Completed Frayer Model: English Language Arts Example 1

Definition

a writer's account or memories of true events in his or her life

Characteristics

- Does not always tell about a person's entire life
- Includes one or more life-changing events
- Usually told in the first person
- Nonfiction
- A type of autobiography

Term

memoir

Examples

- A short story about the day I broke my arm
- A book the President of the United States writes about how he dealt with a national crisis
- A diary kept by a child living in a war zone

Nonexamples

- A short story about turning into a superhero
- A book an author writes about how well the President handled a national crisis
- A fictional diary of a teenager who is having trouble at school

Frayer Model adapted from Frayer, D. A., Frederick, W. C., & Klausmeier, H. G. (1969). *A schema for testing the level of concept mastery* (Technical report No. 16). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Research and Development Center for Cognitive Learning.

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English Language Arts TEKS

Grade 6

(7) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Literary Nonfiction. Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the varied structural patterns and features of literary nonfiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to identify the literary language and devices used in memoirs and personal narratives and compare their characteristics with those of an autobiography.

Accomplishing this knowledge and skills statement would occur in stages as students first built a surface-level understanding of the definition and characteristics of memoirs and then deepened their understanding by examining examples and nonexamples on the Frayer Model. To fully accomplish the student expectation within this knowledge and skills statement, it would be necessary for the teacher to extend the lesson to include a comparison and contrast of a memoir with an autobiography. Other literary terms in grades 6–8 can be explored deeply using the Frayer Model.

SOURCE: TEA, 2008a.

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Completed Frayer Model: English Language Arts Example 2

Definition

A novel set in the past that contains references to significant events in history. The writer may blend factual information with fictional characters, dialogue, details, and events.

Characteristics

- Based on historical fact
- Set in the past
- Set in a real time and place
- Some fictional aspects, such as characters, details, or events

Term

historical fiction

Examples

- Novel about the Civil War
- Story about a fictional family during the Great Depression
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Nonexamples

- A general's personal account of the events leading to the Iraq War
- Story about a family who lives on the moon
- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

Frayer Model adapted from Frayer, D. A., Frederick, W. C., & Klausmeier, H. G. (1969). *A schema for testing the level of concept mastery* (Technical report No. 16). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Research and Development Center for Cognitive Learning.

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English Language Arts TEKS

The following is not specific to historical fiction and should be addressed across genres.

(3) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre. Students analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

Grades 6–7:

(C) analyze how place and time influence the theme or message of a literary work.

Grade 8:

(C) explain how the values and beliefs of particular characters are affected by the historical and cultural setting of the work.

The example provided here is for illustrating the use of the instructional routine to TALA participants. It is not intended to convey a preference for a particular novel, nor is it intended as a required reading.

SOURCE: TEA, 2008a.

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