BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

HISTORICAL FICTION

Survival at Plymouth

A Helping Hand in New Amsterdam



by Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Historical Fiction
Level: K/20*

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

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze story elements
- Make inferences

Word Study
- Multiple meanings

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Metaphor

Writer's Craft
- How to write historical fiction

THEME CONNECTIONS
- **Historical Communities**
- **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 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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Survival at Plymouth

A Helping Hand in New Amsterdam

Two Historical Fiction Stories About Early American Communities

by Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon
illustrated by Helen Pavlac

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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.

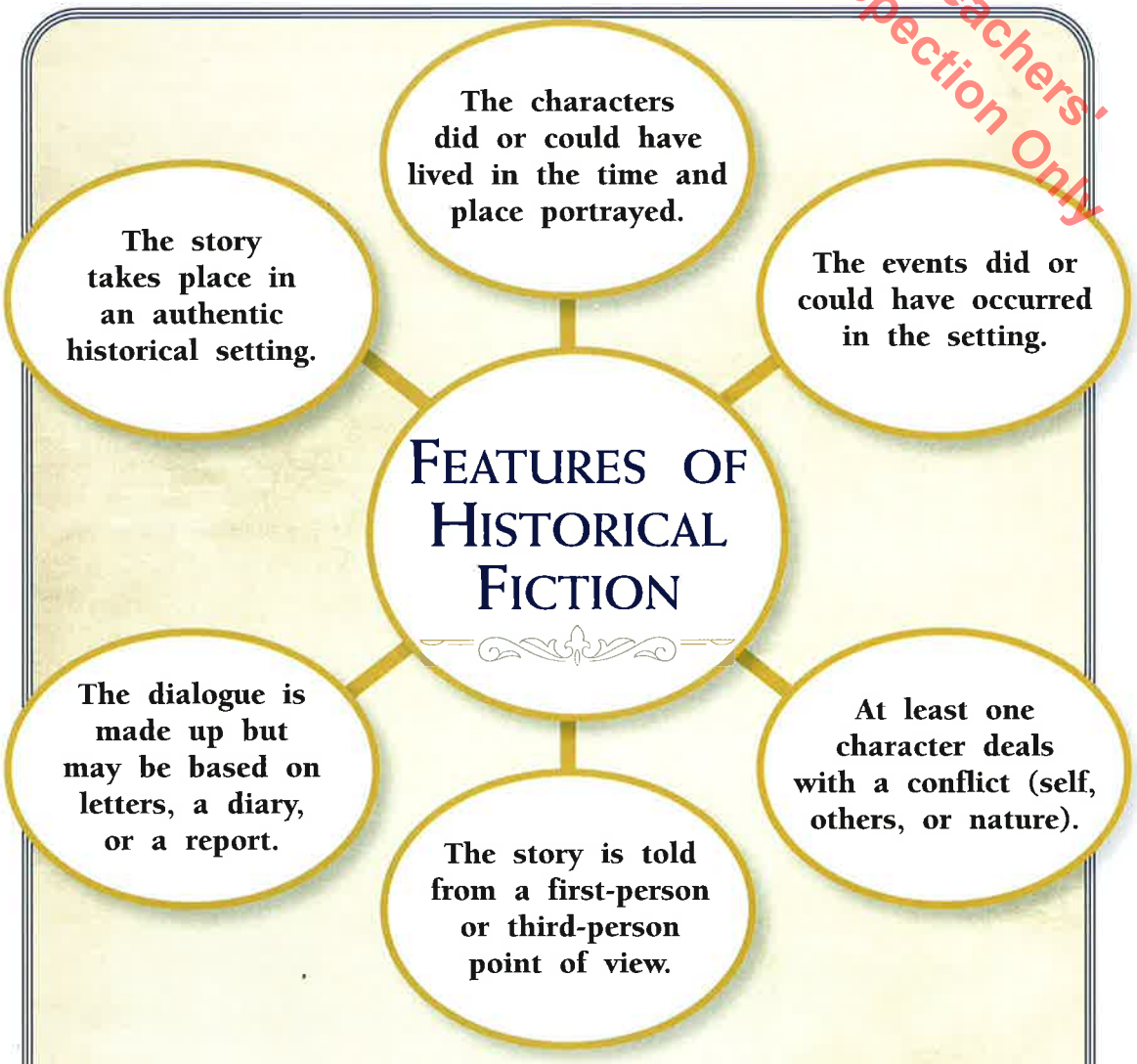
What is the purpose of historical fiction?

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, "John set the tray near his father's bed."

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE STORIES

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Plymouth Colony

In 1620, a group of Pilgrims left England for a new land, in search of religious freedom. Their ship, called the *Mayflower*, arrived in what is currently Plymouth, Massachusetts. They soon elected William Bradford as their leader. He remained governor of Plymouth Colony for most of the rest of his life.

The settlers faced many hardships. However, a nearby Native American tribe called the Wampanoag (wahm-puh-NOH-ag), under the leadership of Chief Massasoit (ma-suh-SOIT), made a peace treaty with the Pilgrims. The colony was able to trade goods and vital information. The aid provided by these Native Americans saved many lives, and the colony grew and prospered.



William Bradford



Chief Massasoit

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New Amsterdam

In the seventeenth century, Dutch immigrants sailed to America seeking a new life. They settled on an island and called their town New Amsterdam. The early settlers were farmers and tradesmen. Gradually, the island became a center for all kinds of business. Today, New Amsterdam is called New York City.

In approximately 1649, a man named Claes Van Rosenvelt arrived in New Amsterdam with his wife Jannetie. He became a farmer. Today, the Empire State Building stands on what was his family's land. Generations later, the name Van Rosenvelt had changed to Roosevelt. Two of America's presidents, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, were descendants of Claes and Jannetie.



Tools Writers Use

Metaphor

Metaphors (MEH-tuh-forz) compare two things that are alike in one way. A metaphor directly describes something by using the word **is** or **was** rather than **like** or **as**. For example: "The baby's happiness was a hug from Mommy." Writers use metaphors to help readers create vivid pictures in their mind. Notice how the authors of these stories use this type of comparison to describe what something feels, looks, tastes, smells, sounds, or acts like. The authors also use metaphors to show how characters, ideas, or actions resemble or represent something else.

Survival at Plymouth

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John Bradford was scared. His father, William, was sick. No one knew how to make him better. John did not want him to die, too.

John's mother had died ten years ago. John was seven then. John and his parents were on a trip. They were with other Pilgrims. They went from England to the New World. They went on a ship **called** the *Mayflower*. The adventure **turned** into tragedy. John's mother got sick. She died when they came to Plymouth.

