

## Learning About Fiction and Nonfiction

Literature may be either **fiction** or **nonfiction**. The following chart compares and contrasts these two types of literature.

Characteristics	Fiction	Nonfiction
<b>Overall Features</b>	Fiction is prose that tells an imaginary story about people, animals, or other characters. Each character has particular traits, or qualities, that can affect the story. The story's sequence of events is its plot, which begins with a conflict, or problem, and ends with a resolution, or conclusion. The setting is the time and place when events in the story occur. The story's theme is its message about life.	Nonfiction is prose that deals only with real people, events, or ideas. Nonfiction works present facts or discuss ideas. Nonfiction works reflect the author's style, or use of language, including dialect, rhythm, and organization. The overall feeling of the writing is its mood or atmosphere.
<b>Perspective</b>	A story can be told from first-person point of view, the perspective of a character in the story; or from third-person point of view, the perspective of a narrator outside the story.	Nonfiction works are written from the perspective or point of view of the author, who is a real person.
<b>Sample Forms</b>	short stories, novellas, novels	speeches, editorials, articles, research papers, biographies
<b>Author's Purpose</b>	to entertain	to persuade, inform, or entertain

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each item. Decide whether it is a work of fiction or nonfiction, and then write fiction or nonfiction on the line provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. a piece of literature that tells about a ten-foot-tall lumberjack
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. a piece of literature that presents facts about "man-eating" plants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a piece of literature that urges readers to collect and use rainwater
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. a piece of literature that tells about the childhood of a famous real-life artist
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a piece of literature about a kangaroo who misplaces her pocket