BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

Realistic Fiction

The Writing on the Wall

&

Tia's Bad Day



by Dina Anastasio and Amanda Jenkins

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Realistic Fiction
Level: J/18*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

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LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze character

Word Study
- Antonyms

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Personification

Writer's Craft
- How to write realistic fiction

THEME CONNECTIONS
- **Family and Friends**

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the stories on pages 4–5.
2. Read the realistic fiction stories for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 13 and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes realistic fiction.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own realistic fiction story.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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by Dina Anastasio
illustrated by Lyn Boyer



Tia's Bad Day

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Two Realistic Fiction Stories

Table of Contents

Focus on the Genre: Realistic Fiction 2

Meet the Characters 4

The Writing on the Wall 6

Tia's Bad Day. 14

The Writer's Craft: Realistic Fiction 22

Glossary. 24

Make Connections Across Texts . . . Inside Back Cover

Realistic Fiction

What is realistic fiction?

Realistic fiction features characters and plots that could actually happen in everyday life. The settings are authentic—they are based on familiar places such as a home, school, office, or farm. The stories involve some type of conflict, or problem. The conflict can be something a character faces within himself, an issue between characters, or a problem between a character and nature.

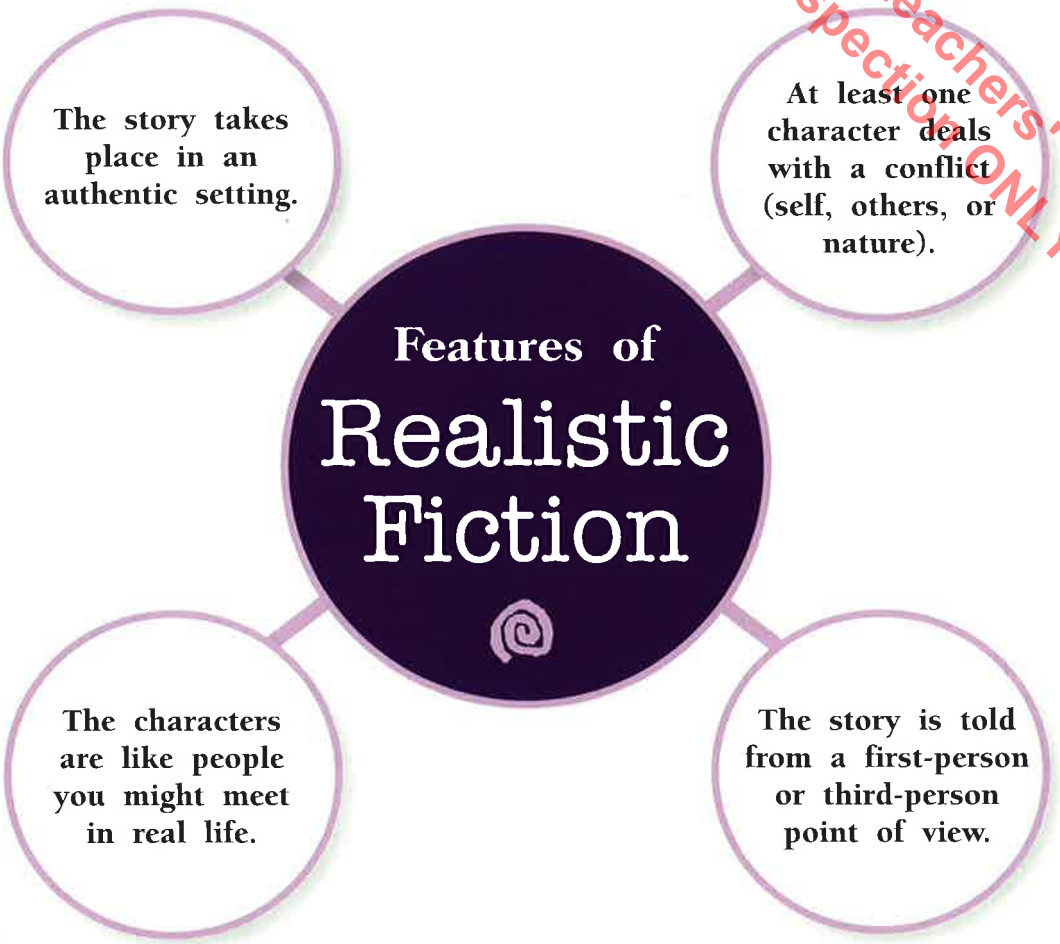
What is the purpose of realistic fiction?

Realistic fiction shows how people grow and learn, deal with successes and failures, make decisions, build relationships, and solve problems. In addition to making readers think and wonder, realistic fiction is entertaining. Most of us enjoy "escaping" into someone else's life for a while.

How do you read realistic fiction?

First, note the title. The title will give you a clue about an important character or conflict in the story. As you read, pay attention to the thoughts, feelings, and actions of the main characters. Note how the characters change from the beginning of the story to the end. Ask yourself: *What moves this character to action? Can I learn something from his or her struggles?*

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Who tells the story in realistic fiction?

Authors usually write realistic fiction in one of two ways. In the first-person point of view, one of the characters tells the story as it happens to him or her, using words such as **I**, **me**, **my**, **mine**, **we**, **us**, and **our**. In the third-person point of view, a narrator tells the story, using words such as **he**, **she**, **they**, **their**, and the proper names of the characters.

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Meet the Characters

Cave Adventures

Summer has finally arrived. Linda and her brother Jake have been coming to the same cabin on this rocky beach since they were little. Their friend Maria is back for her second summer. Cai is new to the seacoast. This summer promises new adventures since Linda and Jake's dad recently discovered a hidden cave.



Linda, 12, is a big talker with big ideas. She loves technology and gadgets, and hates that the cabins do not get TV reception or the Internet.



Jake, 11, is a smart boy who enjoys playing tricks and shooting hoops on the basket outside the cabin.



Maria, 10, is an only child. She lives with her divorced mother. She likes to bake and cook, and usually has her nose in a book.



Cai, 11, is spending the summer with his grandma. He likes to swim, fish, and play with his dog Tucker.

Oak Street Kids

Five kids couldn't be more different than Jalissa, Jamal, Brooke, Luke, and Tia. But they have some things in common, too! They all live in the Oak Street Apartments. They all have parents who work during the day. They are in the same afterschool "club" run by the manager of the apartment building, Ms. Tilly. That's why the Oak Street Kids have made a deal: They will always stick together and help one another.

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Tools Writers Use
Personification

Look at the word **personification** (per-sah-nuh-fih-KAY-shun). You will see the word **person** in it. Personification means "giving human characteristics to animals or objects." In these stories, objects are described as if they had human abilities.



Jalissa, 10, likes drama and excitement, and is Jamal's twin sister.



Jamal, 10, is calm and easygoing, the opposite of his twin sister.



Brooke, 11, can always be counted on to organize and take charge.



Luke, 11, may not be a top student, but he's loyal and fun.



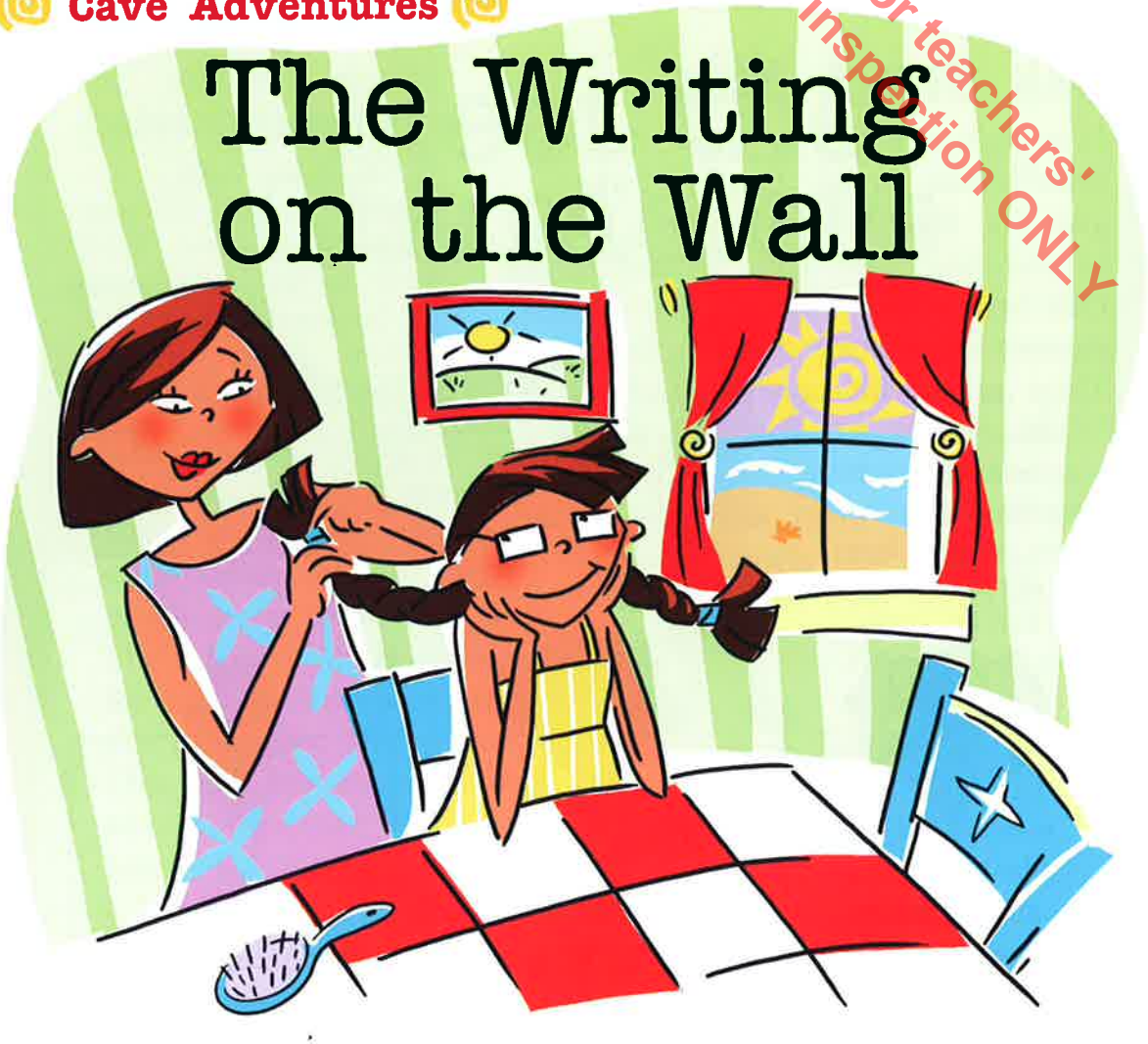
Tia, 9, loves every kind of sport.



Ms. Tilly is the no-nonsense manager of the Oak Street Apartments and takes care of the kids after school.

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The Writing on the Wall



My mother and I were in the kitchen. She was braiding my hair. I heard my friend Jake outside the cabin. He called, "Maria! I have something to tell you!" It sounded important.

"Mom, are you done yet?" I asked. I was getting antsy.

Mom tied the last braid. She used a rubber band. Then she patted the top of my head. "You're done," she smiled. "But don't forget."

"Forget what?" I asked her.