

# Literary Genres

**Genre**  
The category that a work of literature is classified under.

**Nonfiction**  
Informational text dealing with an actual, real-life subject.

- Biography
- Autobiography
- Essay
  - Formal
  - Informal
- Narrative
- Speech
- Articles
  - Newspaper
  - Magazine
  - Web
- Historical Accounts
- Scientific Reports
- Personal
  - Diaries
  - Letters

**Fiction**  
Narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact.

- Fairy Tale
- Fantasy
- Historical Fiction
- Mystery
- Humor
- Realistic
- Short Story
- Science Fiction
- Horror
- Romance
- Tragedy
- Drama
- Comedy
- Mythology
- Legend
- Fable
- Folklore

**Poetry**  
Verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that creates emotional responses.

- Lyric
  - Sonnet
  - Narrative
  - Epic
  - Ballad
- Haiku
- Free Verse
- Blank Verse

**Drama**  
Story that is written to be acted for an audience.

- Plays
  - Tragedy
  - Comedy
  - Historic
  - Problem

**Myth**  
Traditional story that is rooted in a particular culture, is basically religious, and usually serves to explain a belief, a ritual, or a mysterious natural phenomenon.

- Mythology
- Legend
- Fable
- Folklore