

1 Genre

Read It, Write It, Tell It Episode: “Mike Fink”

Lesson Overview

The purpose of the lessons in this unit is to help Ohio students in grades 3-7 learn the characteristics of the literary text GENRE indicators that they must master for their respective Ohio achievement tests. Special care has been taken to dovetail the lessons with the indicators and the types of questions commonly asked on Ohio tests.

Ohio Academic Content Indicators

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2001.EL.S05.G04-07.BF.L05.I06 | Describe the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, chapter books, biographies, fiction and non-fiction. |
| 2001.EL.S05.G04-07.BF.L06.I06 | Explain the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, myths, biographies, autobiographies, fiction and non-fiction. |
| 2001.EL.S05.G04-07.BF.G07.I06 | Explain the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, myths, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, fiction and non-fiction. |

Ohio Achievement/Proficiency Tests Setting Question Types

- Given a list of details, select the detail which shows that the selection is an example of Genre X.
- Given a list of possible genres, select the correct genre for the selection.
- The selection is best described as which type of work?
- Given a list of characteristics of one or more genres, which is a characteristic of the genre demonstrated by the selection?

Mike Fink

Episode Overview

This episode is about the legendary Mike Fink, a keelboat man who traveled up and down the Ohio River. The segment begins with information about Fink, keelboats, and river transportation in early Ohio. In the tall tale portion of the episode Mike faces river pirates, travels through time, and enlists the help of other versions of himself to defeat the pirates.

Fact

Mike Fink (1770?–1823) was a real person who worked and traveled the Ohio River in the early 1800s. The depth of the Ohio varied greatly depending on the time of year as there were no dams on the river. Keelboats could be moved via poling. Traveling on the Ohio River, rather than over land, did reduce the time a journey took and it aided commerce. River bandits or pirates did prey on people traveling the Ohio at this time.

Keelboats

Keelboats had keels or shallow v-shaped hulls rather than being flat on the bottom. They could be moved by the river's current, be rowed or be poled but, unlike rafts, they could travel upstream against the current.

- Show the students a picture of a keelboat from a text book, encyclopedia or online source such as
 - Lewis and Clark Expedition:
 - <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=496>
 - <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=963>
 - L&C Replicas Keelboat.com
 - <http://www.keelboat.com/images/photo25.jpg>
 - <http://www.keelboat.com/images/photo417.jpg>
 - Most keelboat images available online are of models or replicas of the unnamed flagship of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Many keelboats on the rivers in the late 1700s and early 1800s were smaller and less well equipped.
 - Upper Missouri River Keelboat Company:
<http://www.mrkeelboat.com/expedition.html>

Episode Vocabulary

The following words used by the storyteller in the *Read It, Write It, Tell It* episode “Mike Fink” may be unfamiliar to some students.

cargo	event	rascal
challenge	festival	scuttle
delivered	goods and services	tarp
	nab	


Before Viewing
Examine Fact and Fiction

Say: Are the following statements fact or fiction? Be prepared to support your opinion.

- Statements:
 - The sun rises in the west.
 - *Fiction. It rises in the east.*
 - *Source: “Watching the Sunrise”.*
http://www.classzone.com/books/earth_science/terc/content/investigations/es0405/es0405page02.cfm. Accessed 11/26/2006.
 - The Green Bay Packers is a National Football League team from Green Bay, Ohio.
 - *Fiction. The team is from Green Bay, Wisconsin.*
 - *Source: “Green Bay, Wisconsin”.*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Bay,_Wisconsin . Accessed 11/26/2006.
 - Keelboats are like rafts.
 - *Fiction. Keelboats were not rafts. They had keels or shallow v-shaped hulls rather than being flat on the bottom. Like rafts, they could be moved by the river's current, be rowed or be poled but, unlike rafts, they could travel upstream against the current.*
 - *Source: Keelboat.com. “LBJ Library Project and Photos.”*
<http://www.keelboat.com/lbjpics.html>. Accessed: 11/20/2006.
 - A light year is a measure of distance equal to around 9×10^{18} meters or 6×10^{15} miles.

- *Fiction. It is a measure of distance but an extra period of zeros (000) has been added to each answer. The correct approximations of a light year are 9×10^{15} meters and 6×10^{12} or 6 trillion miles. Sources:*
- *Baez, John. "Distances." <http://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/distances.html>. Accessed 11/20/2006.*
- *Fact Farm. "What and how far is a light year?" http://www.faqfarm.com/O/What_and_how_far_is_a_light_year. Accessed 11/20/006.*
- The Sons of Liberty actually held four Boston Tea Parties between 1773 and 1774 where tea cargoes were destroyed in order to protest British taxes. Only the first one is remembered.
 - *Fiction – there were two, not four.*
 - *Source: State of Delaware. "Little Known Facts about the American Revolutionary War." <http://www.state.de.us/facts/ushist/revfacts.htm> . Accessed 11/20/2006.*
- The pressure on an unprotected human at the deepest point in the ocean is so heavy that it would feel like 50 jumbo jets were pressing down on him/her.
 - *Non-fiction.*
 - *Source: Marine Bio.org. "Ocean Facts." <http://www.marinebio.com/MarineBio/Facts/>. Accessed 11/20/2006.*
- The increase in the internal energy of a thermodynamic system is equal to the amount of heat energy added to the system plus the work done by the system on the surroundings.
 - *Fiction. The word "plus" should read "minus".*
 - *Source: Wikipedia.org. "The First Law of Thermodynamics." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_law_of_thermodynamics. Accessed 11/20/2006.*
- Say: If a sentence is stated as a fact and it can be proven to be untrue, is the statement then an opinion? *Answers will vary. Accept responses that the students can support.*

Discuss Genre

- Ask: What makes a genre unique?
 - Say: Make a mental list of all the different types of genres of which you are aware. Then mentally review the characteristics of each genre.
 - Say: Be prepared to identify the genre of this episode.

Preparing for "Mike Fink"

Ask the students to listen for each of the following as they watch the episode.

- Mike Fink's character traits – physical and personality
- Conflict
- Figurative Language
- Plot events

After Viewing

Pre/Post Questions: If the students cannot easily answer the following questions, you may wish to use the Lessons (Section 4) and/or the Extensions (Section 5) about genres.

1. What problem did Mike Fink need to solve?
He needs to keep the Buckeye Bandits from stealing his cargo.
2. How did he solve the problem?
He travels through time, picks up both younger and older versions of himself, and hides them on his keelboat. When the keelboat is attacked, a dozen other Mike Finks help him capture the pirates and deliver his cargo.
3. Did Mike Fink use any technology such as machines or inventions to solve his problem?
Mike uses his own physical strength and intelligence. Technology tools are not an integral part of his solution. He does travel on a keelboat and secures one of the pirates with an iron bar.
4. What magic did Mike Fink use to solve his problem?
None. Although Mike has powers real people do not have, the story does not tell how he got his powers.
5. Is this episode an example of the genre Science Fiction? Support your opinion.
No, it is not Science Fiction. Students may list reasons such as:
 - *It takes place in the past, not the future.*
 - *There is no science mentioned in the story.*
 - *Technology does not help Mike Fink solve his problems.*
 - *The story does not stick to physical laws.*
6. Into which genre would the Mike Fink episode best fit? Support your opinion.
Folktale would be the best answer based on the genres that Ohio students must know by the end of Grade Seven. Students may list reasons such as:
 - *Mike Fink was a real person but the plot is not real.*
 - *Mike faced a problem that real people had to face at that time in American history – river pirates on the Ohio River – but solved the problem in a fictional manner.*
 - *His abilities (speed, strength) are human qualities that many people admire.*
 - *There are no talking animals, magic, or magical events in the story.*
 - *The story is short.*

The episode is actually the type of folktale called a tall tale. A tall tale is a folktale that has the additional attributes of humor, action, and most especially hyperbole.

4 Genre Lessons

Exploring Genres

Materials:

- Genre Bookmarks Handout: completed version or blank version.

Procedure:

1. Say: The genres you will be expected to know by the end of 7th grade in Ohio include: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, fairy tale, folktale, fables, fantasy, myth, biography, autobiography, drama, and science fiction.
2. Copy and print out one of the two versions of the Genre Bookmarks – blank or completed.
 - a. Genre Bookmarks – Completed
 - i. Have the students cut the bookmarks apart and use them as study aids.
 - b. Genre Bookmarks – Blank
 - i. Assign students to research the characteristics of each genre. There are 12 bookmarks. The students may complete this activity in small groups.
 - ii. Look for websites specific to a genre. For example: Prof. Waller Hastings’ web page: “Defining the Fairy Tale” <http://www.northern.edu/hastingw/ftdefine.htm> .
 - iii. You can begin with an online search that included the specific genre’s name in one of the following phrases: “define ___”, “characteristics of ___” or “genre ___ understand”.
 - iv. The following websites are general and have information about several genres at each website:
 1. “Genre Definitions”:
http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/staff/SusannaTaylor/genre_definitions.htm
 2. “Genre Study”: <http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/course/course1/index.html>
Mouse over to display and then click the links for definitions and interactive activities for: poetry, non-fiction, drama, short story, and folktale.
 3. “List of Literary Genres”:
<http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/readingliterature/genres/menu.htm>
Scroll down the page to find this section. Not all genres have been completed.
 4. “Reading Genre Definitions”:
<http://www.booknutsreadingclub.com/genrelist.html>
 5. “Reading Genre”: http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba/reading_genre1.htm
 6. “Recommended Literature: K-12 Literary Genres”:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/l1/litrlgenres.asp>

Fairy Tales vs. Folktales

Materials:

- *Read It, Write It, Tell It* episode “Mike Fink.”
 - Comparing Folktales and Folktales handout: “Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox” or “Fairy Tales vs. Folktales.”
1. Choose one of the two handouts that compare fairy tales and folktales:
 - a. **“Fairy Tales vs. Folktales”**: The “Folktale” and “Differences” columns are blank.
 - i. Choose a folktale, have the children read the folktale, and fill in the Folktale column.
 - ii. The following websites are sources for fairy tales and folktales:
 1. American Folklore: <http://www.americanfolklore.net/>
 2. Fairy Tales, University of Maryland: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/ETC/ReadingRoom/Fiction/FairyTales/>
 3. Grimm's Fairy Tales by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm: <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2591>
 4. Myths, Folklore and Fairy Tales: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/>
 5. Tales of Wonder, Folk and Fairy Tales from Around the World: <http://www.darsie.net/talesofwonder/>
 6. Welcome to Classic Fairy Tales: <http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/fairytales.htm>
 - iii. Have the students fill in the Differences column.
 - iv. Discuss and explain the similarities and differences between folktales and their subgroup fairy tales.
 - v. Have the students create a list of the characteristics of folk and fairy tales
 - b. **“Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox”** Both the “Fairy Tale” and “Folktale” columns are complete but the “Differences” column is blank.
 - i. Have the students read the information on the worksheet and fill in the “Differences” column.
 - ii. Discuss and explain the similarities and differences between folktales and their subgroup fairy tales.
 - iii. Have the students create a list of the characteristics of folk and fairy tales.
 2. Watch the “Mike Fink” *Read It, Write It, Tell It* episode a second time.
 3. Say: Decide if the episode is a fairy tale or a folktale. Write a paragraph supporting your decision based on what the class has learned about the two genres and on details from the episode.
 4. Extend the lesson. Have each student rewrite part of the episode so that it is a fairy tale.

Fairy Tales vs. Folktales

Name:

Date:

Folktales:

Fairy Tales:

Characteristic	Fairy Tale Cinderella	Folktale	Differences
Human Characters	Cinderella, her father, stepmother, stepsisters, handsome prince		
The main character is likeable.	Cinderella is mistreated but still keeps on trying. She is good and kind to people.		
Magical Characters	Fairy Godmother		
Problem	Cinderella is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.		
Animals	Mice become horses; birds and other animals can understand Cinderella and help her.		
Magic Numbers	Magic ends on the stroke of midnight		
Magic	Shoes turn into glass slippers, a pumpkin turns into a carriage		
Solution to Problem	The handsome prince marries Cinderella and she is no longer mistreated. The prince sees to it that the stepmother and the stepsisters are punished.		
Author	Charles Perrault, wrote the version that included glass slippers in France in 1697.		
"Cinderella" accessed from: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault			

Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox

Name: _____ Date: _____

Folktales have main characters that may have really once lived. They are human and have human abilities – but over time their abilities have become larger than life. They are not just strong; they are very, very, very strong. They are not just smart; they are smarter than anyone else. It is often impossible to track down an original author for a folktale.

A fairy tale is a kind of folktale. Fairy tales often have witches and queens, giants and elves, princes, dragons, talking animals, ogres, princesses, and sometimes even fairies. Magical things happen to characters in fairy tales. They often have an author, such as Hans Christian Andersen.

Characteristic	Fairy Tale <i>Cinderella</i>	Folktale <i>Paul Bunyan: Babe the Blue Ox</i>	Differences
Human Characters	Cinderella, her father, stepmother, stepsisters, handsome prince	Paul Bunyan and his logging camp crew	
The main character is likeable.	Cinderella is mistreated but still keeps on trying. She is good and kind to people.	Paul is powerful and strong yet he rescues Babe and cares for his crew.	
Magical Characters	Fairy Godmother	None	
Problem	Cinderella is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.	Paul needs to straighten out the roads so that logging is easier for him and his crew.	
Animals	Mice become horses; birds and other animals can understand Cinderella and help her.	Babe, the blue ox and Bessie the yellow cow are regular animals that grow very large when they are with Paul.	
Magic Numbers	Magic ends on the stroke of midnight	None	
Magic	Shoes turn into glass slippers, a pumpkin turns into a carriage	None	
Solution to Problem	The handsome prince marries Cinderella and she is no longer mistreated. The prince sees to it that the stepmother and the stepsisters are punished.	Paul uses his super strength, and Babe's, to yank roads straight. Bessie makes milk and butter for everyone. Paul knows what is best and how to do what needs to be done.	
Author	Charles Perrault, wrote the version that included glass slippers in France in 1697.	Retold by S. E. Schlosser	
"Cinderella" accessed from: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault		"Babe the Blue Ox" accessed from: http://www.americanfolklore.net/folktales/mn3.html	

Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox Answer Key

Name: _____

Date: _____

Folktales have main characters that may have really once lived. They are human and have human abilities – but over time their abilities have become larger than life. They are not just strong; they are very, very, very strong. They are not just smart; they are smarter than anyone else. It is often impossible to track down an original author for a folktale.

A fairy tale is a kind of folktale. Fairy tales often have witches and queens, giants and elves, princes, dragons, talking animals, ogres, princesses, and sometimes even fairies. Magical things happen to characters in fairy tales. They often have an author, such as Hans Christian Andersen.

Characteristic	Fairy Tale <i>Cinderella</i>	Folktale <i>Paul Bunyan: Babe the Blue Ox</i>	Differences
Human Characters	Cinderella, her father, stepmother, stepsisters, handsome prince	Paul Bunyan and his logging camp crew	All folktales have human characters. Fairy tales also have magical characters. In some fairy tales all the characters are magical.
The main character is likeable.	Cinderella is mistreated but still keeps on trying. She is good and kind to people.	Paul is powerful and strong yet he rescues Babe and cares for his crew.	None. Both have main characters who are likeable.
Magical Characters	Fairy Godmother	None	Folktales do not rely on magic to solve problems.
Problem	Cinderella is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.	Paul needs to straighten out the roads so that logging is easier for him and his crew.	None. Both kinds of tales have problems that human beings can understand.
Animals	Mice become horses; birds and other animals can understand Cinderella and help her.	Babe, the blue ox and Bessie the yellow cow are regular animals that grow very large when they are with Paul.	Folktale animals are real animals that may have larger than life abilities. Fairy tale animals are often magical or mythical beasts like dragons and unicorns.
Magic Numbers	Magic ends on the stroke of midnight	None	Folktales do not rely on magic.
Magic	Shoes turn into glass slippers, a pumpkin turns into a carriage	None	Folktales do not rely on magic.
Solution to Problem	The handsome prince marries Cinderella and she is no longer mistreated. The prince sees to it that the stepmother and the stepsisters are punished.	Paul uses his super strength, and Babe's, to yank roads straight. Bessie makes milk and butter for everyone. Paul knows what is best and how to do what needs to be done.	Both folktales and fairy tales solve problems that are sometimes difficult for regular human beings to solve.
Author	Charles Perrault, wrote the version that included glass slippers in France in 1697.	Retold by S. E. Schlosser	Fairy tales are more likely to have known authors.
"Cinderella" accessed from: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault		"Babe the Blue Ox" accessed from: http://www.americanfolklore.net/folktales/mn3.html	

Genre Characteristics Bookmarks - Blank

NON-FICTION

Characteristics:

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FICTION

Characteristics:

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POETRY

Characteristics:

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Genre Characteristics Bookmarks - Blank

BIOGRAPHY

Characteristics:

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Characteristics:

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DRAMA

Characteristics:

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Genre Characteristics Bookmarks - Blank

FANTASY

Characteristics:

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FABLE

Characteristics:

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SCIENCE FICTION

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Genre Characteristics Bookmarks - Blank

FAIRY TALE

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FOLKTALE

Characteristics:

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MYTH

Characteristics:

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Completed Genre Characteristics Bookmarks

NON-FICTION

The usual purpose of a non-fiction work is to inform.

Non-fiction:

- Has a topic or subject area.
- Has content which has been researched by the author(s).
- Sites the sources of the author's research in correct bibliographic style.
- Contains statements of fact that were true at the time the selection was written or recorded.
- Often contains labeled pictures, illustrations charts, graphs, diagrams, tables, or maps to clarify information.
- Usually has a table of contents, index, and a list of resources.

FICTION

The usual purpose of a work of fiction is to entertain.

Fiction:

- Has story elements:
 - Plot – the action or series of events that affect the main characters. One event often causes or leads to the next.
 - Theme – a general idea or insight about life.
 - Mood – emotions the author wishes readers to feel.
 - Point of view – usually one voice (the narrator, the main character) tells the story.
 - Character development – main character(s) are given personalities and physical descriptions.
- Has characters which may or may not be human beings.
- Has content that is an invention of the author(s).
- Uses pictures or illustrations to show an event or setting from the story.
- Has as a beginning, a middle, and an end.

POETRY

Poetry is a form of art. A poem uses language for its beauty, and often enhances the literal or superficial meaning of the words the poem contains.

Poetry:

- Expresses the writer's personal meaning.
- Creates an overall mood.
- Focuses on a single topic – usually from personal life.
- Uses precise and vivid words.
- Creates imaginative sensory images.
- Uses figurative language.
- Breaks lines so each image stands on its own.
- Often creates rhythm and meter (pattern/beat).

Completed Genre Characteristics Bookmarks

BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a type of non-fiction that gives an account of the life of a real person – living or dead.

A biography:

- Is not written by the subject.
- Often has elements of fiction such as a narrative style and a plot.
- Is based on the author's research, not imagination.
- Sites the sources of author's research such as:
 - Written accounts.
 - Interviews with the subject and/or with others who knew the subject – if any of them are still alive.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

An autobiography is a type of non-fiction about the life of a real person.

An autobiography:

- Is written by that person.
- May have story elements similar to fiction such as a narrative style and a plot.
- Is based on the author's memories of events from his or her life and any written accounts s/he may have such as journals, diaries, letters, etc.
- Includes personal feelings and thoughts.

DRAMA

A drama is a type of writing in which actors are given parts to perform before an audience. Stage plays and motion pictures are examples of drama.

Dramas:

- Are often works of fiction.
- Have elements of a story such as plot, theme, mood, etc.
- Do not rely on the just words for effect.
- Have a script telling what each actor should say as well as directions for stage settings, props, sound effects, how the actors should move and speak their lines, etc.

Completed Genre Characteristics Bookmarks

FANTASY

A fantasy is a type of fiction.

A fantasy:

- Contains elements that are not realistic such as:
 - Talking animals.
 - Magical powers.
- Is often set in a medieval universe.
- May have mythical beings such as dragons, unicorns, winged horses, phoenixes, etc.
- Downplays or ignores physical laws.
- Has the common elements of fiction stories.
 - Plot
 - Point of View
 - Theme
 - Mood
 - Character Development

Fable

A fable is a type of fiction.

A fable:

- Is usually short.
- Teaches a lesson, has a moral, or makes a cautionary point.
- Often uses animals that speak and act like human beings.

SCIENCE FICTION

Science fiction is a type of fiction.

Science fiction:

- Projects, extends, or expands known physical laws, technology and current reality to predict or suggest what might occur in the future.
- May describe technologies, ideas, or theories that are a combination of factual details the author has researched with fictional ideas from the author's imagination.
- May describe scientific theories or technological advances that are wholly imaginary.
- Has a setting in the future, in space, on a different world, or in a different universe or dimension.
- Has the common elements of fiction stories.
 - Plot
 - Point of View
 - Theme
 - Mood
 - Character Development

Completed Genre Characteristics Bookmarks

FAIRY TALE

A fairy tale is a subgroup of the kind of fiction called fantasy. Fairy tales were often created to teach children how to behave.

A fairy tale:

- Has non-human characters such as fairies, goblins, dragons, talking animals, etc.
- Gives characters magical powers such as magic wands.
- Often transforms one thing into another like a pumpkin into a carriage or a shoe into a glass slipper.
- Often takes place in an undefined time and place.
- Often has characters that are not well developed.

FOLKTALE

A folktale is a subgroup of the kind of fiction called fantasy.

A folktale:

- Uses hyperbole, that is, it has many exaggerations in it.
- Gives the main character a problem to solve that is very much like a problem that real human beings had to solve at the time the folktale began.
- Makes the main character bigger than life by increasing real human abilities (speed, intelligence, strength) to super-human size.
- Has a plot that is funny and impossible.
- Has the main character solve a problem, overcome an obstacle and/or defeat an antagonist, i.e. bad guy.
- Includes lots of action.

MYTH

Myths are a type of fiction, but their original creators thought that the stories were non-fiction.

A myth:

- Is usually sacred (religious).
- Has characters that are heroes, Gods, Goddesses, and/or non-human.
- Is often set in the distant past and/or in distant locations of the world.
- May deal with or explain the origins (beginnings) of a culture's important features such as its ceremonies, medicines, or how the culture came into being.
- May explain some feature of nature such as why the sun disappears at night.

Extension Activities

Genre • Online Resources

- “Genre Study: A Collaborative Approach” Grades 3-5
 - http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=270
 - Resources at this site include bookmark templates for the genres: fantasy, historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, and mystery
 - A list of suggested books for each genre listed above
- “Ideas for Teaching Literary Genres”
 - <http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/readingliterature/genres/menu.htm>
- “Resources for Readers and Teachers of Appalachian Literature for Children and Young Adults”
 - <http://www.ferrum.edu/applit/>

Ohio Instructional Management System

- <https://ims.ode.state.oh.us>. Use the IMS Quick Search:
- Select Lesson Plans, Content Area: English – Reading ▼, Grade Level: as desired ▼, Keyword: type Genre Study. Click Search.

“Genre Study,” Grade Three

- Students develop an understanding of genre by participating in small- and whole-group activities.

Ohio Resource Center • Reading http://www.ohiorc.org/search/search_adv.aspx

- Advanced Search: Choose Free Text and ORC Number from the drop down menus and type the ORC Lesson number in the center box. Scroll down and click Submit. For example:
Search for resources that...contain in the

“Using *Snowflake Bentley* as a Framing Text for Multigenre Writing,” Grades 3-4

- ORC Lesson# 4461
- *Snowflake Bentley*, a Caldecott Medal-winning book about Wilson Bentley, is an example of a multigenre picture book. Along with the biographical text are large, colorful woodcuts and sidebars describing Bentley's experiments with microphotography and other biographical data.

“Found Poems/Parallel Poems,” Grades 6-7

- ORC Lesson# 1353
- Learning to recast the text they are reading in a different genre helps make students more insightful readers and helps develop creativity in thinking and writing. This lesson requires students to construct poems using key ideas and phrases from a short story or novel.

Mike Fink Follow-up Ideas

- Research factual details mentioned in the episode:
 - When did the real Mike Fink live?
 - How long were keelboats used on American rivers?
 - Compare and contrast keelboats and flatboats.
 - Learn more about river pirates on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in early America
- Identify figurative language in the episode: Examples might include:
 - [Fink] could make the boat go so fast that he beat others in a race by traveling through time.
 - [Fink] could unload all the cargo with one hand while eating a dozen pies with the other.
 - [Fink] poled the keelboat so hard that he would lift it right out of the water and land it on shore.
 - whale of a wingding