



Fiction or Nonfiction

English 9 A Files



2 Categories of writing

- There are 2 main categories of writing: fiction and nonfiction
- Understanding these categories helps the reader to make the most of his or her time.
- When one knows what to look for, it makes reading more enjoyable and it can save one a lot of time.

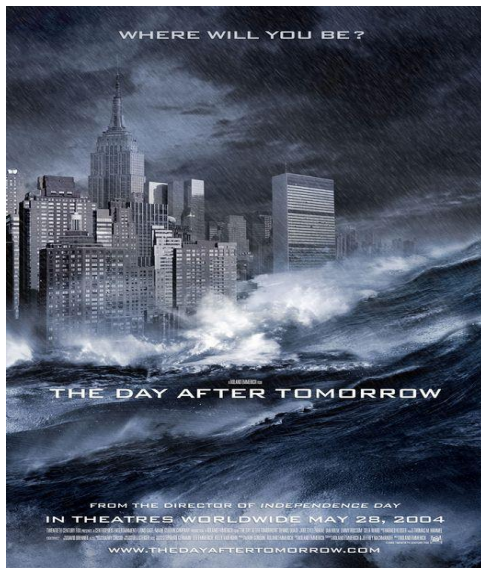
Fiction

- Short stories
- Novels
- Movies (scripts) that meet the fiction criteria that you will see later
- Can be based on real life events, real people and a real places

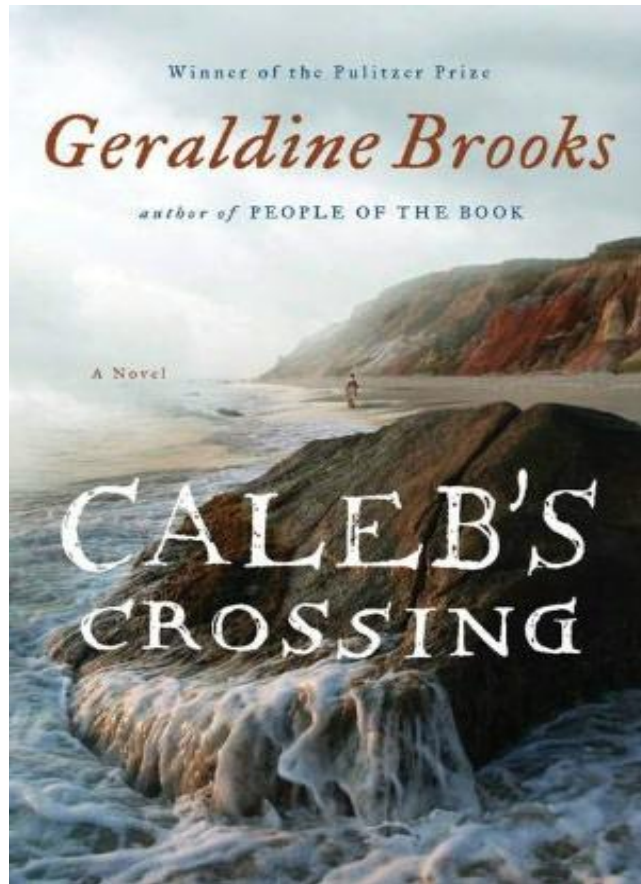
Fiction

- Can sound true
- Can have facts
- Author uses his/her imagination
- Author may add new or invented characters, conversations/dialogue

Fiction



- Both of these movies are based on truth, but include improvisation, exaggeration, creative license and fantasy



Fiction

- ✓ Has a real life setting :
Martha's Vineyard,
Cambridge, Harvard
College
- ✓ Takes Place in 1665
- ✓ the main character is
Native American and is
treated how he would
have been treated at that
time: limited opportunities.
- ✓ The author will use creative
techniques to tell the story.

Elements of fiction

Your mission should you choose to accept it, is to pay attention to the following list of items that if examined correctly will help you analyze (chunk and breakdown the story so that you can get the most out of it) and enjoy it.



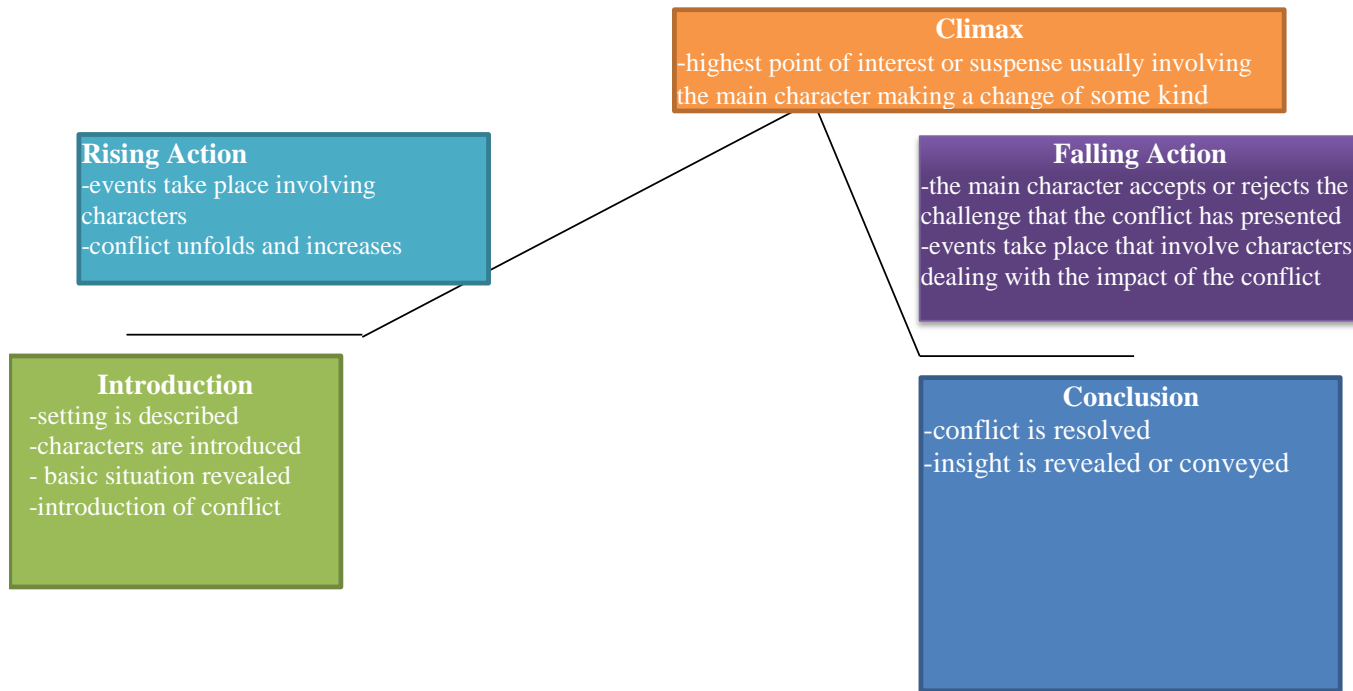
The elements

- Setting- time and place in which the story takes place.
- Characters: the individuals who take part in the story
- Dialogue: the conversation between characters
- Point of View- Who is telling the story can greatly affect the tone of the story
- Plot – the progression/ development of events or actions in the story.

Types of Characters

- Static- a character that does not change throughout a whole story or text
- Round/ Multidimensional/Complex- a character that shows many different traits or characteristics. The reader will see the character's faults and strengths
- Dynamic- a character that develops and grows during the course of the story
- Foil- a character whose characteristics are opposite of the main character's. This character somehow makes us focus our attention on the main character

Plot



Nonfiction

- Writing that is true

Elements of Nonfiction

- Tone- expresses an author's attitude toward the subject and the readers. This is communicated with the author's choice of words and details.
- Perspective- the author's point of view on the subject including:
 - His or her opinions
 - The source of the information (i.e. General research, or personal experience)



Purposes of non fiction

- To Persuade: editorials, speeches and reviews are often written to influence the opinions or actions of an audience
- To Inform: articles, news reports and instructions present facts to increase the knowledge and understanding of an audience.
- To entertain: Humor columns and many biographies and autobiographies are written for the enjoyment of an audience.
- To describe: Some essays or articles are written to help a reader understand the look, feel, experience of a person, place, or event.

Nonfiction

- Presents and explains ideas or events



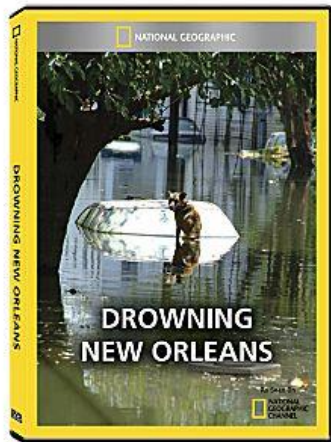
Examples

September 11, 2001

- **September 11, 2001 was a sad day in our country. Terrorists attacked the specific national monuments and structures. Thousands of lives were affected.**
- “Now, we have inscribed a new memory alongside those others. It’s a memory of tragedy and shock, of loss and mourning. But not only of loss and mourning. It’s also a memory of bravery and self-sacrifice, and the love that lays down its life for a friend—even a friend whose name it never knew. “
- President George W. Bush, December 11, 2001



Hurricanes are nonfiction



- An article, or documentary about how a hurricane affected a community would be an example of nonfiction

Theme

- The underlying meaning of the story; the big idea of what the author is trying to convey or express.
- can apply to fiction and nonfiction
- Should be considered throughout the text
- Helps a reader analyze and interpret the main ideas in a text (higher level thinking skill)
- Theme sometimes can be universal which means it applies to all people in all cultures.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9nPf7w7pDI>