

FICTION VS NONFICTION: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE in 1st Grade

Over the past week, our first-grade students enjoyed reading *Penguin in Peril*, a funny story about hungry cats who kidnap a penguin from the zoo to help them catch fish! As we read, the class focused on the difference between fiction and nonfiction, learning how to identify each by looking for clues within the text. The students engaged with the material on various levels, using Bloom's Taxonomy to deepen their thinking. They began by recalling basic facts from the story, then applied their knowledge by analyzing whether other texts were fiction or nonfiction, and finally evaluated their understanding by writing sentences explaining why *Penguin in Peril* was fiction.



Throughout the week, students worked together in peer discussions, asking questions like, "How do you know if a book is fiction or nonfiction?" They also did independent work, reading different passages, determining their genre, and explaining their reasoning. To reinforce their learning, they illustrated the story and shared their thoughts with classmates.



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in 1st Grade

PENGUIN ^{IN} PERIL

Name: Alina

Fiction books are not real. This book is fiction because cats cant go to the movie theater. I also know its fiction because cats dont have money.

PENGUIN ^{IN} PERIL

Name: Rey

Fiction books are make buten. This book is fiction because cats dont work. I also know its fiction because penguins dont go on subways.

The students culminated the week by completing a writing project. They wrote three sentences explaining what fiction books are and how they knew Penguin in Peril was fiction. Before completing their final drafts, they worked through a drafting and editing process with Mrs. Calzada, focusing on spelling, grammar, and punctuation. They finished the project with a craft that helped them express their understanding in a creative way.

This assignment not only helped the students grow academically but also reinforced important biblical values. They practiced discernment by distinguishing between truth and imagination, collaborated with peers, and showed patience and diligence throughout the writing process. It was a joy to watch their thinking develop, and we look forward to their continued growth in both academics and character.