

Recommended Literature: K-12 Literary Genres

The following list defines each of the genres included in *Recommended Literature: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve*.

All Fiction

Drama - Stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.

Fable - Narration demonstrating a useful truth, especially in which animals speak as humans; legendary, supernatural tale.

Fairy Tale - Story about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.

Fantasy - Fiction with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.

Fiction - Narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact.

Fiction in Verse - Full-length novels with plot, subplot(s), theme(s), major and minor characters, in which the narrative is presented in (usually blank) verse form.

Folklore - The songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a people or "folk" as handed down by word of mouth.

Historical Fiction - Story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting.

Horror - Fiction in which events evoke a feeling of dread in both the characters and the reader.

Humor - Fiction full of fun, fancy, and excitement, meant to entertain; but can be contained in all genres

Legend - Story, sometimes of a national or folk hero, which has a basis in fact but also includes imaginative material.

Mystery - -Fiction dealing with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets.

Mythology - Legend or traditional narrative, often based in part on historical events, that reveals human behavior and natural phenomena by its symbolism; often pertaining to the actions of the gods.

Poetry - Verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that creates emotional responses.

Realistic Fiction - Story that can actually happen and is true to life.

Science Fiction - Story based on impact of actual, imagined, or potential science, usually set in the future or on other planets.

Short Story - Fiction of such brevity that it supports no subplots.

Tall Tale - Humorous story with blatant exaggerations, swaggering heroes who do the impossible with nonchalance.

All Nonfiction

Biography/Autobiography - Narrative of a person's life, a true story about a real person.

Essay - A short literary composition that reflects the author's outlook or point.

Narrative Nonfiction - Factual information presented in a format which tells a story.

Nonfiction - Informational text dealing with an actual, real-life subject.

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