

LITERARY GENRES

What is a Literary Genre?

Literary genre is the grownup way of saying different kinds of writing. The word genre is pronounced zhan rah.

Here is a list of the different kinds of writing you should know.

Non-fiction - Everything that is written is true. It can be proven.

Biography - a story about a real person

Autobiography - an author writes about himself or herself

Reference books - text book, dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus

Fiction - made up stories. They are not real or true.

Science fiction - stories about real or imagined science, especially about space or the future

Historical fiction - uses facts from the past to make up a story that seems real

Mystery - stories about crime

Folktales - stories that may be based on facts. ()

Fairy tale - stories that usually have a happy end

Fantasy - stories with characters and settings

Fable - a story that teaches about right and wrong. Usually animals talk and learn a lesson. Fables usually end with a moral.

Poetry - writing that uses rhythm, sound, and meaning to create an emotional response. It is usually written in lines, not paragraphs. An author of poetry is a poet.

Rhymes - writing in which the last words in each line end with the same sound

Limericks - silly poems that follow a pattern in which the first, second, and fifth lines all rhyme. The third and fourth lines rhyme with each other.

Songs and ballads - poetry set to music

Try this!

List four kinds of fiction.

List three kinds of non-fiction.

Which genre uses rhythm, sounds, or meaning to interest the reader?



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