Genre Guide

Involve Students: Students give—or write—examples of each kind of genre. Then they explain what kinds of strategies and structures a writer uses to write in that genre—and how a reader can figure out what is important when reading that genre.

LITERATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>A play in which different events and characters tell a story with dialogue. It may be fiction or nonfiction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fable</td>
<td>A fable tells a story that has a moral—it teaches a lesson. Fables have animals in their stories instead of people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fantasy</td>
<td>Fantasy—A kind of fiction that involves characters, situations, or settings that could not really happen. Many fantasy stories involve magic or impossible events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folk Tale</td>
<td>Folk tales are fictional stories handed down by generations and represent the ways people lived in a culture and may tell a lesson about how to live.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
<td>Historical fiction is based on imagination (like fiction), but set among actual events or during a specific period of history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legend</td>
<td>Fictional story that seems possible and takes place in the past. It tells about what might have happened, it is believable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mystery</td>
<td>A mystery is fiction that deals with puzzling events &amp; suspenseful situations. Many mysteries are about solving a crime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myth</td>
<td>A myth is fiction that uses supernatural characters to tell a story that represents important values of a culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Poetry is a type of writing that uses rhythm to communicate ideas and feelings. There are many different forms of poetry. Some rhyme. Many use images to help the reader understand the ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realistic Fiction</td>
<td>Realistic fiction is made up by the writer but is a narrative that could have taken place. The characters and events seem to be real.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Fiction</td>
<td>Science fiction uses real science and imagined science in a realistic situation. It might be set in the future or space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tall Tale</td>
<td>A story that has unbelievable events that is told as if it was real.</td>
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</table>

NONFICTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article or Report</td>
<td>An explanation of a topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autobiography</td>
<td>The narrative of a person’s life, told by that person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>A biography is an account of someone’s life, told by another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>A history explains a real event with facts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memoir</td>
<td>A person’s written recollection of events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News report</td>
<td>A description of a real event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook</td>
<td>A textbook explains ideas and information about a topic.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

This actually is a sub-genre of nonfiction. It includes directions, manuals, newspaper, advertisements, and reference materials: dictionary, encyclopedia, glossary, thesaurus.