

Realism and Fantasy • Prior Knowledge

- A **realistic story** tells about something that could happen.
- A **fantasy** is a story about something that could never happen.
- Use your **prior knowledge** and connect what you read with what you already know to help your understanding. You can also use **prior knowledge** to judge whether a story is **realistic** or a **fantasy**.



Directions Read the following passage.

Marcus is a cowboy and Sam is his special horse. Marcus put the saddle on Sam, and then he got on to ride away. As they left the corral, Sam spread his wings and flew over the fence. They landed in a meadow far away.

“That was fun,” said Marcus. “Now let’s fly across the Rocky Mountains.”
 “Okay,” said Sam, and he flew over the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Then he flew back home again.
 “You’re the best horse I’ve ever had,” Marcus said to Sam.

Directions Complete the chart. Tell what happens and whether it could happen or not. Then tell if the story is a realistic story or a fantasy. Explain why.

What Happens?	Could This Happen? (Check one)
Sam flies over the fence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Answer will vary. Students check “Yes” or “No” to indicate realism or fantasy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This story is a fantasy because horses cannot talk or fly.	

© Pearson Education 3



Home Activity Your child identified a story as a fantasy by finding things that happen in the story that could not happen in real life. Discuss familiar books with your child and ask your child to tell whether the story is a realistic story or a fantasy.