

Types of Narrative Texts

FICTION				NONFICTION
Fantasy	Science Fiction	Realistic Fiction	Historical Fiction	Narrative Nonfiction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include traditional tales like fairy tails, tall tales, legends, and myth and contemporary creations such as the Harry Potter series. • Author’s imagination is not restricted by physical reality/natural law • Once author makes up the rules for the imagined setting, s/he must be consistent in following them. • Improbable setting and situations • Can have improbable characters like animals with human characteristics and mythical beasts; can have more realistic characters beside imaginative ones • Plot frequently that of hero’s quest: hero proves worthy of the quest (may early be fumbling and unsure); hero encounters trials along the way (must be wise and courageous); hero is accompanied by friends or mentor; hero’s actions are to protect others from evil; hero may question self or become confused about good and bad; hear defeats evil • Seeks to reveal truths that lie beneath the surface of life: desires and fears • Provides a context for readers to think about the dualities of life: good/evil, light/dark/innocence/guilt, reality/appearance, heroism/cowardice, order/anarchy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speculative fiction based on the real world with all its established facts and natural laws (Robert Heinlein) • May use different “laws” of another planet, even a make-believe planet, but laws must be scientifically plausible and consistent. • Story is usually an adventure that includes travel and danger, pursuing new frontiers. • Contemporary problems are projected hundreds of years into the future: overpopulation, pollution, religious or racial disharmony, political structures, scientific advances (e.g., genetic engineering, computerization) • A purpose is to prompt the present generation to question actions and to evaluate the consequences of those actions on the future. • Main characters often are outsiders or different from others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include the more specific genre such as adventure, mystery, and romance. • Setting realistic for the time period • Characters are believable in their action and have human insight and weaknesses. • Characters are individual and have unique qualities. • Content addresses. aspects of coping with life: death, peer relationships, identity, family problems, handicapping conditions, social issues, courage, survival. • Plot events reflect those found in real life • Endings are not always happy, but harshness of reality may be relieved by or with humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates the characteristics of realistic fiction. • Reveals historical events but not restricted by them. • Author may be creative without making historical mistakes. • Historical setting is an authentic and integral part of the story. • Character’s actions, dialogue, beliefs, and values are true to historical period. • Themes include loyalty, friendship, courage, and conflict. • Shows evidence that across great time spans people share similar emotions. • References to well known events or people, or other clues through which the reader can place the happenings in their correct historical framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include news and magazine articles, essays, and biographies, textbooks like <u>History of US</u>. • Topic is something that is true or real. • The information is told like a story. • The order of events is clear, even though the information may not be presented in a direct chronological manner. • There is an overarching, main or controlling idea to the piece. • The main idea is what is being said about the topic.

Narrative Texts

Realistic Fiction	Mystery (example of realistic fiction)	Science Fiction	Historical Fiction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting realistic for the time period • Characters are believable in their action and have human insight and weaknesses. • Characters are individual and have unique qualities. • Content addresses. aspects of coping with life: death, peer relationships, identity, family problems, handicapping conditions, social issues, courage, survival. • Plot events reflect those found in real life • Endings are not always happy, but harshness of reality may be relieved by or with humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot structure based on significant crime to be solved. • Crime introduced early; the complication /initiating event. • Plot advanced by clues. • Main character a detective or character who acts as detective. • Atmosphere of suspenseful action. • Reader kept guessing with real and “red herring” clues. However, all clues known to the detective are known to the reader. • A number of suspects include the criminal. • Resolution of plot when crime is solved. • Solution fits clues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speculative fiction based on the real world with all its established facts and natural laws (Robert Heinlein) • May use different “laws” of another planet, even a make-believe planet, but laws must be scientifically plausible and consistent. • Story is usually an adventure that includes travel and danger, pursuing new frontiers. • Contemporary problems are projected hundreds of years into the future: overpopulation, pollution, religious or racial disharmony, political structures, scientific advances (e.g., genetic engineering, computerization) • A purpose is to prompt the present generation to question actions and to evaluate the consequences of those actions on the future. • Main characters often are outsiders or different from others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates the characteristics of realistic fiction. • Reveals historical events but not restricted by them. • Author may be creative without making historical mistakes. • Historical setting is an authentic and integral part of the story. • Character’s actions, dialogue, beliefs, and values are true to historical period. • Themes include loyalty, friendship, courage, and conflict. • Shows evidence that across great time spans people share similar emotions. • References to well known events or people, or other clues through which the reader can place the happenings in their correct historical framework.