

Literary Genres Reference Sheet

Genre: a particular style or type of writing

Nonfiction: writing that is true	
Persuasive Writing	tries to influence the reader
Informational Writing	explains something
Autobiography	life story written by oneself
Biography	writing about someone else's life

Fiction: imaginative or made up writing	
Historical Fiction	set in the past & based on real people and/or events
Science Fiction	has aliens, robots, futuristic technology and/or spaceships
Realistic Fiction	has no elements of fantasy; could be true but isn't
Fantasy	has monsters, magic or characters with superpowers
Horror	events evoke a feeling of fright in both characters and readers
Mystery	solution of a crime or unraveling of secrets

Folklore: stories once passed down orally	
Fable	short story with personified animals and a moral
Myth	has gods/goddesses & usually accounts for the creation of something
Fairy Tale	Has magic, royalty and a good vs. evil element
Tall Tale	main characters skills/size/strength is greatly exaggerated; set in American frontier
Legend	based on a real person and/or place & facts are stretched beyond nonfiction

Drama: a play or script	
Comedy	has a happy ending
Tragedy	ends in death & sadness

Poetry: writing concerned with the beauty of language