

Creating Book Covers



for Narrative Stories and Informational Text

*How
will this help
students
understand
genre?*

LESSON 1 Objective

Students use the written and visual cues on book covers to predict the genre of a book. To show what they have learned, students create their own book covers for both narrative and informational books about thematic material of their choice.

Procedure

1. Introduce this lesson by showing students examples of fiction and nonfiction picture books that focus on the same thematic material (**Ex:** One of Arnold Lobel's Frog and Toad adventures beside a nonfiction book about frogs and toads). Point out the differences between the two book covers. Review the purpose of narrative writing: to entertain, and the purpose of informational writing: to inform. Show students examples from your classroom library until you're confident they can recognize the differences between an informational (or informational) book cover and a story book (or narrative) cover. Use the following chart to guide your conversation:

Narrative story book covers usually feature:

- a title containing a character's name, a place, or suggestion of a problem
- creative artwork that looks "make believe"

Informational book covers usually feature:

- a title that names the topic
- realistic or photographic artwork that "looks real"

LESSON AT A GLANCE:

Whole Class & Independent Activity

- Discuss how book covers and titles hint at genre and purpose.
- Display a variety of narrative and informational picture books and make predictions about genre and purpose.
- Have students choose a topic and outline a narrative story about that topic. Then, have students create a book cover for this narrative story and an accompanying book cover for an informational book on the same topic.

2. Reproduce the Narrative Book Cover Template, pp. 22-23, and have students fold it in half to resemble a real book cover. Reproduce the accompanying Summarizing Framework for Narrative Writing, p. 24.
3. Explain that students are going to create book covers and a corresponding summary for a narrative story they might write someday. Project and review the Completed Summarizing Framework for Narrative Writing, p. 25, as an example.
4. Brainstorm some ideas, keeping in mind that they will use the same thematic material later to create a related informational book cover. Here are some suggestions: frogs, farm animals, earthquakes, birthday parties, camping trips, going to the beach, getting a new pet. Remember, the topic needs to work for an informational piece also.
5. Have students choose their thematic material and complete their summarizing framework. Circulate as they work. Review their completed summary and help them choose a title. Then, provide students with crayons, markers, colored pencils and have them draw a picture for their book cover. (Some may need to draw the picture first before they can come up with a title.)
6. Follow the same procedure to create a book cover for an informational or informational book, using the Informational Book Cover Template, pp. 26-27, with the Summarizing Framework for Informational Writing, p. 28, and the example, p. 29.

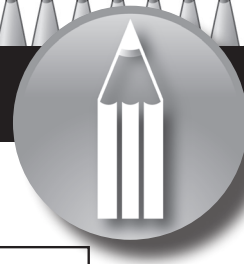


Narrative Book Cover Template

Front Cover - Title and Student Drawing

Back - Leave Blank

Narrative Book Cover Template



Fold

Name: _____

This story is about _____

The problem was _____

The problem was solved _____

The author's purpose was _____



Summarizing Framework

for Narrative Writing

Name: _____

Please tell us about your story by answering the questions below.

This story is about:

The problem/adventure was that:

The problem was solved/the adventure ended when:

The author's purpose was to:

Completed Summarizing Framework

for Narrative Writing



Please tell us about your story by answering the questions below.

This story is about:

me

The problem/adventure was that:

I was out on my boat and a hurricane was coming

The problem was solved/the adventure ended when:

my big brother and my dog came to rescue me

The author's purpose was to :

entertain



Informational Book Cover Template

Front Cover - Title and Photo

Back - Leave Blank

Informational Book Cover Template



Fold

Name: _____

This text is about _____

The author's purpose was _____



Summarizing Framework

for Informational Writing

Name: _____

Please tell us about your informational text by answering the questions below.

The text gives information about:

_____ .

The author's purpose is to:

_____ .

Completed Summarizing Framework

for Informational Writing



Please tell us about your informational text by answering the questions below.

The text gives information about:

hurricanes .

The author's purpose is to:

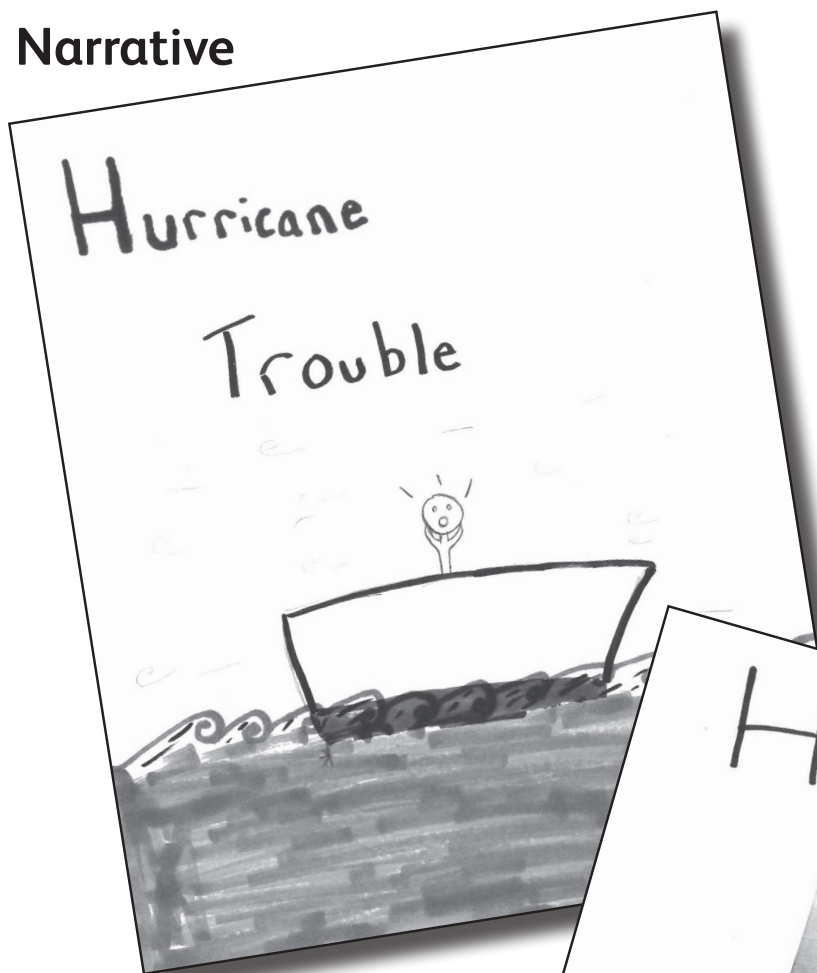
inform .



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Narrative



Informational

