

# Respond to Literature



## Coached Instruction

Writing a response to literature involves using specific structures to tell about what you have read. Review these three structures.

### ► Identifying Genre

Read the passages.

#### Sacagawea's Surprise

Sacagawea accompanied Lewis and Clark on their exploration of the western part of U.S. territory. After months of hiking through unfamiliar areas, Sacagawea entered the territory where she had grown up with her Shoshone family. As she gathered roots, she suddenly heard the word "Indians," and her stomach knotted with fear. Was it hostile warriors like the ones who had slaughtered most of her family, kidnapped her, and sold her to her French husband? She dropped the roots, emerged from the trees, and was overjoyed to see a group of Shoshone. The Shoshone led her to their camp, where she let out a cry of joy. She rushed forward and embraced the chief, her brother!

#### Egrim's Adventure

Egrim followed the other elves along the river, looking for a safe home far away from humans. Although some humans appreciated the elves for their good deeds, others were determined to make slaves of them and take advantage of their magical powers. Just when the elves found a beautiful spot deep in the forest, humans appeared, hunting them. The elves made themselves invisible and fled, continuing up the river until it widened into a huge lake full of islands. Using their magic, they built boats out of branches and leaves and explored the lake. They found an island with everything they needed: forest, meadows, streams, fruit trees, and fish. Egrim used his magic to enchant the island, so it would be invisible to humans. The elves had a safe home at last.


#### Discuss

Who are the characters in the first passage? Who are the characters in the second passage?



## Apply

Write a response that explains which of the passages is historical fiction and which is fantasy. Tell how you know.

 **Think It Through** To write my response, I can use prior knowledge as a starting point. I'll think about historical characters I've heard of as well as any fairy tales I've read. I'll use this knowledge in responding to the passages.

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## ► Comparing and Contrasting Across Genres

Reread the passages on the previous page.


### Discuss

Compare and contrast the two passages. Do they have anything in common?



## Apply

If you were to write a paragraph on the same theme, what would be similar about the topic and content? Explain how your characters would be like the ones in the passages.

 **Think It Through** To organize my thoughts, I'll think about what the characters are doing in each passage. Then I'll create a Venn diagram that shows what is similar and what is different about the two passages. That way, I will have all the information I need in one place. Then I can form my response based on the diagram.



# Lesson Practice | Part 1

Use the Writing Guides to help you understand the passages.

## Writing Guide

- What do you learn about Jack and his dad?
- In which time period does this story take place?
- Are the style and vocabulary appropriate for the audience?

## To the Past and Back

Jack and his dad drove to a wooded park, which had the only small patch of woods in a town that bordered other towns on all sides. The road they took followed the creek that ran through the valley town and past their house, ending at a park at the top of the hill. There, the creek splashed down as a waterfall, and Jack and his father stepped behind it, where a cave led into the side of the hill. They followed the cave until it opened on the other side of the hill.

Jack was astounded that unfamiliar forested wilderness stretched as far as the eye could see. It reminded Jack of an old-time photo in the library, showing the forested valley before the town was built. Puzzled, he and his dad followed the creek downstream to a bend that Jack thought he recognized. There, a huge and very familiar rock jutted out of the earth beside it.

“Dad, this is the bend in the creek down the street from our house, and this is the rock beside it!” Jack exclaimed. “We have gone back in time! Do you think we will ever be able to get back to Mom and our house?” They turned around and followed the creek back to where it entered the cave. When they emerged from the cave and stepped from behind the waterfall, they saw their car in the parking lot of the park! They were back from the past.

Which words and phrases from the passage are clues that this is a fantasy?

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Which events in this story could not really happen?

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## Writing Guide

- What is the purpose of the characters' journey?
- Could all of these events happen?
- How is the setting of this story similar to and different from the story about Jack?

## Seeking the Healing Herb

The boat pulled away from the last humans Trina and her father would see on their exploration. The fishers on shore were a long way up the river even from their isolated tribe.

Although Trina had begged her father to take her on his search for the mysterious miracle herb, the unknown wilderness gave her the jitters. Much of this tropical river valley had been explored and developed, but so much of its vast expanse remained unexplored.

Trina looked again at the photograph the explorer had brought to her father. A purple and white flower bloomed from a circle of five pointed leaves. The explorer had told them the natives in the farthest reaches of explored territory used it successfully to cure every type of infection. The spot where it grew was a closely guarded secret.

When Trina and her father reached the tribal village, they learned that the old healer who collected the herbs had died without telling anyone where they grew. All the villagers could tell them was the direction he headed when he was seeking the herb. They followed the river to where several smaller rivers branched off. There, they showed the photograph to the fishers on shore. A man pointed to one of the smaller rivers.

Green trees met and formed a canopy above, and large-leafed vines grew along the river. The river narrowed and grew more shallow, until they had to leave their boat. They picked their way along the stream until they found a path cut through thick, tangled jungle. Could the healer have made it? They followed the path for a mile, examining every flower they passed. "Look, Dad!" cried Trina, pointing ahead to a small clearing, where purple and white dotted the green meadow. They had found the healing herb!

How can you tell this is realistic fiction?

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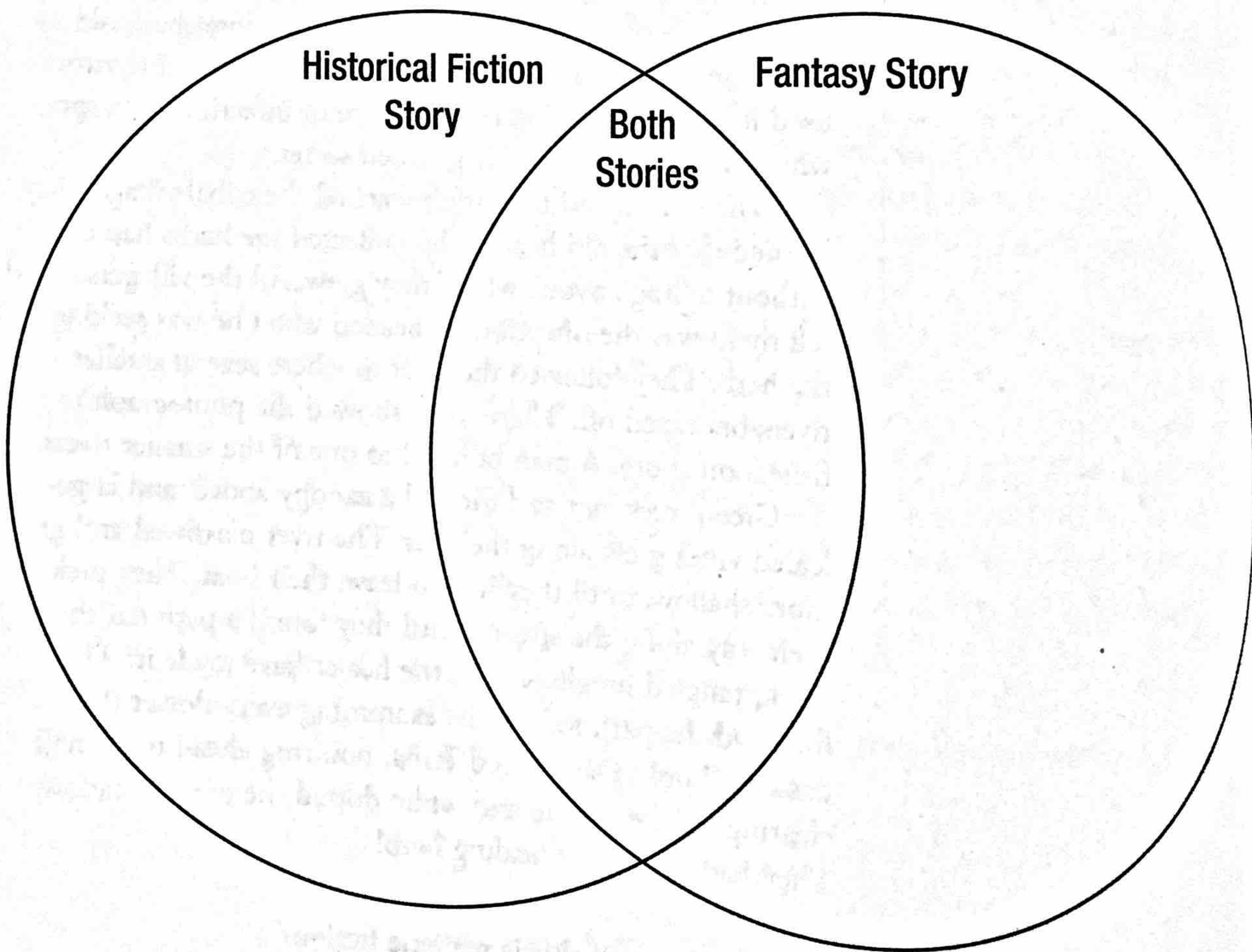
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## Plan Your Writing

Read the writing prompt, and then plan your response below.

Think about the characters and events in each story. How do the main characters feel about their adventures? In which way are they both explorers? Consider how the two stories are the same and different. Carefully analyze both passages and write a comparison-and-contrast essay of the two texts. Use relevant and sufficient details from the text to support your answer.



# Write Your Response

Use the checklist on the next page to help you do your best writing.

Lined writing area with 25 horizontal lines for student response.

## Checklist for Responding to Literature

Does your response

- answer the prompt completely by describing the characters, settings, and explorations from both stories?
- answer the prompt completely by comparing and contrasting the characters, settings, and explorations from both stories?
- include text evidence that supports your response?
- include details about characters, settings, or plots related to your response?
- have a concluding statement that sums up your response?
- use a formal and respectful tone?
- have good spelling, capitalization, and punctuation?
- follow the rules for good grammar?