

GENRES AND SUBGENRES: CHARACTERISTICS AND EXAMPLES

Literature Curriculum Objectives: Grades 3-12



Adventure Story

- Action is the main element.
- Main character usually goes on journey or mission and faces many challenges and choices.
- Suspense is featured prominently in the plot line.

Example: Richard Connell's short story "The Most Dangerous Game," J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy

Allegory

- A work with two levels of meaning - a literal one and a symbolic one
- Characters, objects, settings, and events represent abstract ideas or qualities
- Personification often used in traditional allegories
- Purpose may be to convey truths about life, to teach religious or moral lessons, or to criticize social institutions

Examples: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death," John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

Article

- Written in newspaper, magazine, blog, etc.
- Written in journalistic format to give information only - not to give opinion
- Tells who, what, where, when, why, and how.
- Has very little, if any, elaboration (just the facts)



Examples: "A World Turned Upside Down: How the Black Death Affected Europe" by Mary Morton Cowan; "Great White Sharks" by Peter Benchley; "President Dead: Connally Also Hit by Sniper"; "Dog Proves As Smart As Average Toddler" by Margaret Munro

Autobiography

- Writer's account of his/her own life
- First-person point of view almost always used (I, me, my, mine, myself)
- Most important events and people are described

Examples: Helen Keller's "The Story of My Life"; *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, an American Slave; It's Not About the Bike*, Lance Armstrong

Ballad

- Narrative poem originally meant to be sung or recited
- Tells a story
- Has setting, plot, characters
- Usually anonymous or impersonal narrator
- Usually written in rhymed 4-line stanzas that may include a refrain
- Folk ballads were composed orally, handed down by word or mouth from generation to generation



Examples: "Barbara Allan," "Sweet Betsy from Pike," "Get Up and Bar the Door"

Biography

- True account of a person's life written by another person
- Third-person point of view almost always used
- A "biographer" researches his/her subject to present accurate information.
- Good biographers strive for honesty and balance.

Examples: Jim Haskins' "Matthew Henson at the Top of the World," *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, by Laura Hillenbrand; *East to the Dawn: The Life of Amelia Earhart*, Susan Butler; *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*, Myers, Walter Dean

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Blank Verse


- Verse composed in unrhymed iambic pentameter lines
- Iambic pentameter has 10 syllables -- 5 pairs of 2-syllable (unaccented followed by accented) "feet" (a "foot" is a metrical unit of poetry; an iamb is a foot, and 5 iambs, or 5 feet, equal 10 syllables, or iambic pentameter)

Example:
I never understood his love for cats;
He said that dogs were too agreeable.

Comedy

- Dramatic work
- Light and often humorous in tone
- Usually ends happily
- Usually has peaceful resolution of the main conflict


Examples: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*



Diary

- Daily record of a writer's thoughts, experiences, feelings
- Autobiographical writing
- Journal is another term for diary

Example: "A Diary from Dixie" by Mary Chestnut; "The Diary of a Young Girl," Anne Frank



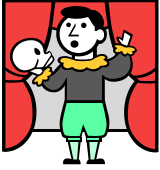
Drama

- Literature in play form
- Meant to be performed by actors in front of an audience
- Characters' dialogue and actions tell the story
- Written form is called a script
- Script usually includes dialogue, cast of characters, stage directions
- Writer is called playwright or dramatist
- Divided into acts, with each act having an emotional peak, or climax, of its own; acts divided into scenes, which depict a single time and place

Examples: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller; *The Prince and the Pauper*, Mark Twain; *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

Dramatic Monologue

- Lyric poem in which speaker addresses silent or absent listener in moment of high intensity or deep emotion
- Speaker speaks as if engaged in private conversation
- Speaker speaks without interruption; reader hears just one side of conversation and must infer the reactions of the listener
- From speaker's words, reader learns about setting, situation, identity of other characters, and personality of speaker
- Poet focuses on feelings, personality, motivations of the speaker



Example: T.S. Elliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Elegy

- Poem written in tribute to a person
- Usually -- but not always -- written in tribute to someone who has died recently
- Tone is almost always formal and dignified.

Example: William Cullen Bryant's "Thanatopsis"

Editorial

- Essay in newspaper, magazine, blog, etc. that gives the opinion of editor or staff member
- Editorial is one person's opinion; it is not absolute fact.

Examples: "Do Professional Athletes Get Paid Too Much?" by Justin Hjelm; "Dangerous Threat? No-Loving Pet!" by Lisa Epstein, "Abolishing the Penny Makes Good Sense," by Alan S Blinder

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Epic poem

- Long narrative poem
- About adventures of a hero
- Hero's actions reflect ideals and values of a nation or group of people



Examples: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; John Milton's *Paradise Lost*; *Beowulf*

Essay

- Short work of nonfiction
- Deals with single subject
- Expository informs an audience or explains a subject
- Narrative tells a story; what happened..., what would happen if..., etc.
- Persuasive attempts to convince reader to adopt a certain viewpoint
- Descriptive tries to tell the reader what something is like; describes something
- Critical evaluates situation or work of art
- Reflective (personal) reflects writer's experiences, feelings, and personality; usually tells about something the writer has experienced and how s/he has changed as a result

Examples: "Should Wild Animals Be Kept as Pets?" by The Humane Society; "Doing Nothing Is Something" by Anna Quindlen; "Revisiting Sacred Ground" by Scott N. Momaday

Fable

- Very brief tale told to illustrate a moral or teach a lesson
- Usually only one or two characters
- Characters usually, but not always, animals
- Moral frequently appears in a distinct and memorable statement near the beginning or end of fable.
- Oral tradition, handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation

Example: "Race Between Toad and Donkey" and Aesop's fables such as "The Wolf and the House Dog" and "Ant and Grasshopper"



Fairy Tales

- Created for enjoyment and to inspire hope
- Common beginnings and endings (Once upon a time...and they lived happily ever after.)
- Flat, stereotypical characters (only very good or very bad)
- Magic spells
- Groups of 3's and 7's
- Good triumphs over evil



Examples: "Cinderella," "Snow White," "Hansel and Gretel"

Fantasy

- Type of fiction that is highly imaginative
- May contain some elements never found in real life
- Similar to science fiction but more fanciful; less emphasis on technology and more emphasis on life forms
- Portrays events, settings, or characters that are unrealistic; animals frequently talk, for example
- Plot might involve magic, the supernatural, or mythical beings; frequently it is children or other innocent characters who are able to use the magic
- Setting might be nonexistent world; often it is modeled after a medieval universe
- Characters might use superhuman powers; imagination might be used to control time, for example.



Examples: *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis; the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling; *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Farce

- Exaggerated comedy that features an absurd plot; ridiculous, far-fetched situations; humorous dialogue



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- Purpose is to keep audience laughing; humor is physical and slapstick (pie-in-the-face)
- Characters usually stereotypes, or simplified examples of different traits or qualities
- Comic devices typically used include mistaken identity, deception, wordplay (puns, double meanings) and exaggeration

Examples: "The Importance of Being Earnest," Oscar Wilde; Marx Brothers comedies, Saturday Night Live

Fiction


- Prose writing that tells an imaginary story
- All events might be invented, or some parts of the story might be based on real events.
- Basic elements of fiction are plot, character, setting, theme.
- Types of fiction include realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, and fantasy.
- Fiction includes novels, short stories, and poetry.

Folklore

- Folklore is the "umbrella" term for legends, folk tales, myths, fables, and trickster tales.
- All folklore is fiction that was handed down in the oral tradition from generation to generation within cultural/ethnic groups.
- Folklore deals with magic, heroes, and adventure.

Folk Tale

- Story that has been passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth
- May be set in the distant past
- May involve supernatural events
- Characters may be animals, people, or superhuman beings.




Examples: "Coyote and the Buffalo," (Okanogan folk tale; "The People Could Fly," Virginia Hamilton; Little Red Riding Hood

Frame Story

- A story within a story - a character or characters within a story begin telling a story of their own
- Two stories are taking place at the same time

Examples: *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*, Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*




Free Verse

- Poetry without regular patterns of rhyme and rhythm
- Retains other poetic elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism

Gothic Literature (sometimes called "Horror")

- Grotesque characters, bizarre situations, and violent events
- Originated in Europe; popular in U.S. during 19th century

Example: William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily"; Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Cask of Amontillado"



Haiku

- Japanese poetry
- Seventeen syllables arranged in 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables
- Poet must create clear picture that evokes a strong emotional response in the reader
- Nature is a particularly important source of inspiration for Japanese haiku poets.

Example: "Haiku" by Matsuo Basho

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Historical Fiction

- Short story or novel set in the past around a historical situation
- Includes real places and real events of historical importance
- Author has researched the details of the historical time period.
- Real people and places give authenticity to the story.



Example: *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

Historical Narrative

- Account of real-life historical experience
- Written by a person who either experienced the events or researched and studied the events

Example: William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*; "The Johnstown Flood," by David McCullough

Horror Fiction

- Supernatural events that create suspense and terror
- Strange, mysterious plot twists keep the reader on the edge of his/her seat
- Reader constantly fears the characters will meet with a mysterious and/or horrible death

Examples: Stephen King and Edgar Allan Poe

Informational Text

- Any reading material written to explain, give information, or instruct
- Frequently has maps, photos, tables, spreadsheets, diagrams, illustrations, or charts
- Textbooks, workbooks, syllabus pages
- Newspapers, magazines, blogs, etc.
- Reference materials such as encyclopedias, the Internet, dictionaries, thesauruses, almanacs, atlases, etc.
- Instruction manuals, schedules, brochures, catalogs, etc.



Journal

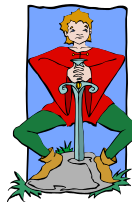
- Record of writer's thoughts, feelings
- May be used to record ideas for more further exploration at a later date
 - May be considered to be the same as a diary or may be considered to be more thoughtful vs. a diary's being more of a record of daily activities



Examples: *Over the Top of the World* by Will Steger, *Civil War Journal* by Louisa May Alcott, *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*

Legends

- Stories about the past
- Usually have some basis in historical fact, but *can* be fictional
- Many legendary heroes are folk heroes who are included in folk tales
 - Fantastic details and hyperbole
 - Incredible feats of strength, wit, and intelligence
- Supernatural beings
- Animals can sometimes talk



Examples: *Damon and Pythias: A Drama*, a Greek legend dramatized by Fran Kissen; *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

Letter

- Can be of historical value
- May be from or to a famous historical or literary figure
- May be a good example of the style of writing of the day

Examples: "Letter to His Son," Robert E. Lee; "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; "Letter to Miss Keller," Franklin D. Roosevelt; "Letter to Harriet Tubman," Frederic Douglass

Limerick

- Humorous, rhyming 5-line poem
- Specific meter and rhyme pattern (aabba)

Example: Usually starts, "There once was a ___ from ___ ..."

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Lyric Poetry

- Presents personal thoughts and feelings of a single speaker
- Most poems, other than narrative poems, are lyric poems.
- Can be in a variety of forms
- Can cover many subjects from love and death to everyday experiences

Examples: "Mi Madre," Pat Mora; "Canyon de Chelly," Simon J. Ortiz; "The Earth Is a Living Thing," Lucille Clifton

Magical Realism

- Includes exaggeration, unusual humor, magical and bizarre events, dreams that come true, superstitions that prove warranted
- Different from pure fantasy that it combines fantastic elements with realistic elements such as recognizable characters, believable dialogue, true-to-life setting, matter-of-fact tone, and plot that sometimes contains historic events



Examples: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

Memoir


- Autobiographical writing; writer shares personal experiences and observations of important events or people
- Usually structured as narratives using first-person point of view
- Although some names may be changed to protect privacy, memoirs are true accounts of actual events.
- Often informal in tone
- Memoirs usually give readers information about the impact of historical events on people's lives

Example: N. Scott Momaday's *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; Gary Soto's "The Jacket," Gary Paulsen's "Dirk the Protector," Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*

Monologue

- A long speech by a single character

Mystery




- Presents a puzzle or a problem to be solved
- Presents a crime or a conflict that is strange or hard to understand
- Plot slowly unravels and reveals clues that lead to the solution of the problem
- Relevant clues often shrouded with information to distract the reader
- Character frequently is involved in investigating wrongdoing
- Character may be employed to obtain secret information

Examples: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Gold Bug"; Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes mysteries: "The Red-Headed League" and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

Myths

- Fictional tales of deeds of ancient gods, goddesses, and heroes
- Classical mythology today was the religion of ancient Greeks and Romans
- Gods and goddesses immortal; possess super powers
- Interaction between gods and mortals
- Attempt to explain earth's processes (seasons, night and day)
- Attempt to explain human nature and social customs
- Attempt to explain origins of the world and mysteries of nature




Examples: Arachne; Apollo's Tree: The Story of Apollo and Daphne; The Story of Ceres and Proserpina


Narrative

- A story
- Events may be real or imagined.
- Autobiographies and biographies are narratives that deal with real people and events.
- Autobiographies and biographies are called nonfiction narratives because they are not fiction, but they are stories.
- Fictional narratives include short stories, fables, myths, and fiction novels.
- A poem may also be in the form of a narrative.

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| <p>Examples: "The Snow Goose," Paul Gallico; "Fish Cheeks," Amy Tan; "Exploring the Titanic," Robert D. Ballard; <i>Out of the Dust</i>, Karen Hesse</p> |
| <p>Narrative Nonfiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umbrella term that includes autobiography, biography, and memoir • Characters, setting, and plot are real rather than imaginary • Reads like a fiction story but the events and people are real <p>Examples: <i>Dreams from My Father</i> by Barack Obama, <i>The Mysterious Mr. Lincoln</i> by Russell Freedman, <i>John Glenn: A Memoir</i>, by John Glenn</p> |
| <p>Narrative Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative poetry that tells a story in verse form • Narrative poetry contains characters, setting, plot • It is like a little short story but in verse form. • May have rhyme, rhythm - or may not • Like all poetry, narrative poetry usually has figurative language and imagery <p>Examples: "Barbara Frietchie," John Greenleaf Whittier; "John Henry," Traditional Narrative Poem; "Casey at the Bat," Ernest Lawrence Thayer; "Paul Revere's Ride," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; "The Highwayman," Alfred Noyes</p> |
| <p>Nonfiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells about real people, places, events • Written to convey factual information • Newspaper articles, political cartoons, magazine articles, blog entries, web news reports, public service announcements movie reviews, advertising • Letters, speeches, essays, literary criticism, interviews • True-life adventure stories • Autobiographies, biographies <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">  </div> <p>Examples: "All Nine Pulled Alive from Mine," web news report from CNN.com; "Nine-year-old Amber Colvin Rides Out a Killer Flood in Ohio"; "Who Killed the Iceman?" National Geographic</p> |

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| <p>Novel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long work of fiction • Elements of fiction - Plot, setting, characters, theme etc. • Rising action, conflict, turning point (climax) and resolution • Product of writer's imagination <p>Examples: Natalie Babbitt's <i>Tuck Everlasting</i>, Lois Lowry's <i>The Giver</i></p> |
| <p>Novella</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer than short story but shorter than novel • Plot is less complex than plot in a novel • Usually has fewer characters than a novel has <p>Examples: <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>, by Ernest Hemingway; <i>The Little Prince</i>, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry; <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>, by Robert Louis Stevenson; <i>Anthem</i>, by Ayn Rand; <i>Heart of Darkness</i>, by Joseph Conrad; <i>The Metamorphosis</i>, by Franz Kafka</p> |
| <p>Ode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex lyric poem that deals with serious themes such as truth, justice, love, or beauty • Appeals to both the imagination and the intellect • Many odes commemorate events, praise people, or praise elements of nature • Odes are dignified forms of poetry, usually written in a lofty style. <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">  </div> <p>Examples: "Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" by William Wordsworth</p> |
| <p>Parable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief story meant to teach a lesson or illustrate a moral truth • Each detail corresponds to some aspect of the problem or moral dilemma to which it is directed. <p>Examples: The stories of the "Prodigal Son" and the "Good Samaritan" in the Bible</p> |


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| <p>Parody</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humorous imitation of another's serious work • Can be in the form of a drama, poem, or prose fiction <p>Example: "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs," "What Troubled Poe's Raven"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently can be read on more than one level • Types of poetry include lyric, narrative, epic, free verse, haiku, sonnet, ballad, limerick <p>Examples: Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," Emily Dickinson's "Because I Could Not Stop for Death"</p> |
| <p>Pastoral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of poem that depicts country life in idyllic, idealized terms • Expresses nostalgia for age or place of lost innocence • Portrays rural settings not as they are but as simple, beautiful, ideal, innocent settings • In a pastoral, the setting is not just incidental; it is essential to the plot. <p>Examples: Christopher Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love," Sir Walter Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"</p> | <p>Primary Source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material written or created by people who were present at the event • Letters, diaries, speeches, autobiographies, photographs, etc. • Narrative accounts written by actual participants or observers <p>Examples: "The Plantation Letters" from the Cameron family papers extracted from the Southern Historical Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill - a web resource that represents slaves, women, and children's voices from plantation days http://plantationletters.com/</p> |
| <p>Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dramatic performance • Usually performed on the stage • The term <i>play</i> is a synonym for <i>drama</i>, when not referring specifically to a comedy or a tragedy. • The term <i>play</i> is frequently a less formal description of a performance than is the term <i>drama</i>. <p>Example: "Our son's kindergarten class is putting on a Thanksgiving play." (rather than <i>drama</i>)</p> | <p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All forms of writing that are not in verse form • Novels, short stories, articles, essays, letters, reviews, reports, advertisements, textbooks, etc. <p>Example: A brochure explaining the use of an appliance</p> |
| <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literary text that is arranged in lines • May or may not rhyme • May or may not have a repetitive meter (rhythm); poetry without meter is called free verse • Often divided into stanzas • Fiction that expresses writer's idea in a more condensed format than in prose • Words carefully chosen for specific effect • Frequently uses figurative language, sound devices, imagery to express emotion and ideas | <p>Realistic Fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting takes place in the real, modern (contemporary) world • Setting and plot seem real • Characters behave like real people and use human abilities to resolve conflicts • Stories help the reader discover things about him-/herself and the world • Plot often deals with growing up, making decisions, facing life's problems, understanding issues • May be about many different cultures, races, religions, traditions • May be about sports, families, romance, mystery, etc. • Can be humorous, tragic, frightening <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p>Examples: Young adult fiction novels</p> |

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| <p>Romance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger than life story with a hero or heroine • Hero undertakes a quest and/or goes on a journey issues • Idealized hero usually succeeds in his/her quest • Romance, beauty, innocence, and goodness usually prevail over evil. • Hero often has supernatural powers or at least near-magical powers <p>Examples: J.R.R. Tolkien's <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>; Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>; "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"</p> | <p>from other worlds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses invented technology such as time traveling, etc. <p>Examples: Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.'s "Harrison Bergeron"; Ray Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder"</p> |
| <p>Romantic Novel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel with happy ending • Characters engaged in adventures filled with courageous acts, daring chases, and exciting escapes • Occasionally hero finds love • Hero goes on quest to right a wrong <p>Examples: James Fenimore Cooper's <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>, Indiana Jones stories</p> | <p>Short Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fictional work that focuses on a single idea • Can be read in one sitting • One main conflict that involves the characters <p>Examples: Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day," Rudyard Kipling's "Rikki-tikki-tavi," Frank R. Stockton's "The Lady or the Tiger?"</p> |
| <p>Satire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of writing that ridicules the shortcomings of people or institutions in an attempt to bring about change • Can be gentle spoofing or savage mockery • Can point out the absurdity and the illogic in a situation • Can poke fun at how someone or a group or people act • Satire always intensely moral in its purpose <p>Examples: James Thurber's short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," Mark Twain's essay "The Lowest Animal"</p> | <p>Soliloquy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long speech made by character in a play while no other characters are on stage • Different from monologue in that speaker appears to be thinking aloud, not addressing a listener. <p>Example: In Shakespeare's drama <i>Hamlet</i>, Hamlet's "To be or not to be..." soliloquy</p> |
| <p>Science Fiction</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot includes imaginary events that involve science or technology • May involve partially true laws or theories of science • Often set in the future or past or in an alternate dimensions • Often set on other planets or in places other than the surface of the earth • Characters are frequently creatures | <p>Sonnet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyric poem with 14 lines • Written in iambic pentameter (a line of poetry that contains 5 iambic feet) • Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet has one octave rhymed <i>abbaabba</i> and a sestet with a <i>cdecde</i> rhyme scheme. • English (Shakespearean) sonnet has three quatrains rhymed <i>abab, cdcd, efef</i>, and a closing couplet rhymed <i>gg</i>. <p>Examples: "Holy Sonnet 10", John Donne; "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent," John Milton; Sonnets 18, 29, 116, and 130, William Shakespeare</p> |
| | <p>Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk or public address • Purpose is to entertain, to explain, to persuade, to inspire, etc. <p>Examples: "I Have a Dream" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; "On Civil Disobedience," Mohandas K. Gandhi; "I Will Fight No More Forever," Chief Joseph</p> |

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Tall Tale

- Truth is exaggerated for humorous effect (hyperbole)
- Setting is usually in the early history of a country or region
- Full of exaggeration of the hero's feats
- Events are impossible, often involving supernatural abilities of the hero



Examples: Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, Mark Twain's "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," Herbert Shippey's "Uncle Septimus's Beard," "Yeh-shen: A Cinderella Story from China," Ai-Ling Louie

Tragedy

- Dramatic work that presents the downfall of a character or characters
- Character's downfall generally occurs because of fate, error in judgment, or personality failure known as a tragic flaw
- Tragic character has usually gained wisdom at end of story, in spite of suffering defeat or even death
- Events linked in cause/effect relationship; lead to disastrous conclusion - usually death



Examples: Sophocles' *Antigone*, Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*

Villanelle

- Nineteen-line poem
- Five tercets (three-line stanzas) with rhyme scheme *aba* and with final quatrain (four-line stanza) of *abaa*.

Example: Dylan Thomas' "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"