# Adventure Fiction: An Independent Reading Project

**Grades: 9-12**

## Introduction

Infographics have become a popular and appealing form of visual media. They combine images, text and data to visually communicate a message, educate people about a subject or explain a problem or solution. Typically, infographics are easy to read and easy to understand.

The *Elements of Literature* infographics in EBSCO's Literary Reference Plus visually depict the components of popular literary genres including adventure, western, coming-of-age (bildungsroman), Victorian, gothic, dystopian, magic realism, modernist, mystery and science fiction. These infographics not only serve as a helpful reference for students but may also be incorporated into classroom instruction to increase student engagement.

In this independent reading assignment, high school students will read a novel in the adventure fiction genre and create an infographic depicting how the elements of adventure fiction are represented in their chosen text. This assignment may also be adapted to fit other literary genres.

## Standards

### Common Core State Standards

- **CCSS.RL.3 -** Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

- **CCSS.RI.7 -** Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g. visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

- **CCSS.W.8 -** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

### AASL Standards Framework for Learners

- **I.B.3 -** Generate products that illustrate learning.

- **III.A.2 -** Making critical choices about information sources to use.

- **IV.B.4 -** Organizing information by priority, topic or other systematic scheme.

- **V.A.1 -** Reading widely and deeply in multiple formats and write/create for a variety of purposes.

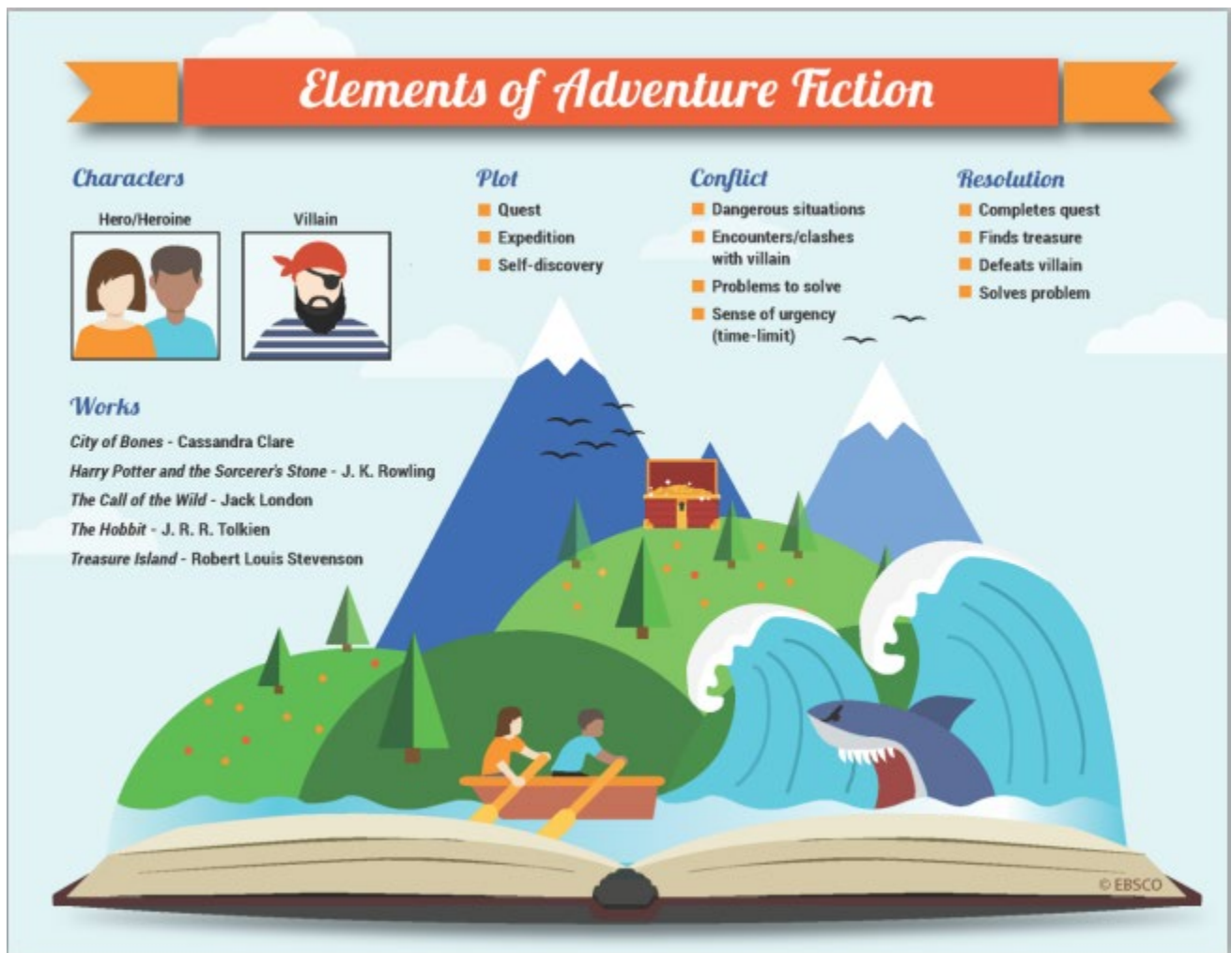- **VI.A.1 -** Responsibly applying information, technology, and media to learning.

- **VI.A.2** - Understanding the ethical use of information, technology and media.

## Essential Questions

- What are the elements of adventure fiction?

- How are these elements represented in selected works?

## Pre-Reading Procedure

1. Using the infographic available in Literary Reference Plus, review the Elements of Adventure Fiction (5 minutes).



2. Working in pairs or small groups, students will identify the characteristics of heroes and villains (10 minutes). Discuss findings as a class (10 minutes).

3. Ask students to share examples of adventure stories they have read or seen in movies or television shows. What elements of adventure fiction are present in those examples? (10-15 minutes)

4. Assign students to choose a novel from the adventure fiction works listed below. Literary Reference Plus provides plot summaries, essays of literary criticism, author biographies and more for the following notable titles:

*The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken

*Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie

*The Island of Adventure* by Enid Blyton

*The Sheltering Sky* by Paul Bowles

*The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford

*City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

*The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

*King Solomon's Mines* by H. Rider Haggard

*The Odyssey* by Homer

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

*Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville

*Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr

*Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

*Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne

*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne

## Post-Reading Project

Using Literary Reference Plus as a guide for information and context about the book, students will create an infographic about their chosen novel. The infographic may either be created with physical materials or using a digital resource like easel.ly or canva.com.

Provide students with some time in class to read independently and work on their infographic projects; however, most of the work should be completed at home.

Students will then share their infographics in a short (3 minutes or less), in-class oral presentation that addresses the following:

- Tell us about the medium you used to create your infographic.

- Briefly describe the plot of your chosen book.

- Who was the hero? The villain? Briefly describe each.

- What was the story's central conflict?

- How was the conflict resolved?

- Did you like or dislike the book? Why? (The idea is to help your classmates decide whether it is a book they'd like to read!)

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

# Elements of Adventure Fiction Infographic Assignment Instructions

Using the "Elements of Adventure Fiction" infographic on Literary Reference Plus as a reference, create your own infographic about the book you have just read. The infographic may either be created with physical materials or using a digital resource like easel.ly or canva.com. The following elements should be included in your infographic:

## Title

Include the title and author of the book on the infographic.

## Characters

Create portraits of the main characters, including a hero (or heroes) and villain (where applicable). Books can range from one main character to several, so at most pick three important characters to focus on. Include any notable physical features. Caption your portraits with one or two quotes from the book that describe the character, whether physically or psychologically. Remember to include page numbers.

## Plot

What type of plot occurs in your book? Is it a quest, expedition, or journey of some kind? Provide a onesentence description of the story.

*Example: "_____ goes on a quest with _____ to _____."*

## Conflict

What forms of conflict or danger occur in your book? Provide 2-4 brief examples.

*Examples: "There is a fight between _____ and _____."*

*"_____ needs to escape the ____ before ____."*

## Resolution

How are the conflict and plot resolved? Do the characters complete their quest? Do they find treasure? Do they defeat the villain? Provide a one-sentence description of the ending and indicate how it impacts or doesn't impact the lives of the characters.

*Examples: "After defeating _____, _____ returns to _____and resumes everyday life;"*

*"With the newfound treasure, _____ remains in _____ and _____."*

## Background

Choose a notable scene or concept from your book and illustrate it to serve as the background of the infographic. This could be the setting, an important object, a map of the journey, etc.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

## Elements of Adventure Fiction Infographic Assignment Rubric

| Category | Points Possible | Points Earned |
|---|---|---|
| Title and author are included on the infographic. | 5 | |
| Portraits of important characters demonstrate effort (not necessarily artistic talent!) | 15 | |
| Relevant quotes about each character are present and cited. | 10 | |
| Plot sentence is accurate, descriptive and concise. | 15 | |
| Resolution sentence is accurate, descriptive and concise. | 15 | |
| Adequate number of conflict examples included. | 5 | |
| Conflict examples are appropriate. | 15 | |
| Background illustration demonstrates effort (not necessarily artistic talent!) | 15 | |
| Oral presentation meets requirements. | 5 | |
| **Total Points:** | **100** | |

Comments: