Story or Fact?

Use details to tell fiction from nonfiction.

7.2.R.2 "Students will analyze details in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction texts to distinguish genres."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FICTION

Fiction tells an invented story. Look for characters or events the writer made up, even if some details could be real.

Vera's shoelaces tied themselves and ran away.

NONFICTION

Nonfiction gives information about the real world. Look for accurate facts or explanations.

Honeybees carry pollen between flowers.

1 SORT

8 items

For each excerpt, circle its genre; then choose two items and explain how a detail in each helped you decide.

1.	Octopuses have three hearts. Two pump blood to the gills.	FICTION NONFICTION
2.	When Jalen touched the old key, the hallway whispered his name.	FICTION NONFICTION
3.	"The trees have moved again," Ava said as their roots marched across the road.	FICTION NONFICTION
4.	The first modern Olympic Games took place in Athens in 1896.	FICTION NONFICTION
5.	The library books fluttered off the shelves and formed a staircase for Sam.	FICTION NONFICTION
6.	A lunar eclipse happens when Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the Moon.	FICTION NONFICTION
7.	On Monday, the Moon sent Eli a letter asking for directions to the sea.	FICTION NONFICTION
8.	A pebble told Imani to follow the purple trail.	FICTION NONFICTION

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new, short excerpt of fiction and one of nonfiction.

FICTION _____

NONFICTION _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence nonfiction excerpt about a real animal that reads like a story, then explain in one sentence why it is nonfiction.

ANSWER KEY # Story or Fact?

GRADE 7 · 7.2.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Octopuses have three hearts. Two pump blood to the gills.	**NONFICTION**	It gives accurate facts about octopus anatomy.
2	When Jalen touched the old key, the hallway whispered his name.	**FICTION**	The whispering hallway is an invented event.
3	"The trees have moved again," Ava said as their roots marched across the road.	**FICTION**	Trees marching across a road is an invented event.
4	The first modern Olympic Games took place in Athens in 1896.	**NONFICTION**	It states a verifiable historical fact.
5	The library books fluttered off the shelves and formed a staircase for Sam.	**FICTION**	Books forming a staircase on their own is an invented event.
6	A lunar eclipse happens when Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the Moon.	**NONFICTION**	It explains a real event in nature.
7	On Monday, the Moon sent Eli a letter asking for directions to the sea.	**FICTION**	The Moon sending a letter is an invented event.
8	A pebble told Imani to follow the purple trail.	**FICTION**	A talking pebble is an invented detail.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FICTION**: The river hummed a tune, and Leo sang along.
- **NONFICTION**: Sea otters use rocks to crack open shellfish.

Challenge: A robin hops across the grass. It pulls an earthworm from the soil. This is nonfiction because robins really eat earthworms.

For Part 2, students should cite a detail from each chosen item. For example, item 2 describes an invented whispering hallway, while item 4 gives the date and place of a real event.