Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Literacy Center-in-a-Bag™ Genres and Reasons, a hands-on activity that strengthens your students’ reading comprehension skill of understanding literary genres.

Objective
Match reading passages to their literary genres.

Common Core State Standard
Compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
• 8 Text Cards
• 10 Genre Cards
• 1 Pad of Genre Worksheets
• 1 Center Task Card
• 1 Storage Bag with handle
• This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

In the context of reading comprehension, genre refers to type of literature. Students begin to recognize literary genre before they learn the terminology. As this stage of reading comprehension, students identify clues, such as word choice, tone, point of view, and style, to determine a written work’s genre. They must be exposed to many examples of each genre in order to use the clues.

In this center, students read text passages and assign one of ten common literary genres to each passage. They refer to summary descriptions of the genres to remind them of the characteristics of each before recording their answers. You can repeat this activity using any text that exemplifies the included genres.

Managing the Center-in-a-Bag
• Should you need this or any other Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guides, download them from our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com.
• Display the Center Task Card.
• Demonstrate how to tidy the center when the activity is complete.
• Store the center materials in the bag, and hang it along side other Centers-in-a-Bag.

Introducing Genres and Reasons
Genres and Reasons can be adapted for an individual student or for partners. Each Text Card has a reading passage with an illustration. Each Genre Card has a description of the literary genre on the back. There is one genre for every reading passage in addition to the fiction and nonfiction cards. Depending on students’ readiness, you may begin by sorting text passages into the broader categories of fiction and nonfiction before exploring the more specific genres. There is also a pad of Genre Worksheets for students to record their work. The Genre Worksheet is also provided as a reproducible at the end of this guide, along with a worksheet for fiction/nonfiction genres only.

Reading Passages and Genres
The genres for the included passages are listed below. Where noted, passages have been excerpted and adapted from literature that is in the public domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Passage</th>
<th>Genres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where the Sierra—adapted from “The Apocalypse of Jeremiah” (1750)</td>
<td>Biography, nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Brother’s Keeper—adapted from The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</td>
<td>Autobiography, nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy’s Diaries—adapted from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum</td>
<td>Biography, fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Rabbit—adapted from Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter</td>
<td>Fiction, fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Night in the Rain—adapted from The Narrative of O.H. Gordon, F.R. by Edgar Allan Poe (1842)</td>
<td>Poetry, fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Happy Day—adapted from A Happy Day by Alphonse de Neuville (1840)</td>
<td>Poetry, fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick’s Little Black Marshall—adapted from Frederick, or the Minister of the Poor by Mary Hays (1847)</td>
<td>Science fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonsense</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All teaching guides can be found online.
Model the Activity
Begin by modeling the activity, discussing each step with students. Lay the Genre Cards in a row and discuss each one. Name the genre and ask students to share what they know about it. Then read the bulleted list on the back of the card, clarifying or correcting genre characteristics that students have shared.

Choose a Text Card, show students the illustration, and read the passage aloud. Then discuss what students notice about the passage, encouraging them to describe the writing and name any aspects of the language that stand out. Guide the discussion toward the setting, point of view, and tone of the writing.

For example, after reading the passage “A Night on the Boat,” ask students what they notice about the word choice. Talk about words such as scream and pierce and the emotions they evoke (fear, suspense). Point out the cliffhanger at the end of the paragraph, in which the narrator stumbles on his fallen friend. Ask students which genre or genres this passage belongs to (mystery, fiction) and why. Demonstrate how to refer to the genre descriptions on the backs of the Genre Cards. Have students help you choose the genre that best matches the passage. Place the Text Card under its Genre Card.

As a genre is matched with the reading passage, model filling in the title and genre on the worksheet. The reason may either be copied verbatim from the back of the Genre Card or stated in students’ own words. Continue reading and matching the passages with their genres until students understand the activity. Ideally, they will match most of the cards at the center without your assistance. Remind them that they should only assign one genre to each passage.

Center Task Card
Post this at the literacy center in a visible position. A student or helper can refer to the Center Task Card for instructions. Refer to the shaded section at the top of the card for center preparation, including needed materials.

Instructions
Genres and Reasons Activity
One or two students
Object: Match reading passages to their literary genres.
Materials: Text Cards, Genre Cards, Genre Worksheet, Center Task Card, pencil
1. Lay all the Genre Cards in a row.
2. Take a Text Card and read the passage. Think about which genre it matches. Refer to the backs of the Genre Cards for clues.
3. Place the Text Card under its Genre Card.
4. Record the title of the passage, its genre, and the reasons for your answer on the worksheet.
5. Review your answers and correct any errors.

Related Really Good Stuff Products:
Lights, Camera, Action! Comprehension (#305221)
Making Inferences (#305269)
## Genres and Reasons

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"Elements"
"No Bones"
"The Hunger Games"
"The Giver"
"Bright Star"
"The Metamorphosis"
"The Things They Carried"
"The Great Gatsby"
"The Tell-Tale Heart"
| Biography, fiction |
| Autobiography, fiction |
| Science fiction |
| Romance |
| Science fiction |
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| Mythology |
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All teaching guides can be found online:

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