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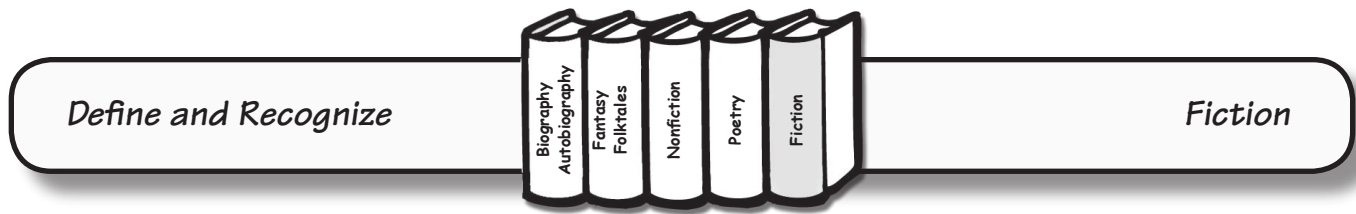
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Meeting Standards

Each lesson in *Discovering Genres: Fiction, Grades 3 and 4* meets one or more of the following standards, which are used with permission from McREL. (Copyright 2000 McREL, Midcontinent Research for Education and Learning. Telephone: 303-337-0990. Website: www.mcrel.org.)

Language Arts Standards	Page Numbers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of literary passages and texts 	5–7, 11–12, 21, 24–27, 30–34, 39–45, 47, 50, 65–67, 100, 102–106, 111, 113–115, 117, 120–121
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands similarities and differences within and among literary works from various genre and culture (e.g., settings, character types, events, point of view, role of natural phenomena) 	8–10, 13–15, 17–19, 22–23, 35–36, 46, 48–49, 51–54, 56–58, 60–64, 74–75, 101, 107, 110, 112, 119, 129, 130
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process 	16, 28–29, 37–38, 55, 68–73, 78, 116, 118, 122–125, 128, 131, 133–135, 137, 140–142
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses prewriting strategies to plan written work (e.g., uses graphic organizers, story-maps, and webs; groups related ideas; takes notes; brainstorms ideas; organizes information according to type and purpose of writing) 	59, 76–77, 79, 109–109, 126–127, 132, 136, 138–139, 143–167
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions. 	20, 80–99



What Is Fiction?

Fiction is writing that uses imagination. When an author writes fiction, he can write about anything he wants. How fun it is to write fiction! If the writer wants to tell about a mouse that lives in a mushroom, he can. If a writer wants to write about flying to the moon, he can. Of course, people have been to the moon before, but a fiction writer will add things to the story that are not true—that is what makes the story fiction. Fiction can have true events in it, but it does not have to follow true events as they really happened.

Directions: Read each statement. Fill in the circle next to the answer that is correct about fiction.

- a Fiction is writing that is filled with just facts.
 b Fiction is writing that is filled with imaginary things.
- a A fiction author can write about anything.
 b A fiction author can only write about true or real events.
- a A fiction story cannot have any true events in it.
 b A fiction story can have some true events in it.
- a People who enjoy reading about imaginary things will enjoy reading fiction.
 b People who enjoy reading only real or true stories will like reading fiction.
- a A true story about the life and habits of a brown bear would probably be found in a fiction book.
 b An imaginary story about the life and habits of a brown bear that could fly might be found in a fiction book.



Understanding the Story

Story Page

Directions: Read the following fiction story. Then answer the questions on page 113.

On the Beach

Carlos and Mary often went to the beach. Carlos liked to pick up shells, and Mary enjoyed watching the birds.

But one day, the children found something very different. Carlos saw it first because he was looking at the sand.

“Mary,” said Carlos, “Come here quickly. You won’t believe this!”

Mary stopped watching the seagulls dive and swoop. She ran over to where Carlos was standing. She saw he was looking down at a long, brown-gray, fishy kind of animal.

“What is it?” asked Mary.

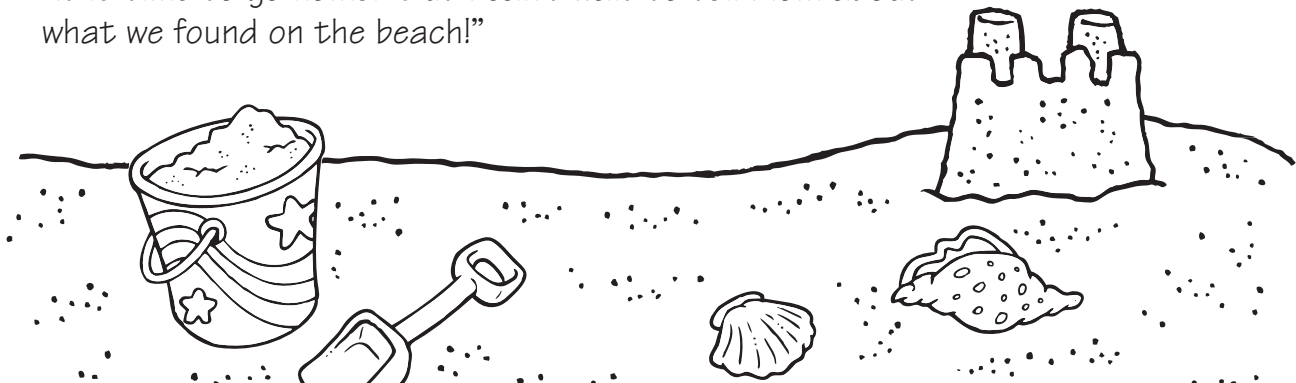
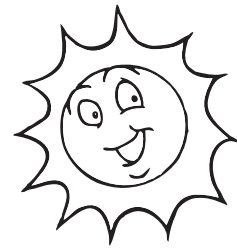
“I think it’s a small shark,” answered Carlos.

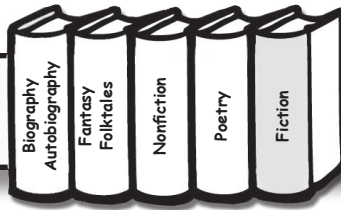
Mary looked at the sharp teeth and pointy fins. “I think you’re right, Carlos,” she agreed.

“Is it still alive?” Carlos asked Mary.

“No,” Mary answered sadly. “Sharks can’t live out of water.”

The children looked at the shark a long time. Finally Carlos said, “It is time to go home. But I can’t wait to tell Mom about what we found on the beach!”





Understanding the Story

Questions Page

Directions: Use “On the Beach” (page 112) to answer the following questions.

1. What did Carlos like to do when he went to the beach? _____

2. Who first saw the unusual creature on the beach? _____

3. What did Mary enjoy doing while at the beach? _____

4. What did Carlos find on the beach? _____

5. Why do you think the shark was no longer alive? _____

6. Why do you think Carlos wanted to tell his mother about what he'd found?

7. Have you ever been to the beach? _____ If yes, did you enjoy your time at the beach? If no, do you think you would ever like to go to the beach?

8. What would be another good title for this story?
