

## NWEA Genres

List compiled by the Center for Urban Education (teacher.depaul.edu) based on DesCartes statements. This list is provided not as “test prep” but because students should read a variety of genres so they can develop the abilities to learn across the genres—and appreciate the diversity of literature. Recommended: Students should write as well as read in these genres to develop greater reading and writing competence.

These lists are set up as a chart so that you can check the genres that your students know how to read and identify genres to expand their reading experience.

The NWEA RIT levels are included to indicate levels at which NWEA will require students to respond to questions about texts in the genres.

NWEA INFORMATIONAL TEXT GENRES	NWEA LITERATURE GENRES
reference material 221-230	narrative 221-230
persuasive 211-220	autobiography 211-220*
true story 211-220**	<i>biography</i> 211-220*
book review 211-220	folk tale 211-220
journals and specialized periodicals 211-220	poems 201-210
persuasive 211-220	folk tale 201-210
personal writing 211-220	fables 201-210
advertisements 211-220	myths 201-210
textbook 211-220	tall tale 201-210
encyclopedia 201-210	historical fiction 201-210
thesaurus 201-210	fantasy 191-200
informational magazines 191-200	story 191-200
atlas 191-200	poems 191-200
encyclopedia 191-200	fable 191-200
weather reports 191-200	memoir 191-200*
advertisements 191-200	play 191-200
informational magazines 181-190	play 191-200
dictionaries 181-190	stories as "make-believe" 181-190
informal notes 181-190	story 181-190
letters 181-190	poems 181-190
journal entry 181-190	fairy tale 181-190
lists 181-190	fairy tale 171-180
newspaper 171-180	stories as "make-believe" 171-180
dictionary 171-180	stories that could happen 171-180
lists 171-180	
thank you notes 161-170 and 171-180	
dictionary 161-170	
short informational passage describing events 161-170	

While Common Core standards include some nonfiction genres listed on this chart as informational text, the chart provides classification based on NWEA specifications. However, Common Core classification should be used for instructional decisions about genres. “Common Core uses ‘informational text’ as another term for ‘nonfiction text.’ This category includes historical and technical texts that provide students with factual information about the world.” The article “Common Core: Fact vs. Fiction” (<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/common-core-fact-vs-fiction>) provides a useful clarification of nonfiction including strategies students can apply to learn from nonfiction.

\*NWEA is using the term informational strictly as text that provides information. Informational text is a sub-genre of nonfiction. Autobiographies and memoirs are nonfiction genres. NWEA has classified them as literature, so for purpose analyzing NWEA data—and previewing NWEA requirements—they are listed in the Literature column.

\*\* “True story” is an NWEA term.