

Teacher:

Date:

Grade:

**Subject / Course:** ELA

**Unit Title:** Mississippi Writers

**Duration:** 45–60 Minutes

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## CCRS:

### ELA

- RI.4.4** Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
- W.4.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- W.4.4** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- W.4.5** With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
- W.4.6** With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills.

## Summary of Unit:

**Fiction vs. Nonfiction Writing.** Discuss famous authors from Mississippi and publish student stories.

## Lesson Objectives:

- Discuss famous authors from Mississippi
- Discuss Pulitzer Prize
- Explain the difference in fiction and nonfiction
- Write a short story that is either fiction or nonfiction

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## Lesson Structure:

- The teacher will introduce the lesson by showing the *Mississippi, Believe It!*<sup>TM</sup> Author poster.
- As a whole group, the teacher and students can discuss a Pulitzer Prize, and which Mississippi authors won it, with the Pulitzer Prize handout.
- Show students the fiction and nonfiction handouts. Discuss the meaning of fiction and nonfiction writing. List examples of books that fit into each category that your class has read or discussed.
- Have students complete the fiction and nonfiction activity.
- The teacher will discuss the answers on the Fiction vs. Nonfiction chart with the students. This discussion can be as in depth as your students need to comprehend what fiction and nonfiction are.
- Have students draw a ticket out of a bowl (fiction or nonfiction). Then students will write a short story according to their fiction or nonfiction ticket.
- Students go through the writing process with their story. This includes brainstorming, first draft, peer editing, and writing conference with teacher, and final draft.
- Extended activity can be done at this time.

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### Guiding Questions:

1. What famous authors do you know from Mississippi?
2. What is the Pulitzer Prize?
3. Explain fiction text.
4. Explain nonfiction text.
5. What are the steps to writing a published short story?

### Activities:

#### Fiction and Nonfiction Activity:

This can be done in pairs, small group, or whole group. Give students a copy of the Fiction vs. Nonfiction chart. This can be shown on the board to save time. Have students list examples of fiction and nonfiction characters, plots, or stories. (Fiction – aliens, imaginary things, a person that can fly, talking animals, etc.) (Nonfiction – true life stories of a person, place, or thing, science articles, biography of a famous person, etc.)

#### Extended Activity:

After students have written and published the final draft of their story, the teacher can give construction paper and colors for the students to illustrate a scene from their writing.

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**Key Vocabulary:**

- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Genre

**Resources & Materials**

- Whiteboard
- Charts/Maps
- Computer
- Smartboard
- Video/Audio
- Textbook Pages
- Workbook Pages
- Handout
- Manipulatives
- Other:

**Assessments:**

- Pre-Test
  - Post-Test
  - Observation
  - Oral
  - Writing Assessment
  - Journal
  - Homework
  - Demonstration
  - Other:
- 

**Learning styles addressed:**

- Visual
- Auditory
- Kinesthetic
- Tactile

**Guided Practice:**

**Notes:**

**Interventions:**

- Small Group
- Modified Assignments
- Accommodations
- One-on-One
- Tutoring (Peer and Teacher)
- Manipulatives
- Other:

**Independent Practice:**



## Pulitzer Prize

The Pulitzer Prize was created in 1917 and is an award for great work in 21 literary categories, including poetry, literature, newspaper, magazine, and music writing.

## Famous Mississippi Writers Who Won the Pulitzer Prize



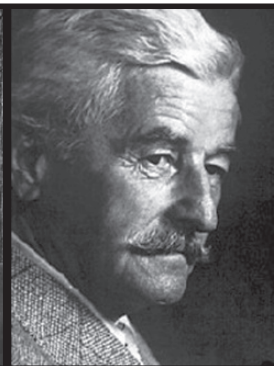
*Tennessee  
Williams*



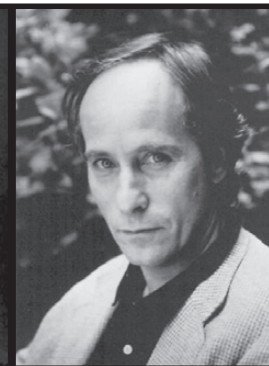
*Beth  
Henley*



*Eudora  
Welty*



*William  
Faulkner*



*Richard  
Ford*



*Natasha  
Trethewey*

## Fiction Writing

A type of text that has been made up  
and did not really happen.

### Mississippi Fiction Writers



*William Faulkner*

*Eudora Welty*

*John Grisham*

## Nonfiction Writing

A type of text that has facts and  
information that is true.

### Mississippi Nonfiction Writers



*Willie Morris*

*Richard Wright*

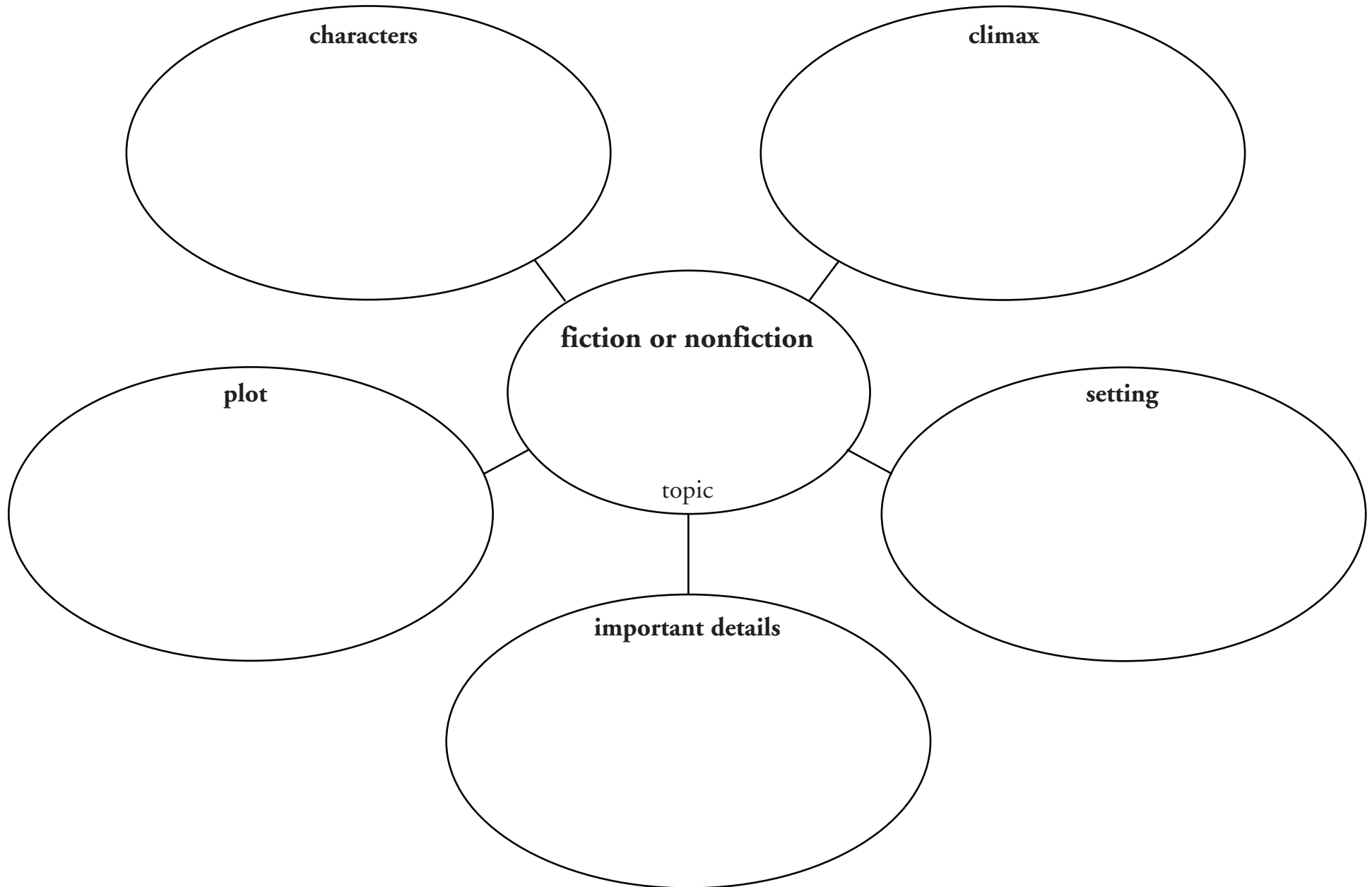
*Shelby Foote*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiction

Nonfiction

Circle fiction or nonfiction, depending on what you drew, and fill out the chart.





# Editing Checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- The writer used capital letters in the correct places.
- The writer used periods, exclamations, and commas correctly.
- The writer put quotations around dialogue.
- The writer made a new paragraph when he or she changed topics.
- The writer used neat handwriting.
- The writer gave the story a title.
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