

Genre Descriptions

Biography/Autobiography:

Anything written about someone by someone else is a biography. When a story is written about someone BY that person (they wrote about their own life) it's an autobiography. Both are factual and can be considered non-fiction.

Mystery and Horror:

Mystery books have a problem to be solved and usually involve characters trying to solve something. Horror books are written with the purpose of scaring the reader or creeping them out.

Short Stories:

Short stories are usually only a few pages long and can be found in a larger book called an anthology. Short stories are usually theme related or can be unrelated, depending on the author.

Myths and Legends:

These books have stories that tell how things were made or why things are the way they are. Often these stories will be far-fetched and not realistic. An example would be the legend of Paul Bunion and how he created the Grand Canyon.

Fantasy:

There's usually a quest that a character is on, there's always a battle between good and evil, the story usually takes place in a made-up world unlike the one that we live in.

Nonfiction:

These are books that contain factual information. They are informational books with accurate facts within them.

Fairytales:

Traditional tales that are told to teach a moral lesson. Often fairytales will be stories that are passed down from one generation to the next. Fables can

be categorized into this genre. These books usually begin with the phrase, "Once upon a time..."

Poetry:

Books with poems in them. Poems can be rhyming or free/concrete verse.

Folktales and Heroes:

Often these stories are passed down from generation to generation; they usually have a good guy and a bad guy with the good guy prevailing. These stories usually have a happy ending.

Realistic Fiction:

These stories deal with issues that could happen in everyday life. Often the character grows and learns a lesson in the story. These books are the most common in fiction, and readers can usually relate to the characters and easily make connections.

Historical Fiction:

These books are realistic fiction that took place in the past. Readers can get an understanding of the past by reading these books. Examples of Historical Fiction books would be the Magic Tree House series.

Science Fiction:

Science Fiction books speculate what might happen in the future. There's some reality to the stories, but it's usually set in the future. These books address many themes, such as love, justice, truth, loyalty, and good vs. evil. Sometimes Fantasy and Science Fiction are very similar.