

Prior Knowledge Interactive: Identifying Genres

Student responses will vary. Some identifying features for each genre are underlined in the sample student printout and described below.

The Prince and the Goose Girl

Fairy tale

- Typical beginnings: "Once upon a time..."
- Set in faraway lands or undefined places
- Characters such as kings, queens, princes, or princesses
- "Good" character who is poor or hardworking
- Well-defined good and bad characters
- Animals
- Happy ending

Diamond Search in North America

Nonfiction

- Subtitles to organize content and guide reader
- Give factual information; explain how things work
- Bold words, definitions, pronunciation guides
- Illustrations, photos, charts
- Informative captions

Five Eyes

Poem

- Rhyme
- Rhythm and meter
- Poetic language, imagery
- Capital letters at the beginning of each line
- Text arrangement on the page

Older Kids Need Booster Seats Too

News Article

- Headlines, subheads
- Bylines and publication dates
- Factual information
- Description of events
- Interviews, quotes

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE



Use what I already know to understand something new

Cut along the dotted line to make your bookmark

— The Prince and the Goose Girl —

Once upon a time in a faraway land there lived a prince and a goose girl. The prince was strong and kind but very shy. He liked to sing. Below the castle a meadow stretched to a river. A flock of geese came there every day to eat bugs and grass. The prince watched from a high window. Along with the geese came the goose girl. She had dark hair and fiery eyes. She herded the geese and gathered up into her basket the feathers they shed. She never even looked up to see the prince watching her. The prince liked the bold way the goose girl waved her stick to herd the geese. Most of all, he liked the way she sang while she worked. The prince wanted to hear her song. He wanted to come closer...

What genre is it? Fairy Tale

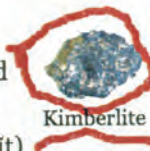
Diamond Search in North America

What is a Diamond?

The **diamond** (dī'ə-mənd) is the hardest known natural material. Diamonds are so hard that only a diamond can scratch another diamond. Most diamonds are used in industry, to cut, grind and polish. Diamonds are also the world's favorite **gemstone** (jēm'stōn'). Gemstones are precious stones that can be cut and polished into jewels.

How Are Diamonds Found?

Diamonds come from underground. They are carried up to the surface in ancient rock called **kimberlite** (kīm'bər-lit'). Red gemstones called **garnets** (gär'nīt) also pop up in kimberlite. Where there are garnets, diamonds often appear. Machines dig into the earth like giant screws and come up with diamonds. Places where machines dig up diamonds are called **mines** (mīn). Most diamond mines are in Africa, Asia and Australia. In the 1990's, diamonds were found in Canada. The search is on for diamonds in the northern United States. Kimberlite with garnets has been found there.



Kimberlite

What genre is it? Nonfiction

— Five Eyes —

By Walter de la Mare

In Hans' old Mill his three black cats
Watch the bins for the thieving rats.
Whisker and claw, they crouch in the night,
Their five eyes smouldering green and bright:
Squeaks from the flour sacks, squeaks from where
The cold wind stirs on the empty stair,
Squeaking and scampering, everywhere.
Then down they pounce, now in, now out,
At whisking tail, and sniffing snout;
While lean old Hans he snores away
Till peep of light at break of day;
Then up he climbs to his creaking mill,
Out come his cats all grey with meal --
Jekkel, and Jessup, and one-eyed Jill.

What genre is it? Poem

Older Kids Need Booster Seats Car Seats Are Not Just For Babies

By OPAL CRANE

Hillside Messenger, March 15, 2007

This week, Ray Garza visited Hillside School. Mr. Garza is a car safety expert. He gave a speech in the gym. He asked which kids liked to ride in cars. All the kids raised their hands. He asked how many rode in car seats. The first graders raised their hands. Older kids started to raise their hands, but then put their hands down. Mr. Garza asked if anyone thought booster seats were uncool. A few said yes. He said he had news for them. If a crash happens, a kid who is not in a car seat could smack into a car window or door or seat. Older kids sometimes need booster seats, he said. Even some fourth graders do. It depends on your body weight, he said. Kids who weigh eighty pounds or less, no matter how old they are, need a car seat or a booster seat. "Would you rather be safe or cool?" Mr. Garza asked.

What genre is it? News Story