

Lesson Plan

Fiction Tools & Techniques

Book: *Writing Fiction*

Series: How to Write

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students identify tools used for writing fiction and to practice using those tools in a short story.

Supplies

- *Writing Fiction* book
- Fiction Tools & Techniques worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Writing Fiction* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a copy of the Fiction Tools & Techniques worksheet for each student.

Activity

Writers use many tools and techniques while writing fiction. *Writing Fiction* talks about some of them. Review the following tools that people use when writing fiction:

- Setting is the time and place a story happens. Including details about the setting helps readers picture what's happening. It can also help create the story's mood.
- Conflict is the problem that drives a story. In many stories, the characters are trying to do (or avoid) something. Their goals help create the story's action.
- Dialogue is the words that characters say. Writers use dialogue to show what characters are like and what they're thinking. Dialogue can also move the story along.
- Showing, not telling, is about descriptive details. Instead of just saying how places or characters feel, writers can describe specific actions or events that show these feelings. This helps readers feel like they're watching the story unfold.
- Ordering words (such as *then*, *before*, and *finally*) create a clear order for the events in a story. They can help readers follow what's happening.

Pass out the Fiction Tools & Techniques worksheet. In Part 1, students should match each term on the left to the example showing how it's used in fiction. In Part 2, students should create a short story of their own. This story should use all five of the tools from Part 1.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of class. Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each correct match in Part 1. Then, give students 1 point for each tool they used in their short story in Part 2. Each student can earn up to 10 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.3).

Fiction Tools & Techniques

Part 1: Match each fiction technique to the example showing what it looks like.

Setting

The boy wants to buy cookies, but his money is gone.

Conflict

Before going to bed, the girl brushed her teeth.

Dialogue

Her eyes drooped as she kept yawning.

Show, not tell

“What’s your name?” he asked.

Ordering words

The school was a large, brick building with many windows.

Part 2: Write a paragraph that tells a short story in the space below. Make sure to use each of the five techniques listed in Part 1.

Fiction Tools & Techniques **Answer Key**

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Answers will vary.