

The Neighbors Next Door

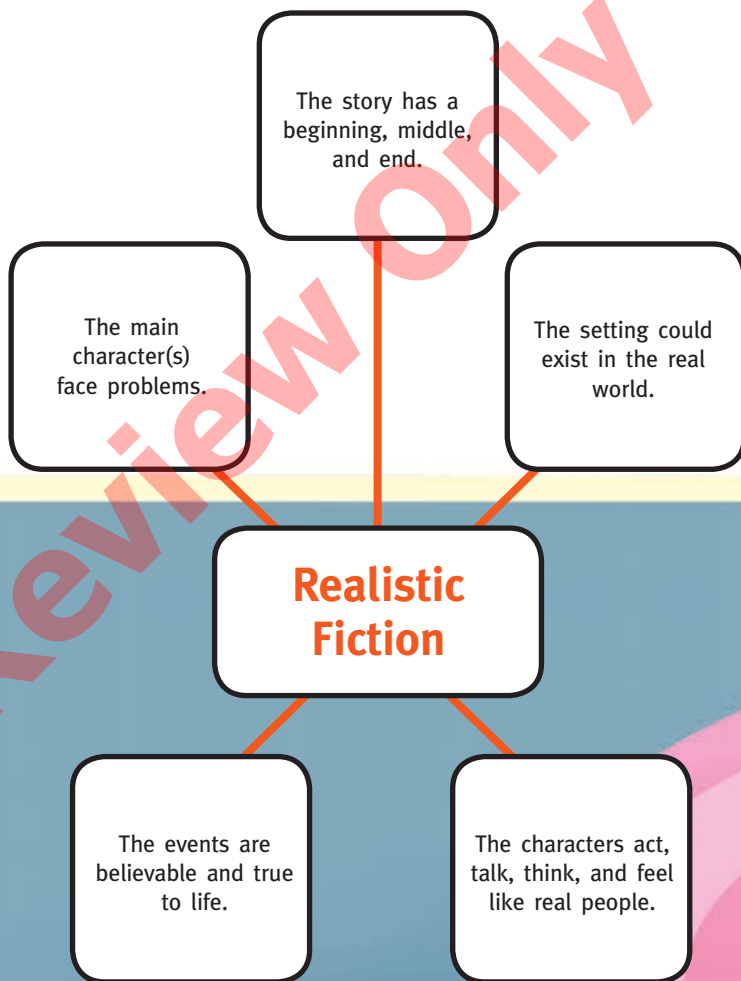


Level **K/20**

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A new family was moving into the house next to Lulu's.

"Look at that pink house!" said Papa.

Granny made a funny face. "Pink is for cotton candy. Pink is for pigs. Pink is not for a house."





Lulu looked at the new neighbors painting their house. Maybe she would have a new friend in the pink house!

Mama said, "We should welcome our new neighbors."

That afternoon, they brought an apple pie next door. Lulu rang the doorbell.

A tall man with a big smile opened the door. “Thank you kindly for the pie!” said Mr. Jones, their new neighbor. “Please come in!”





“Your walls are ... interesting,”
said Papa.

“Thank you,” said Mr. Jones. “I like
to paint.”

Granny turned to Mama. She
whispered, “Stripes are for zebras.
Stripes are not for walls.”



“I painted our kitchen like Italy. And our living room like China!” Mrs. Jones said.

That was when a small boy with big glasses walked in. Lulu introduced herself.

“Hi,” the boy said shyly. “My name is Shelby. I live in a cave.”

Granny’s mouth dropped open. “You live in a cave?”

They followed Shelby to his room. There were rocks of all sizes all over the walls. Lulu touched the clumps of brown dirt on the walls.

“It’s only paint,” explained Shelby. “Mother and Father don’t like dirt in the house.”



Shelby brought Lulu to the other side of his room. Lulu saw cages filled with rocks. Some rocks were small and round. Others were large and flat. “Wow!” said Lulu.

“They are my pet rocks,” said Shelby.

“I have a pet cat!” said Lulu.



Back at home, Granny said, “They are different kind of folks.”

“They are very different,” said Mama.

“They are not like us,” said Papa.

