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**ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE** **HISTORICAL FICTION AND CONFLICT**

**Historical fiction** takes place in the past and includes made-up stories or people who participated in real historical events. Like other forms of fiction, historical fiction follows a traditional story structure.

- In historical fiction, the setting—where and when the action takes place—plays a large role.
- Historical fiction, like other genres of fiction, centers on a conflict, or a problem that a character must overcome.
- Historical fiction uses reality and made-up elements to express a **theme**—a message.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

Kate had been following the astronauts' progress every night on the evening news. Just four days before, they had taken off for the moon, of all places! Even though Kate was just turning nine, she was old enough to understand that this would be a turning point in history. She was determined to witness the first moonwalk.

She remembered that people had thought Kennedy was wrong. That we'd never make it to the moon. Now, she was about to see his dream come true. On July 20, Kate was glued to her black-and-white television. The newscaster allowed the astronauts to announce their own arrival: "Houston, . . . The eagle has landed."

As the day passed and night approached, Kate became sleepier and sleepier. She was afraid she would miss the big moment. "I have to stay awake!" she declared. Her mom agreed, saying that she, too, didn't want to miss it. The whole family sat in front of the television, drifting in and out of sleep. Then, the TV announcer began to get excited. Kate sprang awake to watch Buzz Aldrin descend the ladder. "Wake up!" she shouted, perhaps too loudly. It was nearly 11 pm. But everyone was awake to witness a milestone in human history—man's first walk on the moon.

1. Where and when does the story take place?  
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2. What is the main conflict in the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which elements are most likely based in fact and which are most likely made up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What theme is expressed by the combination of historical and fictional elements?  
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**ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE** **HISTORICAL FICTION AND CONFLICT**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Though Rita had no television herself, she had heard from her friends about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the work was doing. Rita was sure he was an angel, sent to deliver the message that everyone should be treated equally and to deliver that message in a calm, fair way.

She heard from her neighbor about Dr. King's plan for the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C., and she knew she must go. But how was she going to get from Savannah, Georgia, to the nation's capitol with almost no money and no car? Determined, she decided she would find a way to attend.

Rita asked friends, relatives, and strangers for rides. On August 10, 1963, she began her 18-day journey north. She hitchhiked, walked, and took a bus. Though she was a bit worried and a little scared at times, Rita knew it was her destiny to see Dr. King and witness this shining moment in history with her own two eyes. When the bus arrived at the nation's capitol on August 27, she knew in her soul the struggle was worth it.

Dr. King took the stage. And although Rita could only hear his voice because she was standing so far away, she believed she had heard the voice of an angel. Rita, too, had a dream, and she had made it come true by traveling so far from home for something so important.

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