***Historical Fiction Unit***

*Definition: An imagined story in the real world that portrays life as it might have been lived in the past, and focuses on problems and issues of life in the past.*

Fiction Texts

Realism Fantasy

Realistic **Historical** Traditional Modern

**Elements of Literature Include (*these questions are not meant to be answered by you on this worksheet)*:**

*Characteristics of the Genre*: What makes it that genre?

*Characters*: Who is in the story?

*Plot*: What is the problem and solution in the story?

*Setting*: Where and when does this story take place?

*Theme*: What is the author’s message or purpose for telling this story?

*Perspective*: From point of view is this story being shared?

*Style and Language*: What words are specifically chosen to help the story?

*Figurative Language*: How did the author increase details of the story?

*Imagery*: What images popped into your mind as you read the story?

*Symbolism*: Does the author use anything to represent a common theme?

*Mood/Tone*: How does the story make you feel?

*Illustrations/Art*: How did illustrations help enhance the story? Or was the author able to create a picture in your mind?

*Author/Illustrator*: What is reason this author/illustrator wrote/illustrated this story?

*Design*: Did the layout or organization of the book make a difference?

*Believability*: Did the characters behave in a way you would have expected?

*Quality*: Did all the elements come together in an enjoyable way?

*Historical Fiction Unit*

It doesn’t matter which book you have selected; all historical books should include the same elements. Answer the questions below based the book you selected.

Title of your book:

Author of your book:

Characteristics of the Genre (answer 3)

1. What characteristics of this story classify it as historical fiction?
2. How is this story different from an informational text about this same period of time?
3. What new understandings and historical information do you have after reading this story?
4. What aspects of this book have fictionalized (character, plot, setting, event)?
5. What are the challenges of reading historical fiction?

Characters (answer 5)

1. Are the characters portrayed accurately for the time period?
2. Are any of the characters based on real people?
3. How did the author make the characters seem real?
4. What critical choices did the characters have to make?
5. What challenges did the people of that time period face?
6. How are the challenges of that time period the same or different from the challenges of today?
7. Did the historical characters in the story remind you of any people you know today?
8. How did each character react to the important events in the story?

Plot (answer (answer 5)

1. Which events has the author made up and which really happened?
2. Do the events described in story seem authentic/real?
3. What details does the author use to bring the historic events to life?
4. How does your knowledge of the time period help you predict how the events in the story will unfold?
5. What are some historical details that shape the plot?
6. Which events could not happen today?
7. Are any of the historical events in this story similar to current ones?
8. Is the ending how you expected, based on your knowledge of the time period?
9. What event from the story was especially significant to you?

Setting (answer 3)

1. What is the time period?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. What clues helped you to determine the historical setting?
4. What details does the author use to create a historically accurate setting?
5. What is the timeline of the historical content in this story?

Theme (answer 2)

1. What does the story make you think about?
2. Is the message of the story still relevant today?
3. Can the lessons of this story be applied today?
4. What do you think the author is trying to say about this time period?
5. Which recurring theme of historical fiction did you notice in the book (clash of cultures, search for freedom, overcoming physical challenges, effects of war, effects of natural disasters, struggle against evil)?

Perspective (answer 2)

1. From whose perspective is the story told?
2. How do the minor characters influence the story?
3. How does the author show his/her own attitude towards the historical times?

Figurative Language/Imagery/Symbolism/Mood (answer 2)

1. How does the language in the story help you immerse yourself in the time period?
2. What are some examples of simile or metaphor that the author uses that helps you understand the time period or characters?
3. What symbols does the author use to represent the time period?
4. What is the mood or tone of the story? How does that effect the story?

Believability (answer 2)

1. Do the characters behave in a realistic way for the people of the time period?
2. Does the story end in a way that seems plausible?
3. Does the author use issues that were important during that time period to make the story more believable?
4. Do you think the author left anything out that would have made the story more believable?

Quality (answer 2)

1. Did the plot compel you, and make you want to continue reading?
2. Were the characters well developed?
3. Is the author’s writing style and use of language effective?
4. Did the elements work together?