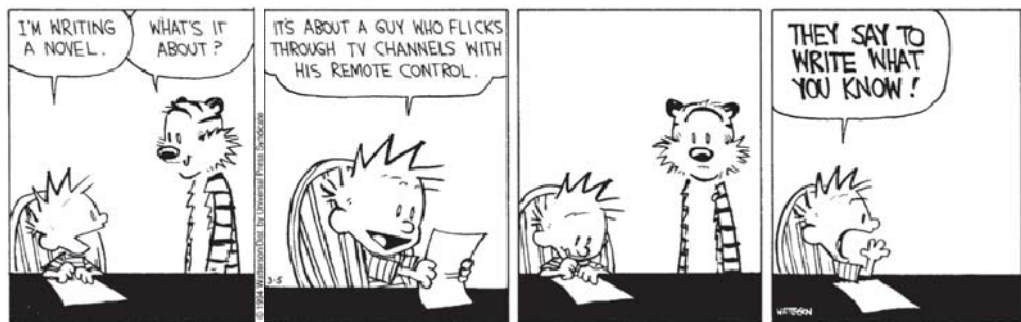


Exploring Fiction and Nonfiction

Characteristics of Fiction

All works of fiction, no matter how long, short, simple, or complex, share certain elements.

- Fiction features **characters**, invented people who experience a series of events, called the **plot**. Characters always face a **conflict**, or problem, that sets the plot in motion.
- It occurs in a time and place, or **setting**. The setting may be real or imaginary.
- Fiction is told, or narrated, from the **point of view** of a character who may or may not be part of the story.
- It includes a **theme**, a message or an insight about life.



Types of Fiction

Works of fiction can be categorized by length and complexity.

- A **novel** is a long work of fiction that is usually presented in segments called **chapters**. Novels often feature several characters, take place in multiple settings, and concern more than one conflict. In addition to the main plot, a novel may contain **subplots**, or separate, related stories.
- A **novella** is a work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.
- A **short story** is a work of fiction that is brief enough to be read in one sitting. Short stories usually focus on one main plot that is driven by a single conflict.

Characteristics of Nonfiction

Works of nonfiction share several characteristics.

- Nonfiction presents facts, describes true-life experiences, or discusses ideas from the author's point of view, or **perspective**.
- Nonfiction is written for a specific **audience**, or group of readers. It also addresses a clear **purpose**, or reason for writing.
- **Tone**, the author's attitude toward the subject or reader, is displayed through the writer's word choice and style.
- Often, nonfiction reflects the **cultural** and **historical contexts** in which the author is writing.



Focus on the TEKS

(6) Analyze how literary essays interweave personal examples and ideas with factual information.

Types of Nonfiction

Nonfiction can be divided into **literary nonfiction** and **informational text**.

Literary nonfiction interweaves personal examples and ideas with factual information to explain, present a perspective, or describe a situation or event. Examples include literary essays, diaries, and biographies.

Informational text includes the following types of writing:

Expository text informs or explains. Examples include essays and reports.

Persuasive text presents evidence to support or oppose an argument in order to convince the reader of the author's propositions. Examples include editorials and political speeches.

Procedural text provides data that can be used to solve a problem or perform a task. Examples include instructions and consumer publications.



TEKS Check

Think of a short story and a literary essay that you have read. Use the chart to determine each work's specific type.

Title	Questions for Analysis	Specific Type
Fiction: Short Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long is the text?• How complex are the plot and characters?	
Nonfiction: Literary Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the purpose of the text?• How does the author interweave personal examples with facts?	