

Identifying Genres



created by
The Curriculum Corner

historical
fiction

fantasy

informational
text

science
fiction

mystery

autobiography

realistic
fiction

mythology

biography

adventure

folktales/
fables

A story that tells of a person's life. It is written by the person who the story is about.

A story of someone's life that is written by another person.

A piece of writing that shares facts about a topic.

A story in which a main character faces exciting obstacles.

A story that contains characters and events that could not happen in real life and has no basis in science.

Short stories that are passed around by word of mouth. They teach a moral or a lesson.

A story that is based on actual people, events or time periods in history. There may be made up characters or other elements not based on fact.

A story that is created to explain natural occurrences that were puzzling to people in the past. They might explain which natural events occur and involve gods and goddesses.

A story that is based on a puzzling crime. The main character uses clues to solve the crime.

A story that is about imagined events or characters. The events could happen in real life. The characters can be like people in real life.

A story that uses science and technology to create events that cannot happen in real life. Might contain time travel, aliens, robots or space travel.

Understanding Genres

What is a genre?

A genre is the category a book falls into. A book might be **informational text** which means it is based on fact. Other books are **literature**. A piece of literature is made up by the author.

Informational Text	
Genre	Meaning
Autobiography	A story that tells of a person's life. It is written by the person who the story is about.
Biography	A story of someone's life that is written by another person.
Informational Text	A piece of writing that shares facts about a topic.

Understanding Genres

Literature

Genre	Meaning
Adventure	A story in which a main character faces exciting obstacles.
Fantasy	A story that contains characters and events that could not happen in real life and has no basis in science.
Folktales / Fables	Short stories that are passed around by word of mouth. They teach a moral or a lesson.
Historical Fiction	A story that is based on actual people, events or time periods in history. There may be made up characters or other elements not based on fact.
Mythology	A story that is created to explain natural occurrences that were puzzling to people in the past. They might explain which natural events occur and involve gods and goddesses.
Mystery	A story that is based on a puzzling crime. The main character uses clues to solve the crime.
Realistic Fiction	A story that is about imagined events or characters. The events could happen in real life. The characters can be like people in real life.
Science Fiction	A story that uses science and technology to create events that cannot happen in real life. Might contain time travel, aliens, robots or space travel.

Name: _____

Learning about Genres

My genre is:

What I know about my genre:

A book that is an example of this genre:

Why this book is an example of this genre:

Name: _____

Genre Goals

My goal is to read a book from each genre.

As you read a book from each genre, record the book, author and genre on your chart.

autobiography

fantasy

mystery

biography

folktale or fable

realistic fiction

informational text

historical fiction

science fiction

adventure

mythology

Book	Author	Genre

Book	Author	Genre

Book	Author	Genre

What genre is your favorite? Why?

What genre is your least favorite? Why?

Name: _____

Genre Search

In the basket, there are books from each of the genres we are learning about. Find a book that fits into each genre. Write the title and your reasoning in the chart.

Genre	Title	This book fits into this genre because...
autobiography		
biography		
informational text		
adventure		
fantasy		

Genre	Title	This book fits into this genre because...
folktale or fable		
historical fiction		
mythology		
mystery		
realistic fiction		
science fiction		

Name: _____

Genre Practice

Read each card. Identify which genre is being described. Record your answer below.

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.

Genre Practice – Answer Key

Read each card. Identify which genre is being described. Record your answer below.

1. c	2. a	3. d
4. b	5. c	6. c
7. a	8. c	9. d
10. b	11. a	12. b

A story that tells about Paul Bunyan who dug the Great Lakes by hand is...

- a. a mystery
- b. an adventure
- c. a folktale
- d. a biography

1.

A story that tells about the childhood of Gabby Douglas is...

- a. a biography
- b. a fable
- c. realistic fiction
- d. a fantasy

2.

A story that tells about a girl who travels into the future is...

- a. mythology
- b. historical fiction
- c. an autobiography
- d. science fiction

3.

A book that teaches you about coding is...

- a. a biography
- b. informational text
- c. a folktale
- d. historical fiction

4.

A book written by the astronaut Mae Jemison about herself is...

- a. a mystery
- b. a fantasy
- c. an autobiography
- d. historical fiction

5.

A story that tells about two brothers during the Civil War is...

- a. an adventure
- b. a mystery
- c. historical fiction
- d. a fable

6.

A book about two friends who work together to build a new playground for their school is...

- a. realistic fiction
- b. an autobiography
- c. a fable
- d. science fiction

7.

A story about two siblings who travel across the country while overcoming many obstacles is...

- a. informational text
- b. a biography
- c. an adventure
- d. mythology

8.

A book where a boy is trying to figure out what happened to his missing bike is...

- a. a biography
- b. informational text
- c. science fiction
- d. a mystery

9.

A story about the sun god Ra is an example of...

- a. science fiction
- b. mythology
- c. an adventure
- d. a fable

10.

A book that involves dragons is an example of...

- a. fantasy
- b. mystery
- c. realistic fiction
- d. informational text

11.

A story about a tortoise and a hare are racing each other and a lesson is learned in the end is...

- a. a mystery
- b. a fable
- c. historical fiction
- d. an adventure

12.