

LITERARY GENRES



Fiction

false, fantasy, fable,
fairy tale, fictitious,
fabricated, phony,
fib, figment, fake,
fraud

Format

Novel
long fiction

*Short
Story*

Types

fantasy

- **Setting:** In a place that does not exist in the real world.

Elements

- Events occur that could not happen in the real world.
- **Characters:** people animal or objects are able to do things they cannot do in the real world.



fable

- **Setting:** In the distant past or a timeless place.

Elements

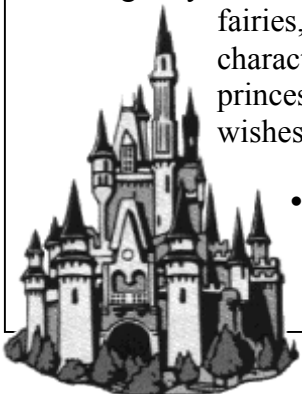
- a very short story that usual has only 2 or 3 characters.
- **Characters:** Often the characters are animals or things that talk and act like humans.

fairy tale

- **Setting:** in the distant past. Often has an open phrase, "Once upon a time..." or "A very long time ago..."

Elements

- A difficult, sometimes seemingly impossible, problem to solve.
- **Characters:** often with magical powers; imaginary characters such as dragons, fairies, giants, elves; royal characters such as queens, princes, etc. The granting of wishes often occurs.

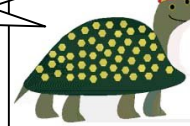


- Has a happy ending in which good wins over evil.



Types

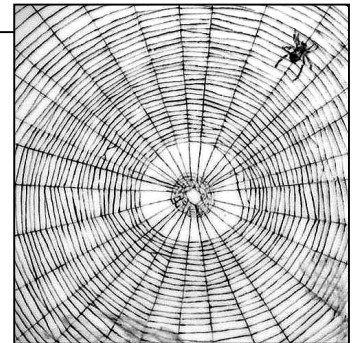
The Tortoise and the Hare



myth

Elements

- May explain how something in nature looks or works (example: why the spider spins a web).
- May explain why people behave in certain ways.
- **Characters:** Often includes gods or goddesses who interact with humans.



"tall tales"

- **Setting:** in the recent or distant past.

Elements

- humorous exaggeration to tell the adventures of a fictional (or possibly nonfictional) character.
- Build upon improbable incidences and unusual problems that are saved in creative ways.



Fiction

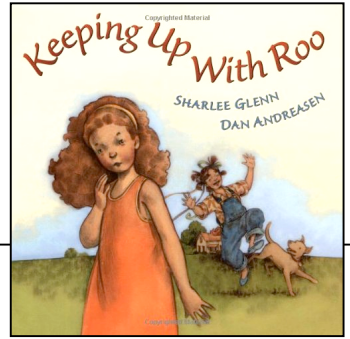
Types

realistic fiction

- **Setting:** a real place or could be a real place.

Elements

- The events in the story could happen in real life.
- **Characters:** behave as people do in real life.



folk tale

Elements

- Stories passed down from one generation to another. Originally told orally. Reflect the culture in which they originated.
- **Characters:** may include animals or inanimate objects that speak. They often teach a moral or lesson in life.
- Some folk tales called trickster tales are about weak people or tiny animals outwitting their stronger enemies.
- Action builds through repetition. Has an exciting climax at the end. Goodness and intelligence win out over evil and foolishness.
- Told from 3rd person point of view.



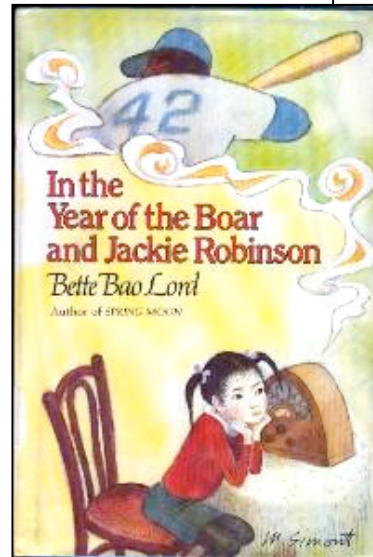
Types

historical fiction

- **Setting:** some specific period of the past.

Elements

- A type of realistic fiction. Often, but not always, the story is based on actual historical events and people of the period.



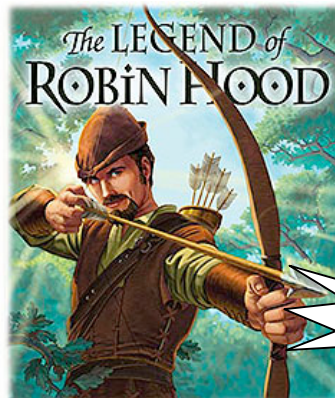
- The plot reflects events or problems of the period.
- The details about clothing, tools, and food are authentic to the period.

legend

- **Setting:** in the past.

Elements

- Tells the story of a hero.
- May be based on facts and real history, but through numerous retellings the hero and his or her deeds become larger than life. and some facts are distorted.



Types

LITERARY GENRES

Nonfiction

Format

Book
long nonfiction

Essay
short nonfiction

Narrative

told as a story

The opposite of fiction.

True.

Real.

Writing Styles

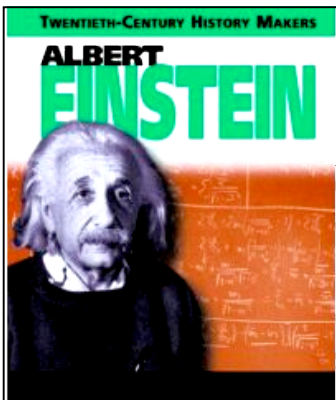
EXPOSITORY

facts; information

Types

biography

The true story of someone's life written by someone else.



Elements

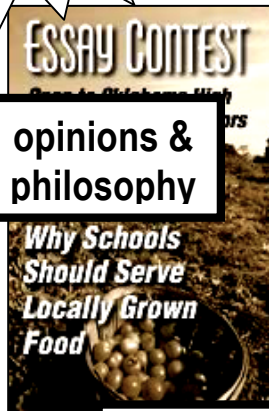
- It may span a person's whole life, or it may tell about an important part of a person's life.
- An account of an person's entire life is almost always told in chronological order (in the time order events occurred).
- Contains a variety of important information about the person's life. Often tells how the person feels and thinks about things.

autobiograph

The true story of someone's life written by that person.

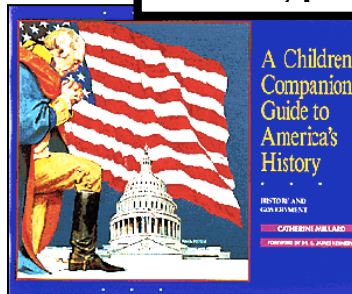
Elements

- see "biography"



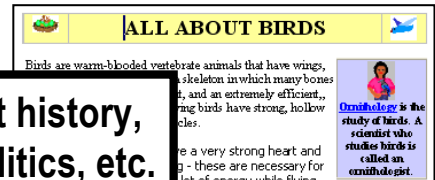
opinions & philosophy

facts about history, science, politics, etc.



Elements

- Often includes subheads to organize topics.
- Might contain diagrams, photographs and other illustrations.
- Contains information that can be checked by looking at other sources.



Birds are warm-blooded vertebrate animals that have wings, a skeleton in which many bones are fused, and an extremely efficient, respiratory system. Flying birds have strong, hollow bones.

Birds have a very strong heart and lungs - these are necessary for a lot of energy while flying and also to cool the blood to power their flight.

Not all flying animals are birds; and not all birds can fly. The ability to fly has developed independently many times throughout the history of the Earth. Bats (flying mammals), pterosaurs (flying reptiles from the time of the dinosaurs), and flying insects are not birds.

MOVING: Flying, Running, and Swimming

Bird locomotion is quite varied; most can fly, some can run very well, some swim, and some do combinations of these. Some birds cannot fly.



instruction manuals

Styles for Fiction or Nonfiction

LITERARY GENRES

Poetry

Sentences are sometimes broken into parts. Each part is on its own line.

Often contains words that rhyme. The lines often have a rhythm or meter.

Words are sometimes repeated.

Sometimes describes things by comparing them with something else.

Often uses figurative, descriptive, and sensory language.

Writing Styles

Narrative told as a story

Drama

A serious story.

Intended for representation by actors impersonating the characters and performing the dialogue and action.

A situation or succession of events having the emotional effect characteristic of a play.

Identifying The Literary Genre

- 1.) Is it **fiction** or **nonfiction**
- 2.) What **type** of writing is it?
- 3.) What is the **format** (length)?
- 4.) What is the writing **style**?