

Literature Genre Summary Sheet

Fantasy – A time and setting where the impossible becomes convincingly possible. Any element of fantasy delegates a book into this genre.

Poetry – Words performed in a way that transcends literal meaning.

Contemporary Realistic Fiction – Everything in a realistic story – including plot, characters, and setting – is consistent with the lives of real people in our contemporary world. The story could happen to real people.

Historical Fiction – Realistic Books set more than 50 years ago that provide an accurate discussion of events in the time period they reflect.

Biography – Nonfictional portrayal of the lives of interesting people.

Informational – Accurate, current information presented in a factual, yet interesting style. May not contain any elements of fantasy.

Folktales – Usually tell the adventures of animal or human characters. They contain common narrative motifs – such as supernatural adversaries, magic and marvels, tasks and quests – and common themes – such as reward of good and punishment of evil. Subcategories of folktales include cumulative tales, humorous tales, beast tales, magic and wonder tales, and pourquoi tales.