


LEAP's Guide to Reading Realistic Fiction



Elements of Realistic Fiction

Realistic fiction includes made-up stories and characters that are not real, but includes events that could really happen in real life.

The author will often show rather than tell what is happening in the story. As the character encounters a problem and works to solve it, you may see that the character learns an important lesson or changes in some way.

Comprehension Tips

Track dialogue: There may be many characters to keep track of. Pay attention to who is talking, what the characters say, and how they say it.

Making inferences: Use your own experiences to put yourself in the character's shoes to consider how they may be feeling and/or thinking during certain points of the story.

Helpful Information

Wondering if a book is realistic fiction?

Remember, realistic fiction only features characters, settings, and events that are realistic. You won't find magic, fantasy settings (e.g., a different world), or unbelievable problems. If you're wondering, pause and ask yourself, "Could this really happen?"

What are some examples of realistic fiction story elements?



"I'm the new kid in class!"

realistic characters



realistic settings

"It's the first day of school at Fairdale High School"



realistic problems

"I'm late for the first day of school!"

Realistic fiction books we recommend:

- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
- Dear Martin by Nic Stone
- Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls