

Realistic Fiction





Realistic fiction can
be funny or sad.

What is Realistic Fiction?

Realistic fiction tells stories about things that could really happen. The stories can be funny or sad. Realistic stories are alike, though, in that they are set in the everyday world. In addition, the people speak and act the way real people do.

The people and the things that happen in realistic fiction aren't real. However, realistic stories are about problems that people face every day. Readers can learn new ideas and ways of doing things. They can come to understand other people's lives and feelings. Realistic fiction can also give readers ideas about how to solve the problems they face in their own everyday lives.

Key Notes:

How do the people in realistic fiction speak and act?



Walter Dean Myers
got some of his ideas
from things that
happened to him when
he was a teen.

Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers, who wrote realistic fiction, lived a life that was much like the lives of his characters. Myers was two years old when his mother died. After that, he moved to New York City and spent a lot of time on the streets. Some of Myers's ideas came from things that happened to him there.

Myers created many characters who are teens living in cities. Some lived hard lives, but they often find ways to make their lives better. His books have won many honors. Myers has been honored for writing about real problems, but also for using his stories to help teens make their own lives better.

Key Notes:

What did Walter Dean Myers write about?



The character Slam is a good basketball player who wants to join a pro team.

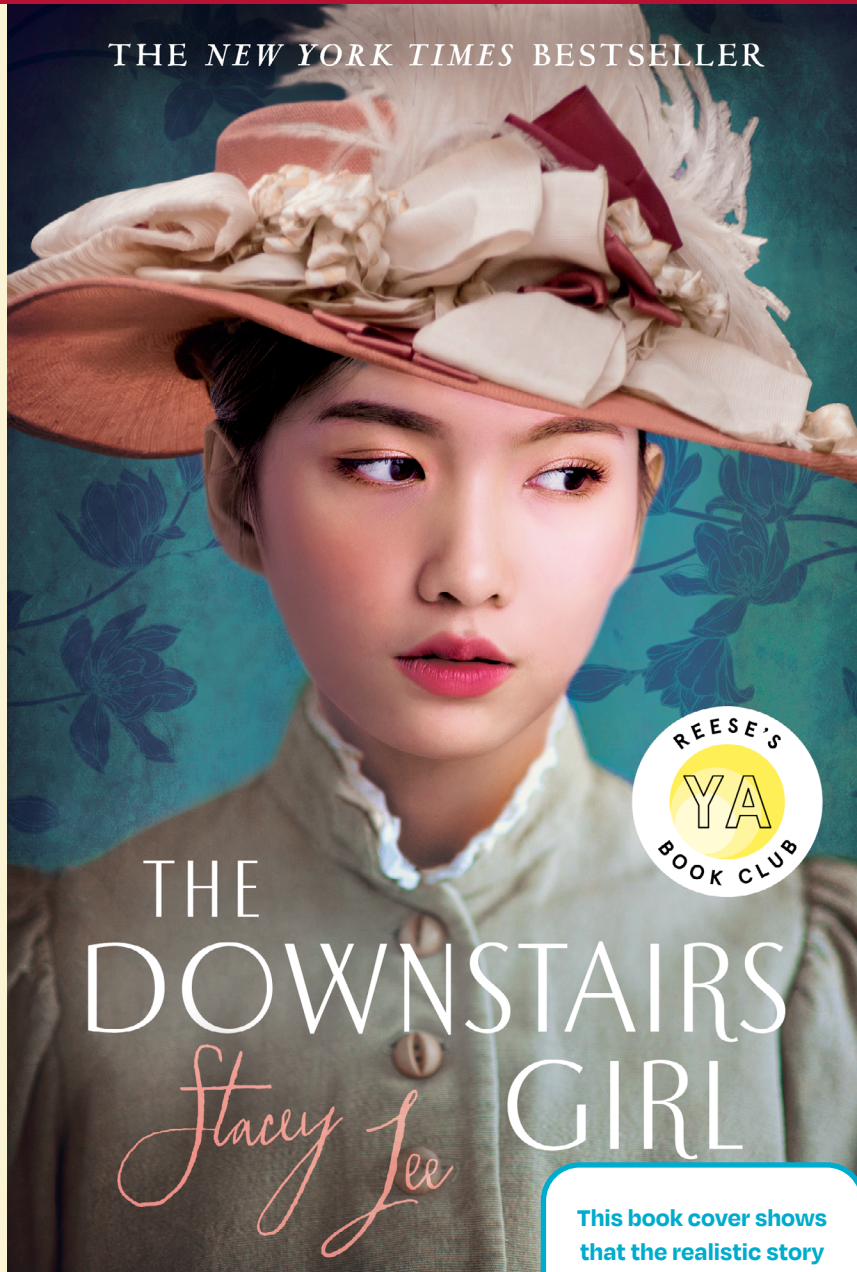
A Realistic Character

In a book by Walter Dean Myers, the main character is called Slam because he plays basketball so well. Slam wants to join a pro team, but to do this, he must get better grades.

Although a friend shows him how to take control of his schoolwork, Slam has other problems, too. He has to learn how to get along with the other teens in his school. Slam also has to decide what to do when he sees one of his friends doing something that is against the law. Slam decided that, if he really wants to reach his goals, he must take control of all parts of his life.

Key Notes:

What does Slam need to do to join a pro team?



This book cover shows
that the realistic story
is set in the past.

Reading Realistic Fiction

People enjoy reading different kinds of realistic fiction. Historical fiction is realistic fiction that is set in the past. Writers of historical fiction might use real people, but create a story around them. They might also use real characters or events, writers of historical fiction must make sure there facts are right.

Writers can also set realistic fiction in the present. This kind of realistic fiction may be about problems people face or events that really happen. Many people enjoy realistic fiction that is set in the present because it helps them understand the world around them.

Key Notes:

What is historical fiction?

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