

Genre Overview

Fiction	
Genre	Definition and some Examples
Fantasy	A story including elements that are impossible such as talking animals or magical powers. Make-believe is what this genre is all about. Griffith, <i>13-story Treehouse</i> series; Older, <i>Dactyl Hill Squad</i> ; Daywalt, <i>The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors</i> ; Applegate, <i>Endling</i> series
Realistic Fiction	A story using made-up characters that could happen in real life. Fred Bowen sports' series; Paulsen, <i>Hatchet</i> series; Clements, <i>Frindle</i> , and others; Palacio, <i>Wonder</i> ; Medina, <i>Merci Suarez Changes Gears</i> .
Mystery & Detective	Suspenseful story about a puzzling event not solved until the end. Clements, <i>The Map Trap</i> ; Gutman, <i>Homework Machine</i> ; Ginns, <i>Samantha Spinner and the Super-Secret Plans</i> .
Traditional Literature	Stories that are passed down from one group to another in history. Includes legends, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, and myths from different cultures. Authors Climo, San Souci, Aardema, and Zelinsky are all award winners
Historical Fiction	A fictional story that takes place in a particular time period in the past. Often the setting is real, but the characters are made up from the author's imagination. <i>American Girl</i> mysteries; Osborne, <i>My America</i> series; Polacco, <i>Just in Time, Abraham Lincoln</i> ; Lowry, <i>Number the stars</i>
Science Fiction	Type of fantasy that uses science & technology (robots, time machines, etc.) Brown, <i>Jedi Academy</i> series; titles from Haddix' <i>Shadow Children</i> series; L'Engle, <i>Wrinkle in Time</i> series
Graphic Novels	A novel in comic-strip format. Suggestions include: Hale, <i>Real Friends</i> ; Brosgol, <i>Be Prepared</i> ; and titles from these series... <i>Nathan Hale Hazardous Tales</i> ; <i>Lunch Lady</i> ; and Telgemeier's <i>Sisters</i> .

Nonfiction	
Biography	The story of a real person's life written by another person. Titles in the <i>Who Was...</i> series; selections from Krull's <i>Lives of...</i> series; Harrison, <i>Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History</i>
Informational	Texts that provide facts about a variety of topics (sports, animals, science, history, careers, travel, geography, space, weather, etc.) Titles in the <i>True Book</i> nonfiction series
Poetry	Poetry is verse written to create a response of thought and feeling from the reader. It often uses rhythm and rhyme to help convey its meaning. Prelutsky collections: <i>New Kid on the Block, Something BIG Has Been Here</i>