



## **Figments of Our Imaginations**

Fiction or non-fiction? Only story structure holds the clue. Disney's *Aladdin, Jr.* is a story of imagination and faraway places. It is an example of the literary genre of fictional fairytale. A genre based on the literary rule of the number three, and the element of magic. *Aladdin* is challenged to display proof of his worthiness to be a prince. Students will be challenged to identify the elements of imagination throughout the story as proof of *Aladdin, Jr.*, being true to its fairy tale genre.

### **Kentucky English and Language Arts: Arts and Humanities**

Reading (1.2) Arts and Humanities (2.24, 2.25) Grades K-3

#### **Academic Expectations:**

- 1.2 Students make sense of the variety of materials they read.
- 2.24 Students have knowledge of major works of art, music, and literature and appreciate creativity and the contributions of the arts and humanities.

### **Ohio: Language Arts > Reading Applications > Literary Text Standard**

#### **Benchmark(s) Grades K-3**

C. Recognize the defining characteristics and features of different types of literary forms and genre.

#### **Also for Grades 2-3**

E. Identify the theme of a literary text (stated and implied)

### **Objective**

Students will:

- Determine whether the tale of *Aladdin*, and the theatrical production, *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*, are works of fiction or non-fiction.
- Provide three pieces of evidence from the story and play to support their conclusion.

### **Assessment**

Students will be able to:

- Identify the defining elements of fictional and non-fictional story structure. Such as,
  - Oral tradition
  - Words to indicate action some time long ago
  - Good character vs. evil character
  - Royalty or mythical kingdoms; places
  - Magic
  - Problem and solution
  - Use of "threes" or "sevens"

Sample selected response items to gauge student understanding:

1. A story that is based on facts is called a \_\_\_\_\_ story.  
*Answer: Non-fiction*
2. A story that is not based on facts and uses creativity and imagination is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Answer: Fiction*
3. Read the story below. Determine whether the story is fiction or non-fiction, and list three reasons as why you came to that conclusion.

Cindy's dad loved the Cincinnati Reds Baseball Team. Her biggest dream was to play for them to make her dad would be proud. Cindy practiced and practiced, and was very good. Two problems, however, made her dream difficult to reach. Cindy was too young to play, and she was a girl.

On her way home from practice one day, Cindy found a pink baseball bat lying in the middle of the road. She picked up the bat and rubbed its slick sides. A genie appeared and told Cindy that she was now master of the baseball bat, and of the genie as well. The genie also told her that he could grant her one wish. Cindy knew exactly what she wanted. She asked the genie to make it possible for her to play for the Cincinnati Reds.

Pop! Blam! Kazoom! Cindy instantly found herself in a red and white uniform right in front of home plate at Great American Ballpark. She had her magic pink bat and was ready to hit for the team and bring a smile to her dad's face.

### **Vocabulary**

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Genre
- Fairytale

### **Material**

- Paper
- Pencil
- Chalkboard or white board
- Varied fiction and non-fiction books of your choice

### **Activity**

#### **Fiction or Non-fiction? This is the Question.**

##### **Teacher will:**

1. Introduce the vocabulary terms "fiction" and "non-fiction" and provide examples of each with regards to literary structure, form and genre. (Provide samples of literary works—picture books, informational books, etc.)
2. Introduce the fairytale genre and its general rules.
3. Introduce a print version of the tale of *Aladdin*, and read aloud to students.
4. Introduce a non-fiction story, perhaps a non-fictional picture book about a family in the region of the Middle East, and read aloud to students.

5. Discuss the text and have students brainstorm how the information differs from that of the fictional tale of *Aladdin*. (Information is based on fact as opposed to made-up through the author's imagination.)
6. Have students reflect on The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* to consider whether the play was fiction or non-fiction in its telling.
7. Have students either write down or draw a picture of the evidence that provides confirmation of their decision about the story structure of tale of *Aladdin*, read, and the theatrical production, *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*
8. Have students post their evidence on the board when they are finished.
9. Discuss each piece of evidence and classify similar ideas by grouping them together.
10. Have students examine, evaluate and come to consensus as to whether the tale of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* is fiction or non-fiction.
11. Pair students and have each pair write a conclusive statement/sentence as to why *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* is a work of fiction or non-fiction. Students will include three pieces of evidence from story text and from The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production to support their argument. (Evidence will include recognition and emphasis on elements of the fairytale genre.)

### **Extension**

- Send students on a fiction and non-fiction scavenger hunt through the classroom and/or school library. Challenge them to write down as many book titles as possible within a given time period for the hunt. Have students identify which books are fiction and which are non-fiction based on the title, and provide reasoning for their decisions.