

A Winning Team



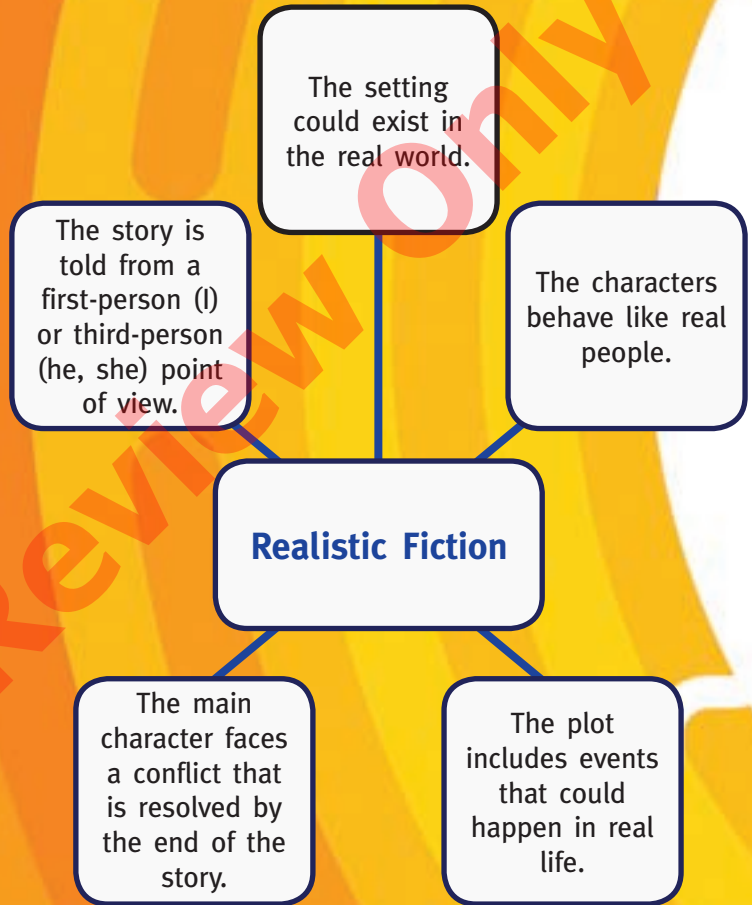
REALISTIC FICTION LITERATURE

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The Contest

“Look at this, students,” Mr. Scott said to his class. “The school is getting a new playground!”

A picture of a playground popped up on the classroom’s big screen. It had slides, swings, bars to climb up or hang on, bridges, and passageways you could see through.





“The school is having different contests to raise money for the playground,” Mr. Scott said. “Our class is selling the cookbook your parents put together. The team that sells the most cookbooks wins a prize!”

The kids all started talking at once. Mr. Scott went on, “You’ll work in teams of two. The first team is Isabella and Rosa Alvarado.”

Rosa pumped her fist in the air and said, “Yes!”

Her cousin, Isabella, let out a slow groan.

Isabella and Rosa were cousins and lived in the same two-family house. But they were as different as two cousins could be.



That afternoon, Mr. Scott gave each team ten cookbooks to sell. Isabella took five, and Rosa took five.

After school, Rosa realized she'd forgotten the cookbooks so the girls ran back to school to get them.

“Hey, I have an idea,” Rosa said as they passed their grandfather’s house on the way home. “I’ll stop and sell Abuelo a cookbook right now!”





“Just hurry up!” Isabella said. “And give me the rest of your cookbooks.”

Two hours later, Rosa arrived home. Isabella was sitting on the front steps.

“What took you so long, Rosa?” she said. “I’ve already sold nine cookbooks in the neighborhood—without you!”

“Abuelo bought one,” Rosa said with a smile. “That means we’ve sold ten!”

“You’re such a goof-off, Rosa!” Isabella said. “We both have to work to win!”

The next day at school, Mr. Scott handed out more cookbooks.

“Rosa,” Isabella whispered. “Four other teams are tied with us!”

“Don’t worry,” Rosa said. “I have an idea.” She whispered something in Isabella’s ear.

“Smart, Rosa,” Isabella admitted. “Very smart!”





Time to Brainstorm

The girls explained the idea to their parents. Then, Isabella went to work making a sign. After dinner, Rosa's dad drove the girls to the neighborhood soccer fields.

The fields were crowded with players and fans. Isabella set up the cookbooks and her sign on a picnic table.

“Rosa,” Isabella called out, “I need help!”

“Are you looking for your cousin Rosa?” asked a woman buying a cookbook. Then she pointed to one of the fields.

There was Rosa, kicking around a soccer ball with her friends!

