

Lesson Skill: Comparing fiction to nonfiction text

Strand Reading

SOL 6.5, 6.6

7.5, 7.6

8.5, 8.6

Materials

- Fiction and nonfiction text on the same topic. Choose nonfiction pieces from social studies or science curriculum
- Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis chart
- Venn diagram
- Author's Purpose: Comparing Fiction & Nonfiction table

Lesson

1. Quickly review the characteristics of fiction and nonfiction by creating a class size Venn diagram. Solicit responses from students to list characteristics of nonfiction. Record accurate responses onto the diagram. Repeat the same process to define fiction. Record shared characteristics in the center of the diagram.
2. Explain that the texts in this lesson will focus on the author's craft as key distinguishing factors between fiction and nonfiction. The focus is on the way writing tools are used (diction, imagery, text signal words, figurative language) in the two genres.
3. Distribute a copy of the Fiction & Nonfiction Analysis chart.
4. Distribute the nonfiction passage. Explain that this is a nonfiction text. Using the class Venn Diagram, point out the characteristics that define the genre. Tell students to look for those characteristics as they read.
5. After the passage is read, model (through a think aloud) finding one of each of the following: diction (word choice), imagery, text signal words, and figurative language. Record responses and examples on the *Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis* chart.
6. Divide the students into small groups or pairs to collaboratively analyze the selection. Each group should find at least two examples of each. The students record details on the Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis chart.
7. After groups have analyzed the text, allow them to share responses as the teacher records accurate details on the class chart.
8. After responses have been recorded, facilitate a discussion with the class exploring how the literary elements enhance the meaning of the text.
9. Record accurate responses on the class chart.
10. Give students a copy of fiction excerpt that corresponds to the nonfiction article. Have students silently read the passage.
11. After the passage is read, model (through a think aloud) finding one example of diction, imagery, text signal words, and figurative language and record onto the class chart.

12. Working in the same groups, the students continue analyzing the diction, imagery, text signal words, and figurative language. The groups record the two examples of each on the Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis chart. The groups discuss how each of the elements enhances the meaning of the text and record the details on the chart.
13. Groups share responses. Record accurate responses onto the class chart.
14. Instruct students to draw a Venn diagram onto a sheet of paper.
15. Using the details from the Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis chart, the class compares and contrasts the nonfiction and fiction texts. Throughout the discussion, record relevant similarities and differences onto a class Venn diagram. Use the details on the Venn diagram to facilitate a discussion exploring how two passages about the same topic can have different purposes. The class establishes the purpose of fiction vs. fiction text.
16. Distribute the Author's Purpose: Comparing Fiction and Nonfiction table. Discuss the author's purpose of each piece.
17. Work collaboratively to complete the table using details from each piece.
18. Students practice analyzing fiction and nonfiction text in teams. The students explore the author's tools, genre characteristics, and purpose. Explain that the same instructional tools are used.
19. Choose another set of fiction/nonfiction text pieces.
20. Working in teams, the students silently read and collaboratively analyze the two pieces by completing the following: Fiction and Nonfiction Analysis chart, Venn diagram, and Author's Purpose: Comparing Fiction and Nonfiction table.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Break the students up into small groups.
- Give the students index cards that have shorter passages of fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Have the students sort the index cards into piles of fiction and nonfiction.
- Create a larger version of the Venn diagram on paper for each group.
- Students place the index cards on the Venn diagram in the appropriate space.
- Students discuss what the similarities of the texts and write their answers in the middle circle of the Venn Diagram
- In their groups, students read the passages on their index cards and identify examples of these key words.
- Students place their index cards in the middle circle and then divide them into groups of fiction and nonfiction in the outer circles.
- In preparation of the lesson on Author's Purpose, find shorter examples of fiction and nonfiction passages that inform, entertain, and persuade.
- Distribute the passages and have students identify the author's purpose.
- Students use the passages to complete the Author's Purpose Table worksheet.

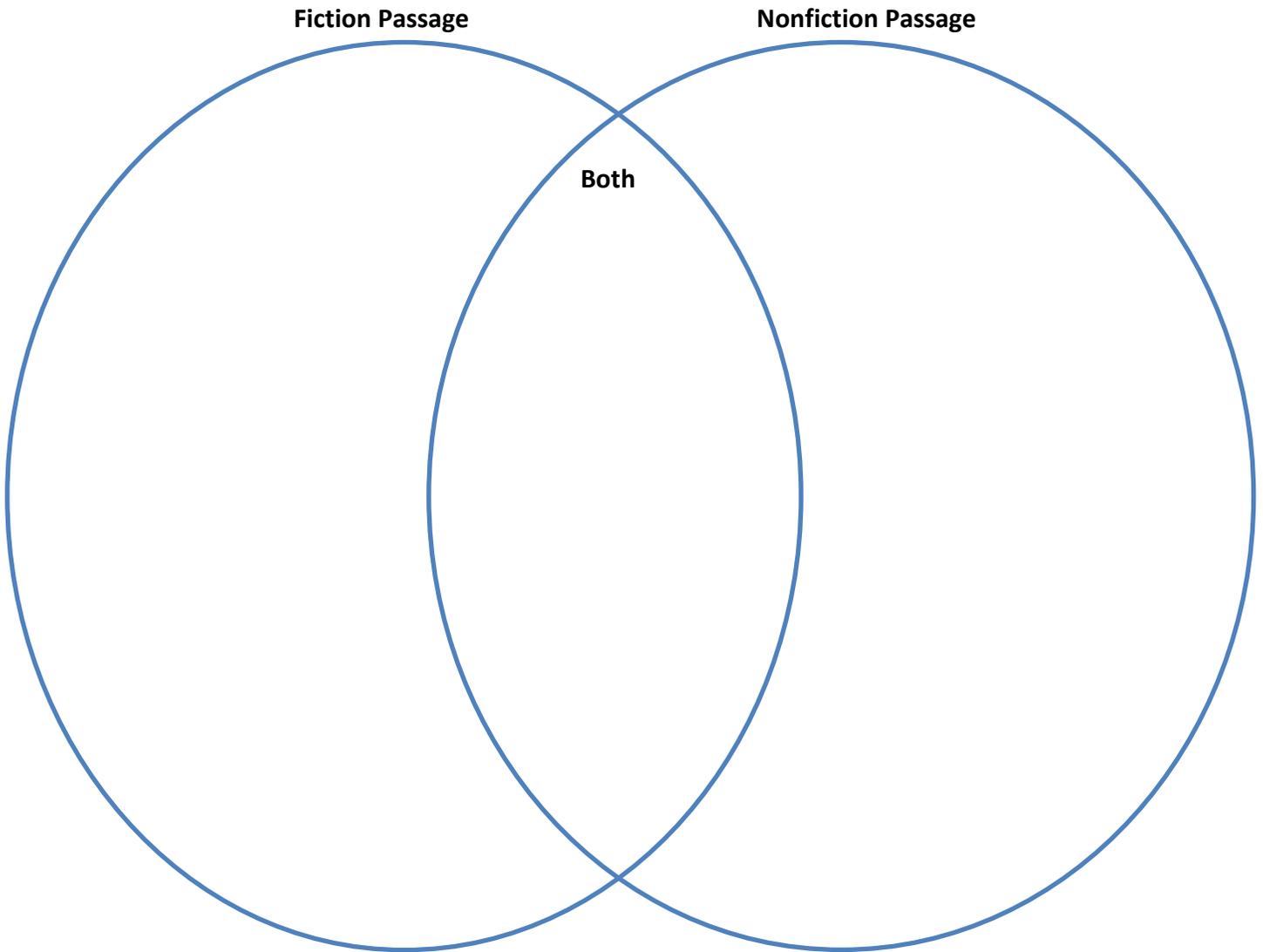
Fiction & Nonfiction Analysis Chart

Directions: Compare the literary elements below in fiction and nonfiction texts.

Literary Elements	Examples from Fiction Text	Examples from Nonfiction Text	Impact on Text (Sample Guiding Questions: How does the diction establish voice? How do the signal words establish text structure? How does the text structure help convey meaning?)
Diction (word choice)			
Imagery			
Text Signal Words			
Figurative Language			

Venn Diagram

Fiction and Nonfiction



Author's Purpose Table: Comparing Fiction & Nonfiction

As you read, you make predictions about what a passage will be about. When predicting in this way, you take the first step in identifying the author's purpose for writing the passage. In other words, you are asking, "**Why** did the author write this passage?"

An author's purpose for writing a passage usually fits into one (or more) of the following three main categories:

to entertain—the author's main purpose is to entertain the reader

to inform/explain—the author's main purpose is to inform or teach the reader

to persuade—the author's main purpose is to convince the reader to believe an idea, have an opinion, take an action, or respond in some other specific way

As you read a passage, you can evaluate the author's purpose by looking at specific facts, descriptions, opinions, or other details.

Complete the chart below to compare the author's purpose in fiction and nonfiction passages about the same topic.

Title of Passage	Author's Name	Details from Passage	Author's Purpose	Explanation of how details support the purpose

