



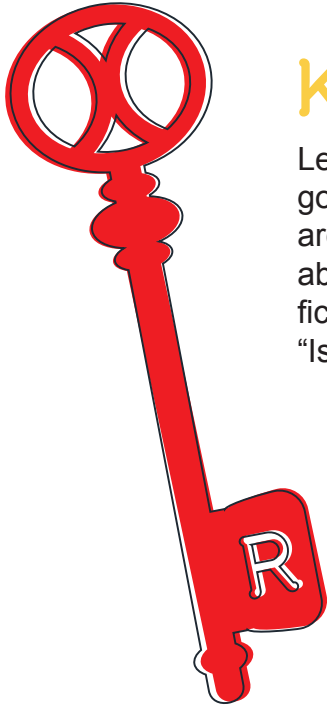
# Identify Fiction and Non-Fiction

Keys to  
Comprehension

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# Identify Fiction and Non-Fiction



## Keys for the Teacher

Learning to distinguish between fiction and non-fiction texts can be a good first step in genre study for young children. Generally, fiction texts are created from an author's imagination and non-fiction texts contain facts about people, places, things and events. While a strict distinction between fiction and non-fiction can be complicated, asking, "Is it made-up?" and "Is it true?" is a simple place to begin.

## Keys for the Children

Good readers know the difference between fiction and non-fiction.

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### Lesson

Sorting made up and true statements can be a fun game that encourages children to begin thinking about the concept. Read the sentences below and have students cross hands and touch their opposite shoulders if they believe the statement to be made up. Raise both arms straight in the air to "vote" for true.

- *I go to school.*
- *I live in the ocean.*
- *I have an alligator for a pet.*
- *I sleep in a bed.*
- *My ears are green.*
- *I will eat dinner tonight.*
- *I have stood on the moon before.*
- *I am learning to read.*

Explain to the children that when we read stories that are made up, we call them fiction stories. Then stories that are true are called non-fiction stories.

Next, show the students various book covers and ask if they think the story will be fiction or non-fiction. Urge them to confirm their prediction by describing their thinking. To finish the lesson, ask, "How will we know for sure?" It's important for the students to understand that we need to read the book to find out a sure answer.

