

Literary Genres

Type	Definition
Fiction	stories with imaginary characters and events
Realistic Fiction	stories with characters who take part in activities that could really happen
Historical Fiction	stories set in the past with characters who take part in actual historical events
Science Fiction	stories involving actual or future scientific phenomena
Fantasy	stories set in make-believe worlds, often with non-human characters
Mystery	stories with characters who try to solve a crime or unexplained event
Nonfiction	true stories of actual events or characters
Biography	a person's life story written by another person
Autobiography	A person's life story written by himself or herself
Reference	information sources such as encyclopedias, yearbooks, directories, and atlases
Information	a book or article that introduces the reader to various topical material and "how to" information on various subjects
Newspaper	a daily or weekly publication of current events
Poetry	words arranged in metrical pattern, often using rhymed verse in an imaginative style
Play	a story for stage performance by actors
Folk Tale	an anonymous, timeless, and placeless story that was originally told rather than written