

Genre Characteristic Checklist

Fantasy

Model Text

- ✓ contains elements that are not realistic
- ✓ Talking animals
- ✓ Magical powers
- ✓ Often set in a medieval universe
- ✓ Possibly involving mythical beings

Historical Fiction

Model Text:

- ✓ Stories centered around the basis of a partially historical situation
- ✓ A novel set in a historical period
- ✓ Contains pictures and language from the past
- ✓ Contains true facts about people and events in the past
- ✓ Contains factual and fictional characters or events

Mystery

Model Text:

- ✓ Strangeness
- ✓ Solving a puzzling event or situation
- ✓ Something unknown
- ✓ Solving a crime
- ✓ Centered around a person who investigates
- ✓ Wrongdoing
- ✓ Centered around a person or persons employed to obtain secret information

Realistic Fiction

Model Text:

- ✓ Stories that take place in modern time
- ✓ Characters are involved in events that could happen
- ✓ Characters try to solve problems
- ✓ No magical events or characters

Science Fiction

Model Text:

- ✓ Stories that often tell about science and technology of the future
- ✓ Stories involving partially true partially fiction laws of theories of science
- ✓ Settings; in the future, in space, on a different world, in a different universe or dimension, life in other worlds

Horror

Model Text:

- ✓ Fear (Most important factor)
- ✓ Surprise
- ✓ Suspense
- ✓ Scary, dark
- ✓ Spoiler (given at the beginning)

Informational

Model Text:

- ✓ Tells factual information about people, events, or places
- ✓ May have maps, photos, diagrams, illustrations, or charts to help explain the facts

Biographies

Model Text:

- ✓ A true story of a person's life, written by someone else.

Autobiography

Model Text:

- ✓ A true story of a person's life, written by that person

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Poetry

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Usually short
- ✓ May or may not rhyme
- ✓ May be written in verse form
- ✓ May have descriptive language of speech
- ✓ Shows feelings

Traditional Literature

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Long ago setting
- ✓ Uses magic or exaggeration to solve problems
- ✓ Story is passed down from other generations

Fairy Tales

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Magic is used to solve problems
- ✓ Imaginary characters and events
- ✓ Frequently contains patterns of three
- ✓ Frequently begins with "Once upon a time..."
- ✓ Frequently ends with "...and they lived happily ever after."
- ✓ Good conquering evil

Folk Tales

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Story passed down from other generations
- ✓ Frequently contains a message

Tall Tales

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Contains exaggeration (Jack and the Beanstalk)

Fables

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Animals that act like humans
- ✓ Purpose of the story is to teach a lesson
- ✓ Frequently ends with "...the moral of the story is..."

Myths

Model Text: _____

- ✓ Stories involving the gods of a culture which sometimes explain how things came to be in nature
- ✓ Early man's desire to explain the universe (Apollo, the son of Zeus)
- ✓ Generally involve nature, or the adventure of god/goddesses and heroes (superhuman in nature)
- ✓ A metamorphosis may occur (transformation/change)

Legend

Model Text: _____

- ✓ A story from the past
- ✓ Tells the features of one main hero or heroine
- ✓ The person was real, but not all of the facts of the story are real (Robin Hood)