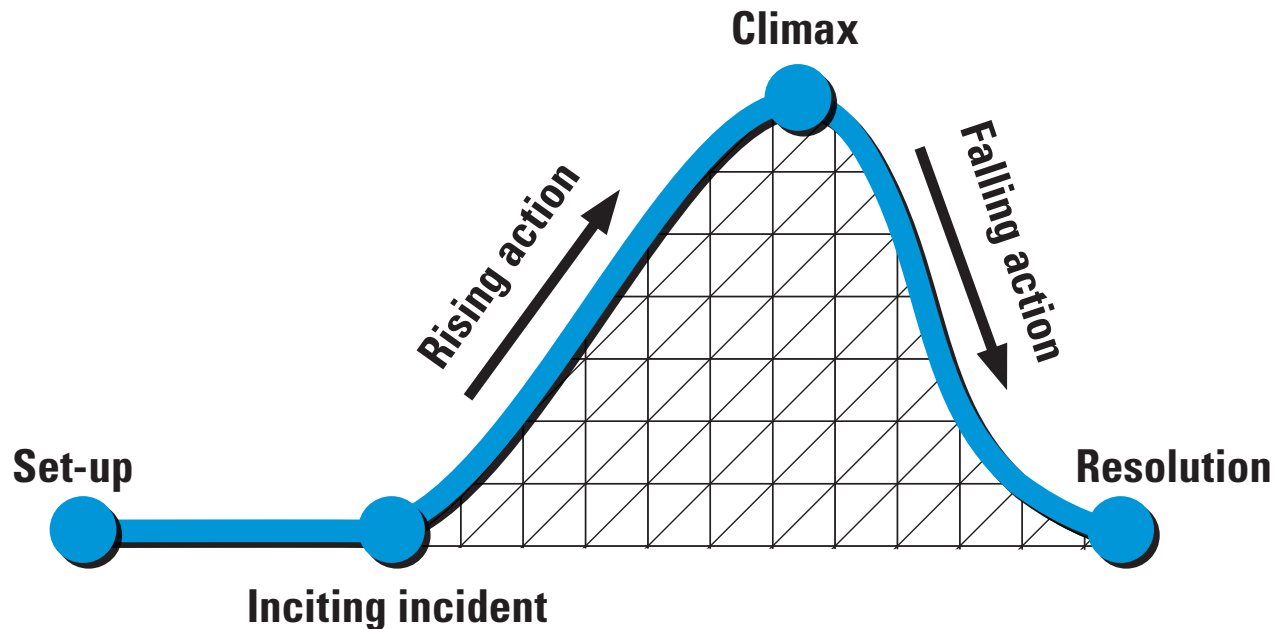
2. Compare and Contrast: Haunted Hallways

Ask students to compare the spooky happenings in *The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School* and in some of the stories in *Spooky Schools*. What unusual things did the people in the stories hear or feel that led them to believe the buildings were haunted?

- Examples from the books include: a piano playing on its own; writing appearing on a chalkboard; and the sound of children's laughter coming from the walls

3. Challenge Students: Plotting a Story

As a class, label a plot diagram with the sequence of events in *The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School*. For example, the set-up is that Maddie encounters the ghost of Mary Carter in the music room. The climax occurs when Mary's ghost reaches out to Maddie in the swimming pool and Maddie finally pieces together all the clues. The resolution happens when the police discover Mary's body and her necklace under the pier.



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

4. Extend Knowledge: A Message From Beyond the Grave

In *The Ghostly Secret of Lakeside School*, Mary Carter's ghost writes messages to Maddie in a notebook and on the chalkboard. Choose one of the ghost stories from *Spooky Schools* and have students write a message from the ghost to one of their classmates. What message does the ghost want to pass on? Does the message talk about the ghost's untimely end? Perhaps it explains why the ghost is unable to leave the school.

