

Genre Assessment

Read the following eleven passages carefully. Each is from a different genre of literature. After each passage, fill in the blank with the letter of the genre that is the best fit. You may use your genre information sheet. If you are unsure about a passage, skip it and return to it at the end. No answer is repeated, so do not use any genre more than once.

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|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Adventure | b. Fantasy | c. Historical Fiction |
| d. Mystery | e. Realistic | f. Science Fiction |
| g. Biography | h. Informational | i. Drama |
| j. Oral Tradition (folklore) | k. Poetry | |

- _____ 1. It wasn't like I was going to starve; Edgar, the other half of the two-part alien creature my brain patterns had been merged with, was beaming energy into our body.
- _____ 2. Mummies are real. They have been found in such diverse places as mountains, caves, ice and bogs, but they all have something in common ... Mummies found in Alaska ... were cleaned, dried and then protected by sea lion guts from water damage. Other mummies have been pickled in arsenic.
- _____ 3. Colin Powell was born in Harlem in New York City on April 5, 1937. When Colin was still a child, his family moved to the South Bronx, another part of New York City ... Colin Powell grew up to be a serious, strong military leader.
- _____ 4. He could not believe the contents of the survival pack ... a sleeping bag, an aluminum cookset, matches, a knife ... an emergency transmitter. When the pilot rescued Brian he had been alone on the L-shaped lake for fifty-four days.
- _____ 5. This leave-taking occurred in the spring of the year 1855, in the Willamette Valley, Oregon Territory ... Father had been planting with the oxen in the west section when he took ill and collapsed.
- _____ 6. The police rounded up the culprits and took everybody's name. Then they carefully collected all the treasure ... and Michael and Elena did get the award.
- _____ 7. Something told the wild geese
It was time to go.
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered, "Snow."
- _____ 8. It was a shock, of course. No one likes to think that their baby is going to grow up to be a wizard, and a black one at that ... They changed their baby's name from George to Arriman (after a famous and very wicked Persian sorcerer).
- _____ 9. Dad started to answer but the phone rang. I sat down in front of the TV while he talked. It was one of those shows where contestants scream their heads off to see who can act like a bigger jerk.
- _____ 10. Once upon a time, a mother lived with her two daughters in a lonely cottage at the edge of a forest. Two rosebushes grew next to the front door, one with fiery red blossoms and the other bearing delicate white flowers.
- _____ 11. JULIET: O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.
- ROMEO: *[Aside]* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Genres for the Primary Grades

Historical Fiction

Real events are mixed with story that takes place in history.

Mystery

There is a problem or puzzle to solve with clues and suspects.

Folktale

Is passed down by storytelling over the years; there are often different versions.

Realistic Fiction

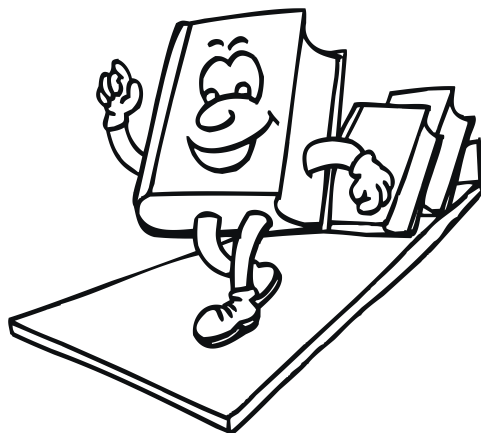
Modern story with events that could really happen.

Fantasy

Events, like magic or time travel, that could not really happen.

Biography

True stories about real people.



Genres for the Intermediate Grades

Found in the Fiction Section:

Adventure: Story often involves out-of-doors, survival, exciting journeys to interesting places; characters face challenges in order to triumph over difficult situations. Example: *Julie of the Wolves*.

Fantasy: Events in story could not really happen in real life; involves magic, wizards and mythical characters. Example: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Historical: Story based on real historical events/times/facts (at least thirty years before book was written); characters may or may not be real people from history; all behave in realistic ways. Example: *Number the Stars*.

Mystery: Story revolves around a problem, crime or mystery to be solved using clues; story is suspenseful; characters are solvers (detectives), suspects and sometimes both. Example: *The Westing Game*.

Realistic (also called "Contemporary Realistic"): Although the story is fictional (made up), the characters behave in realistic ways; the story could really happen; modern setting (usually within thirty years of the time book was written). Example: *Shiloh*.

Science Fiction: Made up events might possibly happen in the future based on scientific principles; space travel, robots. Example: *Star Wars*.

Found in the Dewey Decimal Section:

Biographies: True stories about real people (who have died or are still living) written by others. Example: *Pedro Martinez*.

Autobiographies: True stories about real people written by the person himself or herself. Example: *Boy* by Roald Dahl.

Informational: True books which include facts and information. Example: *Inside the Titanic*.

Drama: Fiction written to be performed by actors for an audience; also known as a play. Example: *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare.

Oral Tradition (Folktales/Folklore and Myths): Stories were originally spoken and then written down at some point. Story may change from version to version. This is a large category that includes fairy tales, fables, myths, legends, tall tales and epics. Example: *King Midas and the Golden Touch*.

Poetry: Stories written in verse; may or may not rhyme. Example: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

Let's Learn About . . .

Genre	Folklore	Fables	Fairy Tales	Tall Tales/Legends	Myths
Definition	A story that has been told orally and passed down through the years.	A short folklore story designed to give a message.	A folklore story that includes magical creatures or actions.	A folklore story based on historical truths or figures but has been expanded or exaggerated.	A traditional story of gods or heroes which tries to explain people, things or events.
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking animals and/or elements of nature. • Usually one, two or three characters. • Involves trickery. • Usually has just one problem. • Has a moral at the end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often begins with “Once Upon a Time” and ends with “happily ever after.” • Setting often in a town, castle or forest. • Has good/nice characters and bad/mean characters. • Characters are often animals or royalty. • Problem often solved by magic. • Rules of three or seven. • Good is usually rewarded and evil is punished. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A larger than life character with a specific job—based on a real person. • Exaggerated details that describe things as greater than they are. • Problem solved as a result of a test or struggle. • Problem might be solved in a funny way. • May include chants or repeated verses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tries to explain elements of nature or life. • Has gods, goddesses, heroes and unusual creatures. • People once believed myths were true, but now they are stories. • Many contain magic. • Good is usually rewarded and evil is punished. • Every culture has its own collection of myths. 	