



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

Drama	A play in which different events and characters tell a story with dialogue. It may be fiction or nonfiction.
Fable	A fable tells a story that has a moral—it teaches a lesson. Fables have animals in their stories instead of people.
Fantasy	Fantasy--A kind of fiction that involves characters, situations, or settings that could not really happen. Many fantasy stories involve magic or impossible events.
Folk Tale	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.
Historical Fiction	Historical fiction is based on imagination (like fiction), but set among actual events or during a specific period of history.
Legend	Fictional story that seems possible and takes place in the past. It tells about what might have happened, it is believable.
Mystery	A mystery is fiction that deals with puzzling events & suspenseful situations. Many mysteries are about solving a crime.
Myth	A myth is fiction that uses supernatural characters to tell a story that represents important values of a culture.
Poetry	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.
Realistic Fiction	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.
Science Fiction	Science fiction uses real science and imagined science in a realistic situation. It might be set in the future or space.
Tall Tale	A story that has unbelievable events that is told as if it was real.

NONFICTION

Article or Report	An explanation of a topic.
Autobiography	The narrative of a person's life, told by that person.
Biography	A biography is an account of someone's life, told by another.
History	A history explains a real event with facts.
Memoir	A person's written recollection of events.
News report	A description of a real event.
Textbook	A textbook explains ideas and information about a topic.

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

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