BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

HISTORICAL FICTION

From Broad Street to Beacon Hill

An Irish Immigrant Experience

Rocket Girl

A Story of the Civil Rights Movement



by Forrest Stone

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Historical Fiction
Level: K/20*

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
- Make judgments

Word Study
- Direct definitions

Tier Two Vocabulary (see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Idiom

Writer's Craft
- How to write historical fiction

THEME CONNECTIONS
- **Being a Good Citizen**
- **U.S. History**

*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 historical 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 historical fiction.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own historical fiction story.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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TWO HISTORICAL FICTION STORIES ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

by Forrest Stone
illustrated by John Francis Martin and Linda Pierce

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HISTORICAL FICTION

What is historical fiction?

Historical fiction stories take place in the past. Settings and events are based on facts. The characters can be based on real people, or made up. The dialogue is made up. But the information about the time period must be authentic, or factually accurate. The stories explore a conflict, or problem, that a character has with himself, with other characters, or with nature.

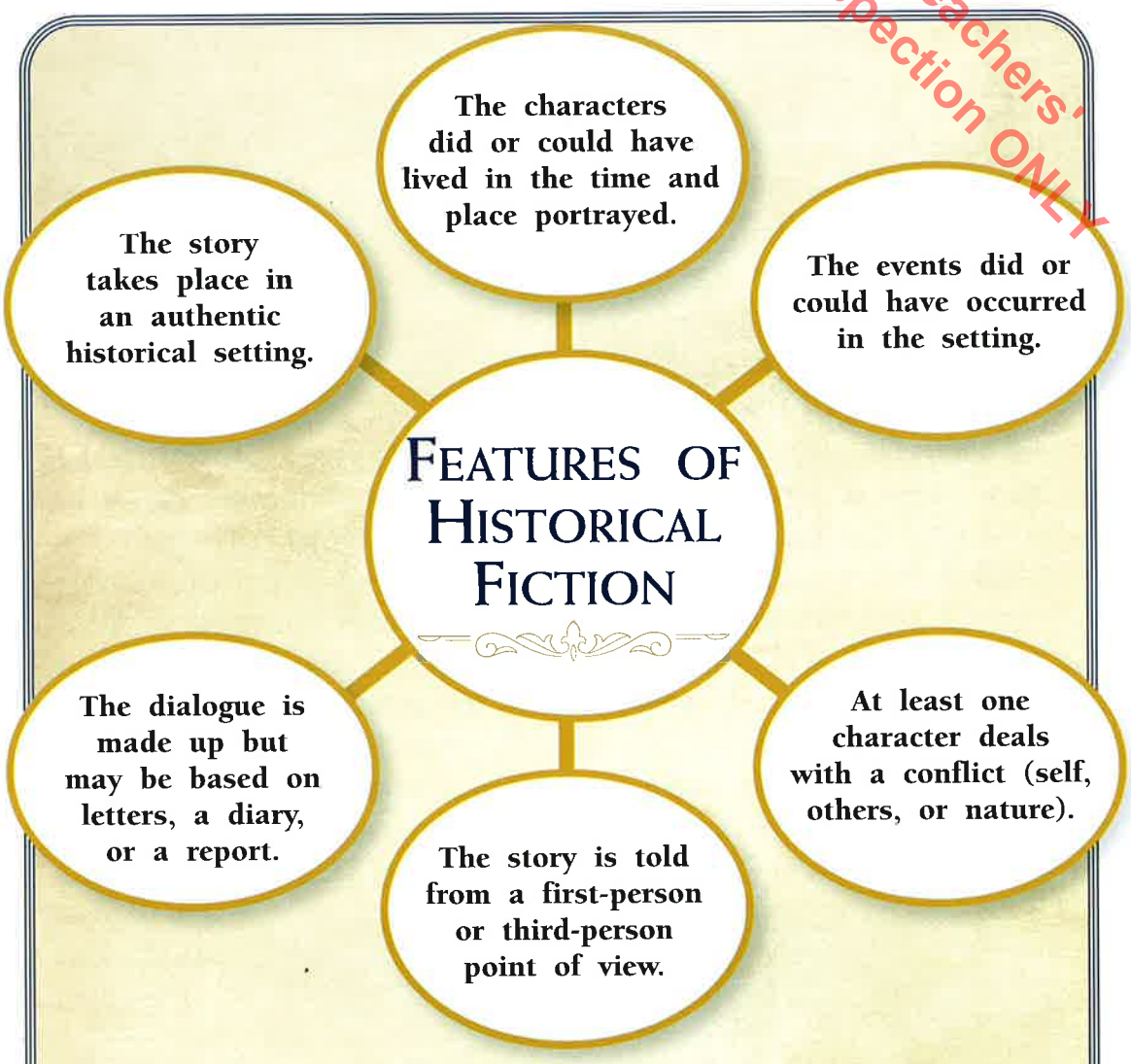
What is the purpose of historical fiction?

Historical fiction blends history and fiction into stories that could have actually happened. These stories allow readers to connect with the past. Readers can learn about specific eras, including details about how people lived, what they owned, and even what they ate and wore. Readers may also discover that people's problems and feelings have not changed much over time. Historical fiction entertains us as we "escape" into adventures from yesterday.

How do you read historical fiction?

The title gives you a clue about an important time, place, character, or situation. As you read, note how the characters' lives are the same as and different from people's lives today. Note the main characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions. How do they change from the beginning of the story to the end? Ask yourself, *What moves this character to take action? What can I learn today from his or her struggles long ago?*

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Who tells the story in historical fiction?

Authors usually write historical 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 and refers to the characters using words such as **he**, **him**, and **his**; **she**, **her**, and **hers**; and **their**. The narrator may also refer to the characters by name, for example, "Jenny Davis got a new bike for Christmas 1959."

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THE HISTORY BEHIND THE STORIES

The Potato Famine and Irish Immigration to the United States

In the 1800s, the potato was the most important food for poor people in Ireland. Potatoes are easy to grow and have protein, carbohydrates, minerals, and vitamins. However, in 1845, the leaves on the potato plants began to turn black, curl up, and rot. The problem was a fungus. Winds carried the fungus throughout Ireland. Over the next few years, nearly one million people died of starvation and another million emigrated, or left for other countries. Many Irish families went to Boston and other big cities in the United States. They were not welcome and had difficulty finding work.





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Civil Rights and the Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit-In

On February 1, 1960, four young black men went into a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina, and sat at the lunch counter. This event made headlines across the country because Woolworth's, like many stores in the South, had a "whites-only" rule. Black people could buy food there, but they were not allowed to eat there. Soon, black people staged lunch counter sit-ins at other Woolworth's stores. These people were not breaking the law. They were simply protesting an unfair policy, or rule. However, local sheriffs and police often tried to get the people to leave. Some black people were even arrested for "disturbing the peace" even though they were doing nothing wrong. A few years later, "whites-only" rules were outlawed.

Tools Writers Use

Idiom

An idiom (IH-dee-um) is a phrase or expression that makes language more colorful and interesting. Idioms do not use the literal (exact) meaning of the phrase. Consider the sentence "Ken is such a penny-pincher that he won't buy an umbrella to keep off the rain." This does not mean that Ken actually squeezes coins. Instead, it means that Ken does not like to spend money. Since idioms are commonly used in conversation and writing, people have come to understand what they mean in a particular culture.

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