SMART™ Lesson

Literary Genres: Genre Identification

Introduction to Literary Genres

A genre is a category of literature that is characterized by its specific style, form, and content. Each genre has its own set of conventions and expectations that help readers identify and understand it. By understanding the different genres of literature, readers can better analyze stories, identify themes, and make connections between different works of literature.

Common Literary Genres

Fiction

Fiction is a genre of literature that includes stories invented by the author. It can be further divided into sub-genres such as:

- Science fiction
- Historical fiction
- Mystery
- Romance
- Fantasy

Non-Fiction

Non-fiction is a genre of literature that is based on factual information. It can be further divided into sub-genres such as:

- Biography
- Autobiography
- Memoir
- History
- Science

Poetry

Poetry is a genre of literature that uses rhythm, meter, and language to evoke emotion and paint a picture for the reader. It can be further divided into sub-genres such as:

- Sonnet
- Haiku
- Free verse

- Limerick
- Epic

Genre Identification Strategies

There are several strategies that readers can use to identify the genre of a given work of literature:

- Read the cover or title
- Look for clues in the text, such as setting, character types, and plot
- Consider the language and writing style - for example, poetry often uses figurative language and a unique writing structure
- Read reviews or research the author to determine their typical genre

Worksheet Questions:

1. What is a genre? Provide an example of a literary genre.
2. What are the three main literary genres?
3. What are some sub-genres of fiction?
4. What are some sub-genres of non-fiction?
5. What is poetry, and what are some sub-genres of it?
6. What are some strategies that readers can use to identify the genre of a work of literature?