

# thinking ALOUD

Making Sense of Literacy



## VIDEO SCRIPT

### SPOT: Realistic Fiction *Jumping Into Genre: Realistic Fiction* (developing wide reading)



Scene	Full Transcript
1	<p><b>Nurse:</b> His pressure is falling. Doctor, we're losing him!</p> <p><b>Doctor:</b> Not on my watch. I'm going in.</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> Um, excuse me...</p> <p><b>Nurse:</b> His vitals are crashing.</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> I don't think I am supposed to be here.</p> <p><b>Doctor:</b> Scalpel!</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> What?</p> <p><b>Doctor:</b> Scalpel!</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> Uh, think I may have taken a wrong turn.</p> <p><b>Doctor:</b> I said scalpel. Stat!</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> I really don't think I'm in the right place.</p> <p><b>Director:</b> Cut!</p> <p><b>Patient:</b> Who is this guy?</p> <p><b>Doctor:</b> This is just great.</p> <p><b>Nurse:</b> Can someone give me my line?</p> <p><b>Skylar:</b> I think I'll just go wait over here.</p>
2	<p><b>Skylar:</b> Sorry. Sorry. I'll just wait over here.</p> <p>Can you believe it? I just jumped into the middle of the set of the latest new hospital drama and right into the genre of realistic fiction.</p> <p>Wow! I've never been to a TV studio before. I've got to post a photo of this online. The guys are not going to believe this!</p> <p>Ha! Do you know? I guess it wouldn't hurt to look around a little bit as long as I'm here. Ooh!</p> <p>Can you believe how realistic those actors were back there? And the set was pretty impressive, too.</p> <p>I shouldn't be surprised. That's the way it is with all realistic fiction.</p>



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2 (continued)	<p><b>Skylar:</b> Realistic fiction sounds simple enough—just fiction that could really occur—right?</p> <p>It's more complex than that. Each story comes from the author's vision of what might happen to very real characters facing very current issues and problems.</p>
3	<p><b>Skylar:</b> This looks like the street in front of where I live.</p> <p>The settings in Realistic Fiction are current and vivid, whether they're actual or made-up places.</p>
4	<p><b>Skylar:</b> The characters in realistic fiction must be credible even if they aren't real people. Authors pay close attention to their characters' language, dress, and mannerisms so they can fit in with today's culture.</p> <p>In addition, authors create a genuine and emotional connection between the story and the reader by ensuring that the characters' actions and reactions to situations, crises, and challenges are consistent with the responses of real people.</p> <p>Speaking of real people—my friends Lindsay and Dominic have already replied to my post. Cool! Lindsey said that she got to be an extra in a movie once. And Dominic, my neighbor who is being deployed soon, says he'd like me to get some autographs while I'm here. Will do!</p>
5	<p><b>Skylar:</b> Sometimes the stories of realistic fiction hit close to home with readers. Especially when they're about stuff people go through or see others experience.</p> <p>It's the same things that my friends are always posting about. Here, check this one out. Aletta is a cancer survivor. She's one of my heroes. She likes to post inspirational quotes and give encouragement. Realistic fiction is full of stories about ordinary people, like Aletta, who demonstrate courage and persistence in the face of adversity.</p> <p><i>The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin</i> provides readers with insight into the life of Will Halpin. Will is an overweight deaf student who decides to transfer from his special school for the deaf to a public high school in a Pennsylvania coal mining community. At his new school, Will becomes a victim of bullying, but by using his sense of humor and wit he's able to overcome this challenging situation.</p> <p>Even though we may not experience everything we read about, Realistic Fiction better prepares us to relate to others who are struggling with these issues and emotions. Following the characters as they live their lives serves as a test run or practice for situations that we may encounter.</p> <p>I love reading what my friends and family have going on in their lives.</p>



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6	<p><b>Skylar:</b> For example, I just friended my uncle who is still looking for a job, a girl in my karate class who just got engaged, and my brother's new girl friend who's apparently having some issues with a co-worker.</p> <p>The plots of Realistic Fiction dig into issues, situations, and problems just like these. Issue-driven plots can range from the joyful and fun to the challenging and painful sides of life. These types of plots allow a skillful author to carefully examine both sides of issues and emotions, such as love and hate, birth and death, joy and sorrow, loss and recovery.</p> <p>Authors even explore sensitive topics, such as war, separation, homelessness, substance abuse, or violence; and that could lead to an examination of values including responsibility and integrity.</p>
7	<p><b>Skylar:</b> They must film something about a school in here.</p> <p>The themes of Realistic fiction are broad and they reach almost every aspect of contemporary society.</p> <p>One major theme in Realistic Fiction is family and friends. Stories about families include nuclear, blended, alternative, and extended families. A story about friends may involve making new friends, being a good friend, helping friends with special needs, or the struggle for acceptance and dealing with peer pressure as depicted in <i>How to Survive Middle School</i>.</p>
8	<p><b>Skylar:</b> Stories about the individual or self is another major theme. These stories may show characters embracing cultural diversity, as in <i>Crossing the Wire</i> about the life of fifteen-year-old Victor Flores and his family and their attempt to cross the border from Mexico into Arizona.</p> <p>Another theme of realistic fiction is individuals coming of age, or observing a rite of passage, as in the book <i>Sweet 15</i>. In this story, Destiny Lozada learns about her Puerto Rican heritage and her own values, while preparing for the quinceañera ceremony on her 15th birthday.</p> <p>The theme of challenges and choices follow characters attempting to live their lives in the face of personal crises. In <i>Julia Gillian and the Dream of the Dog</i>, the author tells the story of Julia, an overwhelmed sixth grade student, facing the death of her favorite pet.</p>
9	<p><b>Skylar:</b> The themes of Realistic Fiction help readers develop awareness, compassion, and sensitivity for individuals who are struggling with situations that are common to us all.</p>

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### Scene

### Full Transcript

10

**Skylar:** Ooh. Looks like I'm back to where I started.

**Director:** All right. Places everyone.

**Skylar:** Oh no, I better get out of here! Realistic fiction—make sure to visit your local library and check it out. It's as real as fiction gets!

**Director:** And action.

