

Genre Definitions

Genre	Definition	Book Examples*
Autobiography	The story of a real person's life that is written by that person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Through My Eyes ■ Michelle Kwan, Heart of a Champion, an Autobiography ■ Once Upon a Time by Eve Bunting
Biography	A story of a real person's life written by another person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abe Lincoln, the Boy Who Loved Books ■ NBA Superstar Shaquille O'Neal ■ The Story of Ruby Bridges
Fantasy	A story including elements that are impossible such as talking animals and magic powers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Chocolate Touch ■ Fairy Realm ■ Click, Clack, Moo Cows that Type
Historical Fiction	A fictional story that takes place in a particular time period in the past. Often the setting is real but the characters are made up from the author's imagination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ben and Me ■ How many Days to America - A Thanksgiving Story ■ Under the Quilt of Night ■ Meet Felicity, An American Girl

Informational	Texts that provide facts about a variety of topics (sports, animals, science, history, careers, travel, geography, space, weather, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Titanic Lost and Found ■ Our Solar System ■ Pompeii: Buried Alive
Mystery or Adventure	A suspenseful story about a puzzling event that is not solved until the end of the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A to Z Mysteries: The Bald Bandit ■ Mystery On the Docks ■ Cam Jansen and the Mystery at the Haunted House
Poetry	Poetry is verse written to create a response of thought and feeling from the reader. It often uses rhythm and rhyme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Beast Feast ■ Where the Sidewalk Ends ■ The New Kid on the Block
Realistic Fiction	A story using made up characters but could happen in real life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Junie B. Jones ■ Ramona Quimby, Age 8 ■ Thank You, Mr. Falker
Science Fiction	A type of fantasy that uses science & technology (robots and machines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ My Teacher is an Alien ■ The Magic School Bus - Gets Programmed ■ My Robot Buddy
Traditional Literature	Stories that are passed down from one group to the other in history. This includes folk takes, legends, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, and myths from different cultures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cinderella ■ Paul Bunyan ■ The Legend of the Blue Bonnet

The books listed are merely examples. Be sure that the book you choose is at your reading level!