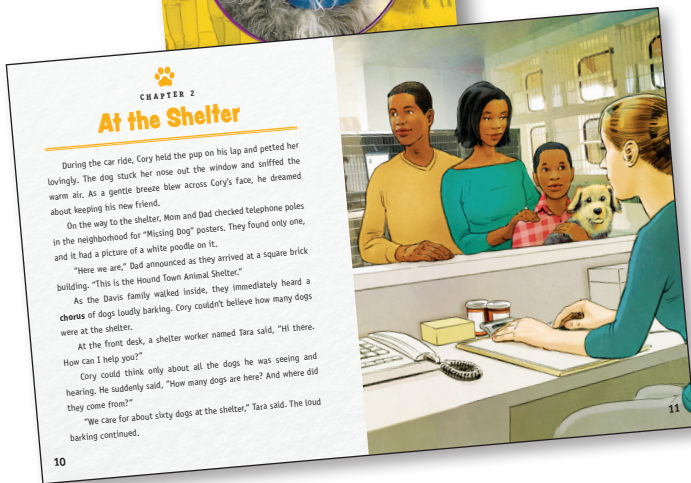
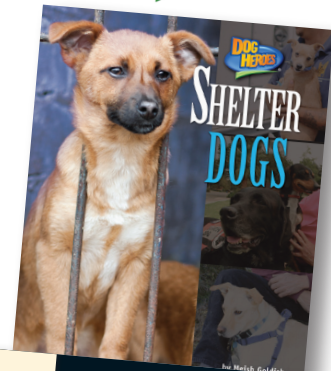


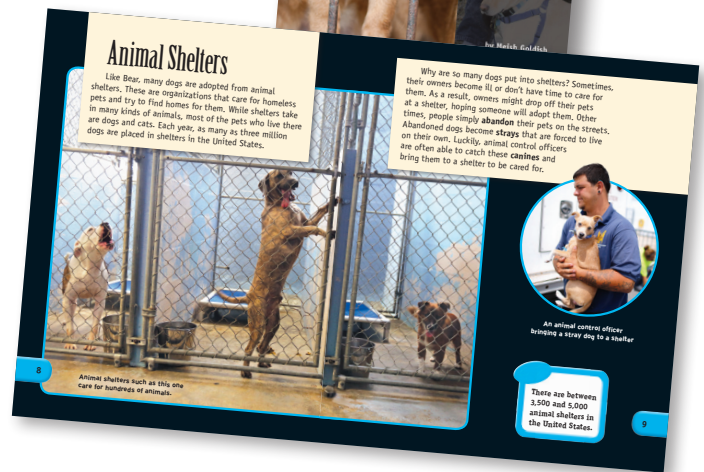
Stray to Star! A Shelter Dog Story COMBO



Teacher's Guide



Hound Town Chronicles:
Stray to Star! A Shelter Dog Story



Dog Heroes:
Shelter Dogs

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 topics.

CCSS Language Arts Standards

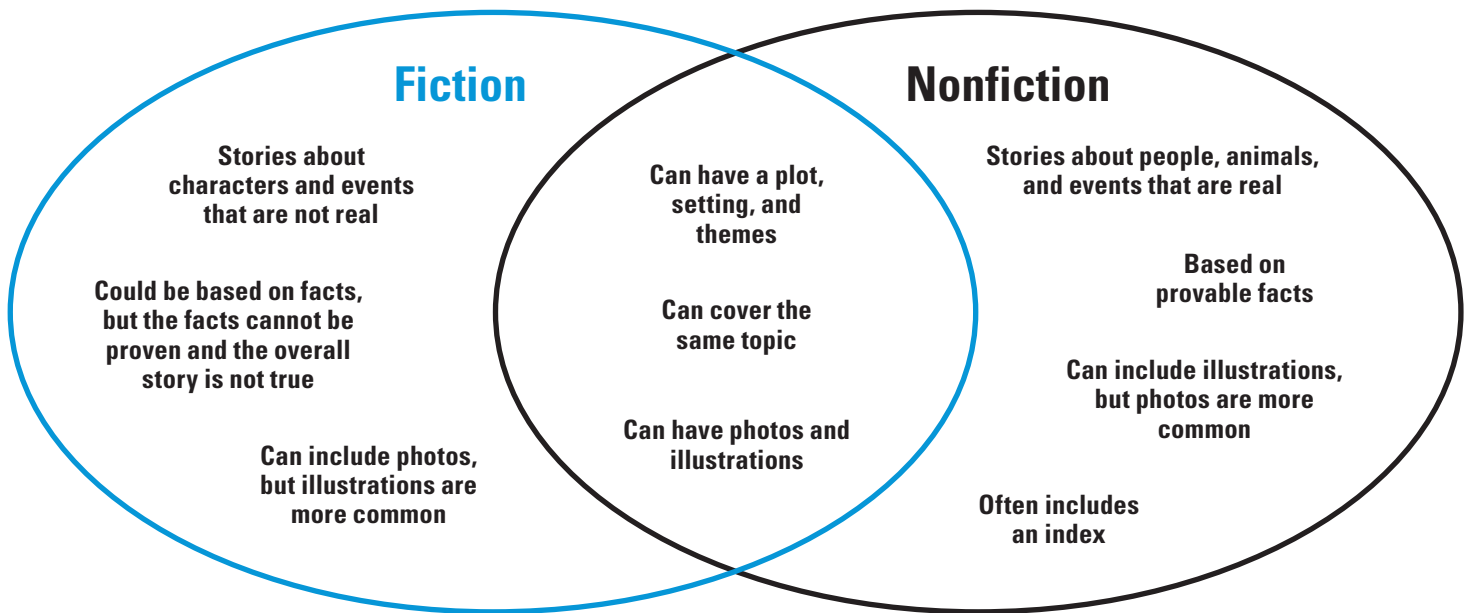
- RI3.9** Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- RI4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

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 or an animal 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.

A Closer Look

Hound Town Chronicles: *Stray to Star! A Shelter Dog Story* and Dog Heroes: *Shelter Dogs*

Objective: To have students compare fiction and nonfiction texts about stray dogs and dogs that have been placed in animal shelters

1. Read

Have students read the Hound Town Chronicles title, *Stray to Star!* Then have them read the Dog Heroes title, *Shelter Dogs*. 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

Think about the fictional canine character Clover in from *Stray to Star!* and one of the real-life dogs in *Shelter Dogs*; for example, Rocky in “A Rocky Start” on pages 12 to 15. How are the dogs alike? How are they different? Create a chart in which you compare the two. Ask students to use specific examples from both texts.

Examples of similarities:

- Clover and Rocky are both strays; they were found roaming the streets.
- Both dogs were adopted by loving families.
- Clover and Rocky both helped save their owners.

Examples of differences:

- Clover is outgoing and friendly, while Rocky was initially shy and afraid of people.
- Rocky was part of the Pups on Parole program, in which prisoners prepare homeless dogs for adoption.
- Rocky led his sick owner to safety, while Clover fought off a venomous snake.

What emotions do you feel when you think about a dog risking its life to save its owner?

3. Challenge Students: The Backstory

A backstory is the history or background of a fictional character that helps readers develop a fuller understanding of that character. Think about the dog Clover in *Stray to Star!* How do you think he ended up without an owner wandering the streets? Write a paragraph that tells Clover’s backstory.

4. Extend Knowledge: What Happens Next?

Reread chapter 5 of *Stray to Star!* Imagine Cory’s first day of school in his new hometown. How do you think his friendship with Clover has helped prepare him for starting a school in a new place and meeting new people? Do you think he’ll have an easy time making friends? Why or Why not? Write a new, two-page chapter for the book that’s a continuation of the story.