

## GENRE

Genre comes from the French language and means a kind or type. In literature study it refers to different categories of writing. The scheme below represents the traditional division of genre within the discipline of English. The categorization represents the shared understandings within the discipline and the expected course of study of the Standards of Learning. How selections are classified is based on a set distinguishing features that are specified in each category below.

While there are alternative ways to classify literature, students need, over time, to build an understanding of this schema. Their background knowledge of genre categories will help them establish a purpose for reading, will guide them in selecting what information is important while they read, and will help them summarize and evaluate the selection after completing the selection. In other words, their knowledge of the features of specific types of literature helps students to engage in the reading process and comprehend what they read.

PROSE			DRAMA	VERSE	
FICTION	BIOGRAPHY	NONFICTION	PLAY	NARRATIVE POETRY	LYRIC POETRY
<p><b>Fantasy:</b> highly imaginative selections that contain unrealistic or unworldly elements. It includes traditional tales that have been passed down orally throughout history, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folktales (fairy tales and tall tales)</li> <li>• Fables</li> <li>• Myths</li> <li>• Legends</li> </ul> <p>And contemporary selections that have known authors such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harry Potter series</li> <li>• <u>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Science Fiction:</b> Technically a subdivision of fantasy involving or based on scientific principles.</p> <p><b>Realistic:</b> Drawn from the writer's imagination but is true to life.</p> <p><b>Historical:</b> Drawn from the writer's imagination but is true to life in some period of the past.</p>	<p><b>Authentic Biography:</b> The author researches original sources that relate to the subject. Dialogue, thoughts, and actions are based on original documents and quote from these sources.</p> <p><b>Fictionalized Biography:</b> The author stays true to the subject's personality and historical events; however creates fictionalized dialogue, thoughts and actions that represent the subject's life.</p> <p><b>Autobiography:</b> The author is also the subject of the selection. S/he is giving an account of his/her life and therefore presents a personal and biased viewpoint.</p> <p><b>Memoir:</b> A first person account of a personal or historical event.</p>	<p><b>Informational:</b> provide ideas, facts, and principles that are related to the physical, biological, or social world. Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Textbook</li> <li>▪ Encyclopedia</li> <li>▪ Thesaurus</li> <li>▪ Dictionary</li> <li>▪ Atlas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Functional Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Menu</li> <li>▪ Advertisement</li> <li>▪ Flyer/Announcement</li> <li>▪ Brochure</li> <li>▪ Instructions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Articles/Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Magazine</li> <li>▪ Newspaper</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Essays that explain an account or process</li> </ul> <p><b>Persuasive:</b> provides facts, details, examples in such a way as to convince the reader of the author's opinion or move the reader to action. Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Letter</li> <li>• Editorial</li> <li>• Advertisement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Play:</b> story written to be acted for an audience.</p> <p>Includes characters' names written down the left-hand column, followed by the lines the character speaks.</p> <p>Also includes, usually in italics, stage directions that establish the setting and give the actors direction as to how the lines are to be read.</p> <p>The elements of a dramatic plot are exposition, complications, climax, and resolution</p> <p>A play is usually divided in to acts and acts are divided into scenes.</p>	<p><b>Ballad:</b> Usually tells sensational stories of tragedy or adventure. Uses simple language and repetition.</p> <p><b>Folk ballads</b> were originally songs composed by unknown singers and passed from generation to generation before they were written down.</p> <p><b>Literary ballads</b> are composed by known individuals and are written in imitation of folk ballads</p> <p><b>Epic:</b> long story told in verse that relates the great deeds of a larger-than-life hero who embodies the values of a particular society. Most include elements of myth, legend, folktale, and history. Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Iliad</i></li> <li>• <i>Odyssey</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Poetry</b> that does not tell a story; is aimed at expressing a speaker's emotions or thoughts.</p> <p>Usually short and imply, rather than directly state, a single strong emotion.</p>

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