

SMART™ Lesson

Literary Nonfiction: Evaluating Perspectives

Literary nonfiction is a genre of writing that uses literary techniques to tell a true story. It often combines factual information with artistic styles to create a compelling narrative. Evaluating perspectives is an important skill when reading literary nonfiction because it allows us to understand different viewpoints and analyze the author's purpose and message.

Types of Perspectives

There are several types of perspectives that can be present in literary nonfiction. These include:

- Author's perspective: the author's opinions, beliefs, and values that are reflected in the writing.
- Subject's perspective: the viewpoint of the person or people being written about.
- Reader's perspective: the way the reader interprets and understands the text.

Questions to Ask When Evaluating Perspectives

When reading literary nonfiction, it is important to ask questions to help evaluate and analyze the multiple perspectives present in the text. Some questions to consider include:

- What is the author's purpose in writing this piece?
- What does the subject think or feel about the events being described?
- What biases or assumptions might the author or subject have?
- How might the reader's own experiences influence how they interpret the text?

Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding of literary nonfiction?
2. Why is it important to evaluate perspectives when reading literary nonfiction?
3. Think of a piece of literary nonfiction you have read recently. What were some of the different perspectives presented in the text?
4. What are some questions you can ask yourself when evaluating perspectives in literary nonfiction?
5. How can evaluating perspectives help you better understand and analyze a piece of literary nonfiction?

