Literary Element (page 329)
Historical Narrative

A Brother’s Crime  JAMES CROSS GIBLIN

A historical narrative retells events that actually occurred. Like other narratives, a historical narrative usually uses chronological order, but it may deviate from that order to supply background information or for other reasons. One strategy for reading a historical narrative is keeping track of events in chronological order.

ACTIVITY

Directions List the main events from “A Brother’s Crime” on the timeline below. Include events related to the Civil War, to John Wilkes Booth, and to Lincoln, as well as related to Edwin Booth.

April 9, 1865 1. __________________________

April 14, 1865 2. (Good Friday) __________________________

3. __________________________

April 15, 1865 4. __________________________

5. __________________________

6. __________________________

April 16, 1865 8. (Easter Sunday) __________________________
Reading Strategy (page 329)
Activating Prior Knowledge

A Brother’s Crime  JAMES CROSS GIBLIN

Activating prior knowledge means using what you already know about a topic or about human nature to understand the events, themes, and motivations in a literary work. Always remember that you can activate prior knowledge about events and experiences that you have not personally lived through. For example, even if your brother was never accused of a terrible crime, you have enough life experience to know what that must feel like. Also, you do not need to be a historian to understand some of what people in this nation, both in the North and in the South, felt when Lincoln was assassinated.

ACTIVITY

Directions  Complete the chart below to show how activating prior knowledge helps you understand “A Brother’s Crime.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior knowledge of . . .</th>
<th>Helps me understand . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Wilkes Booth</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Lincoln assassination</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the world in 1865</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the theater</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the relationship between brothers</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what it takes to become a famous actor</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what it feels like to lose a job</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the feelings of an angry nation</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>federal marshals searching and asking questions</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Reading Graphic Organizer

Applying prior knowledge to just one part of the selection can also help you participate more thoughtfully in the narrative. Turn to page 332 and reread the part of the selection that is about Edwin’s train ride to New York. For this activity, ask your teacher for a copy of the Two-Column Table Graphic Organizer. List details from this part of the narrative that you can better understand by activating prior knowledge. Explain how each detail gives you deeper insight into Edwin Booth and his experience directly after the Lincoln assassination.
Selection Vocabulary Practice (page 329)

A Brother's Crime  JAMES CROSS GIBLIN

Vocabulary

premonition  n. anticipation of an event without outside warning or reason
intimation  n. suggestion or hint
calamity  n. disastrous event
perpetrator  n. one who commits a crime or other similar act
ingriminating  adj. showing involvement in a crime

EXERCISE A  Practice with Word Parts and Word Origins

Match each word with the origin of its underlined word part.

1. ________ premonition  A. a noun-making suffix
2. ________ perpetrate  B. a prefix meaning “through”
3. ________ intimation  C. a verb- or adjective-making suffix
4. ________ incriminating  D. a prefix meaning “before”

EXERCISE B  Applying Meanings

Write yes or no after each question. Then explain your answer.

1. Would you be likely to welcome a calamity?

2. Would incriminating evidence help lead to someone's conviction?

3. Could you have a premonition about an event after the event ended?

4. Could an intimation be conveyed through a meaningful look?

5. Is the person who reports a crime usually the same person who perpetrates it?

EXERCISE C  Responding to the Selection

Imagine a conversation that takes place between Edwin and his brother John after Lincoln’s assassination. Create the dialogue using FOUR of the vocabulary words.