

## Genres of Literature

**Genre** (French) "kind" or "sort", from Latin is the term for any category of literature or other forms of art or culture, e.g. music, and in general, any type of discourse, whether written or spoken, audio or visual, based on some set of stylistic criteria.

The two main categories separating the different genres of literature are fiction and nonfiction.

### *Genres of Nonfiction:*

This is Informational text dealing with an actual, real-life subject. This genre of literature offers opinions or conjectures on facts and reality.

**Essays** are a short literary composition that reflects the author's outlook or point.

A **Biography** is a written account of another person's life.

An **Autobiography** gives the history of a person's life, written or told by that person. Often written in Narrative form of their person's life.

**Speech** is the faculty or power of speaking; oral communication; ability to express one's thoughts and emotions by speech, sounds, and gesture. Generally delivered in the form of an address or discourse.

The genre of **Fiction** can be defined as narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact. In fiction something is feigned, invented, or imagined; a made-up story.

### *Genres of Fiction:*

**Drama** is the genre of literature that's subject for compositions is dramatic art in the way it is represented. This genre is stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.

**Poetry** is verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that evokes an emotional response from the reader. There are many different forms of poetry, eg. Canzone; tanka, sonnet, sijo, elegy, stev; free verse etc.

**Fantasy** is the forming of mental images with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.

**Humor** is fiction full of fun, fancy, and excitement which meant to entertain. This genre of literature can actually be seen and contained within all genres.

A **Fable** is a story about supernatural or extraordinary people that demonstrates a useful truth..

**Fairy Tales** or wonder tales are a kind of folktale or fable. Sometimes the stories are about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.

**Science Fiction** is a story based on impact of potential science, either actual or imagined.

**Short Story** is fiction of such briefness that is not able to support any subplots.

**Folklore** are songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a person of "folk" that was handed down by word of mouth

**Historical Fiction** is a story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting.

**Horror** is an overwhelming and painful feeling caused by literature that is frightfully shocking, terrifying, or revolting.

A **Tall Tale** is a humorous story with blatant exaggerations, swaggering heroes who do the impossible with an air of nonchalance.

**Legend** is a story that sometimes of a national or folk hero. Legend is based on fact but also includes imaginative material.

**Mystery** is a genre of fiction that deals with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets.

**Mythology** is a type of legend or traditional narrative. This is 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