

## LESSON

## 16

## Genre

WORDS  
TO KNOW

**Genre** a type of literature. There are four main genres. **Fiction** tells about imaginary characters and events. **Nonfiction** is factual; it describes real-life people and events. **Drama** has acts, scenes, dialogue, and stage directions. **Poetry** uses lines and stanzas, and sometimes rhyme. Authors choose a genre to fit their purpose for writing.

## Review It!

Read this sentence. Use the Hint to decide what type of literature it is.

Last week, the Grove City Council passed a new law making it illegal for people to smoke in public places, such as restaurants and stores.

**Hint** The text describes something that really happened. What genre presents factual information?

## Try It!

Read this passage. Think about why the author wrote the passage and underline clues that tell you what type of passage it is.

- 1 “Carlos should watch what he says,” Jack thought. Jack remembered how angry he was when Carlos called Mrs. Nichols “baldy.” Jack clenched his fist tight and hit Carlos in the stomach. Thinking about it hours later, Jack found his fist clenched once again.
- 2 When Mrs. Nichols came walking down the hall, Jack couldn’t look at her. She was a great teacher. Jack knew why she was losing her hair.
- 3 Jack’s sister had been very sick with a type of cancer. She was well now, but it took about a year of hospitals and doctor visits for her to recover. The last time Jack’s family visited the cancer center, he saw Mrs. Nichols there. She was there to beat cancer, too.

Now, use the passage to answer the questions on the following page.

1. How is this passage organized?
  - A. in paragraphs
  - B. in stanzas
  - C. in lines
  - D. in quotes
  
2. Which of the following does this passage **not** include?
  - A. factual information
  - B. characters
  - C. events
  - D. setting
  
3. What is the **most likely** reason the author wrote the passage?
  - A. to teach
  - B. to inform
  - C. to explain
  - D. to entertain
  
4. You would **most likely** find this passage in
  - A. a short story
  - B. a city newspaper
  - C. the lyrics to a song
  - D. a script for a commercial

**In Your Own Words**

5. What type of literature is this passage? Give at least two reasons to support your answer.

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2.

Do you see any facts in the passage that could be looked up and proven to be true?

3.

Can a piece of writing entertain a reader even if it is not funny? For example, can it help you to gain a deeper understanding of something?

5.

Does fiction or nonfiction tell about made-up characters and events?