

An Overview of Genre		
Genre	Definition	Example - Title, Author
Allegory	A metaphorical narrative in prose or verse in which the characters and often parts of the narrative usually represent moral and spiritual values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell ● <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> John Bunyan
Autobiography	A written account of the author's own life. Unlike diaries, journals, and letters, autobiographies are unified narratives usually prepared for a public audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Autobiography</i> Benjamin Franklin ● <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> Frederick Douglass
Ballad	A narrative poem, frequently of unknown authorship, composed of short verses intended to be sung or recited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Get Up and Bar the Door</i> Author Unknown
Biography	An account of a person's life written by another person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Life of Samuel Johnson</i> James Boswell
Diary	A day-by-day record of events and thoughts kept by an individual. A diary is usually an intimate autobiographical chronicle that is not intended for publication, although diaries sometimes have a reader in mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> Anne Frank ● <i>Go Ask Alice</i> Anonymous
Drama	A story told in action by actors who impersonate the characters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Crucible</i> Arthur Miller ● <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Oscar Wilde
Epic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A long narrative poem, usually about the great deeds of a folk hero, stated in lofty, elevated language. 2. A similar long narrative poem, more sophisticated in literary style and less heroic in content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Iliad</i> Homer ● <i>The Odyssey</i> Homer ● <i>Beowulf</i> Unknown Author ● <i>Gilgamesh</i> Unknown Author
Essay	A relatively brief literary composition, usually in prose, giving the author's views on a particular topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Walden</i> Henry David Thoreau ● <i>Self-Reliance</i> Ralph Waldo Emerson
Fable	A very brief story in prose or verse that teaches a moral, or a practical lesson about life. The characters in most fables are animals that behave and speak like humans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell
Fairy Tale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A folk story about real-life problems, usually with imaginary characters and magical events. 2. A story involving wee folk such as fairies or leprechauns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Grimms' Fairy Tales</i> The Brothers Grimm ● <i>The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde</i> Oscar Wilde
Fantasy	A highly imaginative story about characters, places, and events that, while sometimes believable, do not exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> J.K. Rowling ● <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> C.S. Lewis
Farce	A light, humorous play emphasizing improbable situations rather than characterization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Oscar Wilde ● <i>The Misanthrope</i> Moliere
Folk Tale	A characteristically anonymous, timeless and placeless tale circulated orally among people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Rip Van Winkle</i> Washington Irving ● <i>The Cremation of Sam McGee</i> Robert Service
Historical Fiction	A long narrative of past events and characters, partly historical but largely imaginative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Three Musketeers</i> Alexander Dumas ● <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> Julia Alvarez
Journal	A chronological relating of events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Walden</i> Henry David Thoreau
Legend	A traditional, historical tale of a people, handed down first in oral and later in written form - myth, fairy tale, folk tale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Beowulf</i> Seamus Heaney (trans.)
Letter	A direct or personal written or printed message addressed to a person or organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Weep Not for Me, Dear Mother</i> Elizabeth Robertson
Limerick	A form of light verse, usually five lines with a rhyme scheme of <i>aabba</i> , with the first, second, and fifth lines having three feet, and the third and fourth lines, two feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>A Book of Nonsense Everyman's Library Children's Classic</i> Edward Lear

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Lyric	A short poem of personal feelings and emotions, intended to make a single impression on the reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Poetical Words of Longfellow</i> Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Magazine	A publication that comes out weekly, monthly, or at some other regular time and contains articles, stories, pictures, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Newsweek</i>
Mystery	A piece of fiction dealing usually with the solution of a mysterious crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>And Then There Were None</i> Agatha Christie
Myth	An anonymous traditional story that usually serves to explain a belief, custom, or mysterious natural phenomenon. Most myths grew out of religious rituals, and almost all of them involve the exploits of gods and heroes. Such myths make it possible to understand and cope with things beyond human control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes</i> Edith Hamilton
Newspaper	A daily or weekly publication printed on large, folded sheets of paper and containing news, opinions, advertisements, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Ocean County Observer</i> ● <i>Asbury Park Press</i>
Nonfiction	Prose designed primarily to explain, argue, or describe rather than to entertain; specifically, a type of prose other than fiction but including biography and autobiography. <i>Note:</i> Although its emphasis is factual, fictional elements are sometimes found in the more personal forms of nonfiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> Frederick Douglass
Novel	A long fictional prose narrative, usually of more than fifty thousand words. In general, the novel uses the same basic literary elements as the short story: plot, character, setting theme, and point of view.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Zora Neale Hurston ● <i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding ● <i>The Stranger</i> Albert Camus
Parable	A simple, rather short story intended to teach a moral lesson, allegorical tale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Holy Bible</i> "The Prodigal Son" Luke 15:11-32
Poetry	Writing that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Negro Speaks of Rivers</i> Langston Hughes ● <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> Alexander Pope
Science Fiction	Stories, novels, and movies that take place on other planets, in the future, etc. and that make use of scientific devices, space travel, robots, and other things that are real or imagined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Ray Bradbury ● <i>Jurassic Park</i> Michael Crichton
Short Story	A brief work of fiction. The short story generally has a simpler plot than a novel and often reveals characters through significant moments, rather than through the accretion of many incidents or detailed descriptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Story of an Hour</i> Kate Chopin ● <i>My Oedipus Complex</i> Frank O'Connor
Sonnet	A poem consisting of 14 lines usually in rhymed iambic pentameter. Types differ by rhyme scheme and content organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Whoso List to Hunt" by Sir Thomas Wyatt
Speech	Spoken language; an utterance for a particular purpose; as a graduation speech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>I Have a Dream</i> Martin Luther King, Jr.
Tall Tale	A type of folk literature characterized by humorous exaggeration and outlandish plot details. Although part of the literature of many countries, it is mainly associated with Mark Twain and the American West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Paul Bunyan</i>
Tragedy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A play, or the dramatic form it represents, in which the leading character suffers intense conflicts and a wretched fate, often because of some weakness. 2. Any literary work that presents a somber or serious theme in a story that leads to an unfortunate, if not catastrophic, conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Macbeth</i> William Shakespeare ● <i>Madame Bovary</i> Gustave Flaubert ● <i>Hamlet</i> William Shakespeare ● <i>Death of a Salesman</i> Arthur Miller
Tragic Comedy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A play or other literary work that contains elements of both tragedy and comedy. 2. A play that initially progresses as a tragedy but, because of the turn of events, ends as a comedy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> William Shakespeare ● <i>The Winter's Tale</i> William Shakespeare