

Workshop 3: Are Novels Real?

Description

This workshop focuses on the question, “Are novels real?” During the video, you will explore with novelists, teachers, and students various definitions of reality and how these realities shape novels. At the end of the workshop, you should be able to develop your own answer to the question, and you will write a lesson plan that helps students explore realities in fiction.

Workshop 3 Timeline

Getting Ready

30 minutes

In pairs or groups of three, share the lesson plan that you created as homework after the previous workshop. Distribute copies to site participants.

Discuss ways in which you distinguish novels from the realities of history, autobiography, and sociology.

Watch the Workshop Video

60 minutes

During the Video

First 15-second break. Question on screen: What makes a novel real to you?

Five minute break. Discuss how novels reveal and help us reflect on human experience past and present.

Second 15-second break. Question on screen: Do you believe novels help or hinder our understanding of history?

Going Further

30 minutes

Citing specific novels, discuss ways in which you help your students distinguish between novels and history, autobiography, and sociology.

For Next Time

Homework Assignment

1. Write a lesson plan that encourages students to explore the differences between the art of fiction and historical facts and biography. Bring copies to distribute at the next workshop.
2. ✎ Expand the first paragraph of your novel to include historical or current realities.

SUPPLEMENTAL

3. Go to the “Teachers and Lesson Plans” section of the *In Search of the Novel* Web site, www.learner.org/channel/workshops/isonovel. Read Pauline Moller’s lesson plan for teaching *Bridge to Terabithia*.

Reading Assignment

1. Welty, Eudora. “Place in Fiction.” In *Critical Approaches to Fiction*, eds. Shiv K. Kumar and Keith McKean. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1968. First published in *The South Atlantic Quarterly* LV, no. 1 (January 1956).
2. Go to the “Are Novels Real?” page on the *In Search of the Novel* Web site, www.learner.org/channel/workshops/isonovel. Read the “Participants’ Comments and Observations” section.

