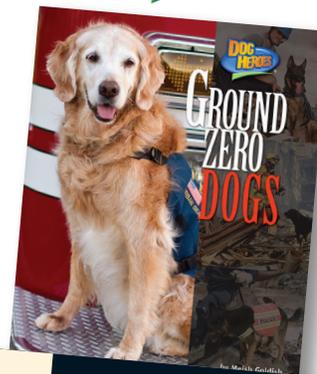
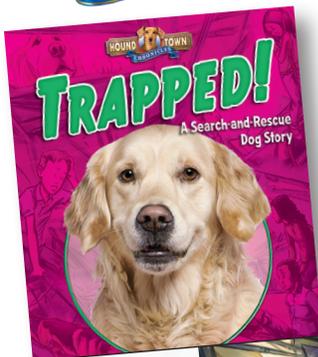


Trapped! A Search-and-Rescue Dog Story COMBO



Teacher's Guide



Hound Town Chronicles:
Trapped! A Search-and-Rescue Dog Story

Dog Heroes:
Ground Zero Dogs

Fiction and Nonfiction

Use this Teacher's Guide to help students learn about fiction and nonfiction texts. The first section of the guide provides a basic overview of the genres, while the second section can be used as a lesson plan for comparing two individual titles about similar topics.

CCSS Language Arts Standards

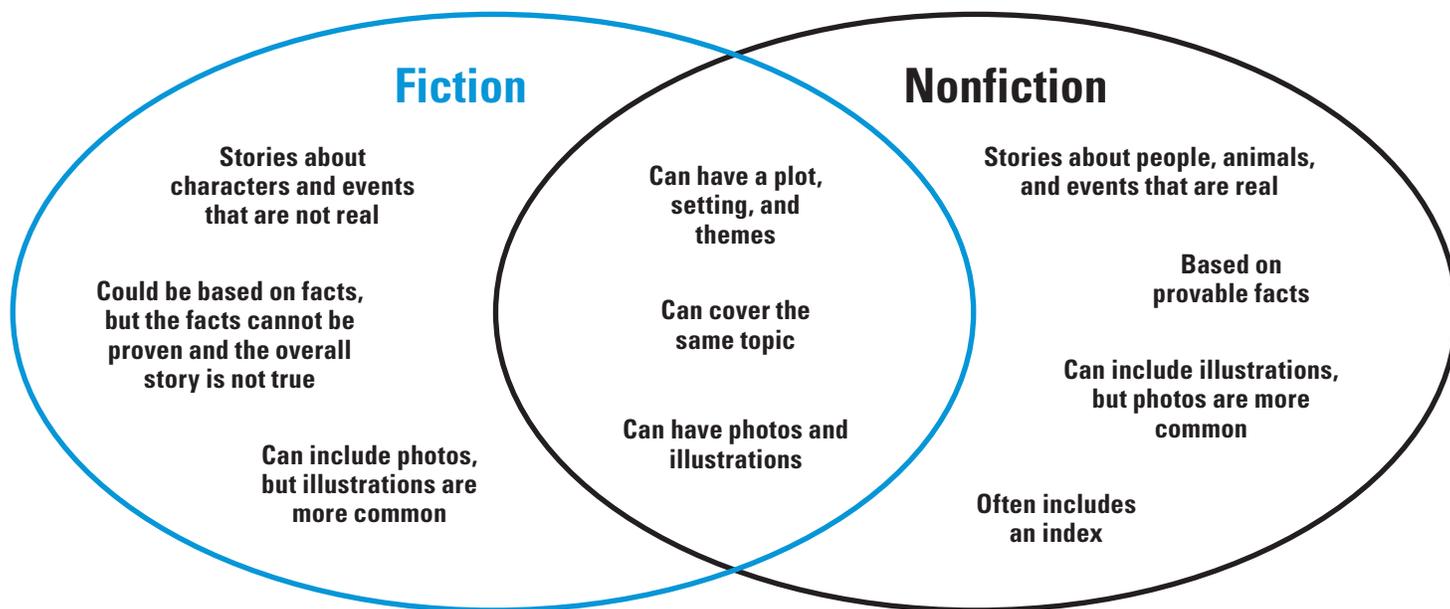
- RI.3.9** Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- RI.4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Discuss Fiction and Nonfiction

Prompt students to describe the genres of fiction and nonfiction. Ask them to cite examples of each genre. For example, fiction includes short stories and novels, while nonfiction includes newspapers and textbooks.

Create a Chart or Diagram

Help students establish what the differences and similarities are between fiction and nonfiction by using a Venn diagram or a chart. Place fiction attributes on one side of the chart and nonfiction attributes on the other side, with a space in the middle for shared attributes.



Define Important Terms and Concepts

Assist students in defining the following literary terms and concepts in order to help compare fiction and nonfiction texts.

- **Character** (a person or animal portrayed in a novel, short story, or play)
- **Characterization** (the way the author describes a character)
- **Chronological order** (the order in which events actually happened)
- **Facts** (information that can be proven true)
- **Mood** (the way the reader feels when reading a text)
- **Plot** (sequence of events in a story where each event causes the next event to happen)
- **Setting** (where a story takes place)
- **Theme** (the main idea of a story)

As students further explore works of fiction and nonfiction, they can apply the terms and concepts they have learned to individual books and add new words to this list.

A Closer Look

Hound Town Chronicles: *Trapped! A Search-and-Rescue Dog Story* and Dog Heroes: *Ground Zero Dogs*

Objective: To have students compare fiction and nonfiction texts about search-and-rescue dogs

1. Read

Have students read the Hound Town Chronicles title, *Trapped! A Search-and-Rescue Dog Story*. Then have them read the Dog Heroes title, *Ground Zero Dogs*. Ask students to take notes about the setting, characters, and any important themes as they read.

- Which of the stories is fiction? Which is nonfiction? How can you tell? Ask students what clues helped them figure out what genre each book falls into.

2. Compare and Contrast: Working in a Disaster Area

In *Trapped!*, both Spotter and Rudy were well trained to search for missing people after a disaster. Have students read *Trapped!* Then have them read pages 9–17 of *Ground Zero Dogs*. Ask students to notice the ways Spotter and Rudy looked for survivors that were similar to the methods used by the dogs in the nonfiction book. Then ask how their methods were different. For instance, Spotter and Rudy follow voice commands from their handlers. On page 17 of *Ground Zero Dogs*, a search-and-rescue dog named Abby followed both voice commands and hand signals from her handler.

3. Challenge Students: Explore the Changing Mood

Remind students that the mood is the way the reader feels when reading a story. How does the mood change throughout the text? Have the class brainstorm adjectives to describe the mood during these parts of *Trapped!*:

- Page 4: The Dog Obedience Club is meeting in the gym.
- Pages 10–11: Melissa and Jimmy are looking for Mr. Brady and the students in the basement, but they're not answering.
- Page 12: Melissa sees a dog looking down through a small hole above them.
- Page 22: Spotter finds Marcus's hat.

4. Extend Knowledge: A Different Point of View

At the end of *Trapped!*, Jimmy and Melissa are quoted in an article in the *Hound Town Chronicles*. Ask students to write a newspaper article about the gas explosion and the rescue that focuses on the point of view of Meiko, Marcus, Holly, or Mr. Brady. Be sure to include quotes from the character you chose and information about: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How?

- Who is the main person in the story about?
- What has happened to him or her?
- Where did the event take place?
- When did it take place?
- Why did it take place?
- How did it happen?

