

# Genre /ZHän' rə/

a class or category of artistic endeavor having a particular form, content, technique, or the like: *the genre of epic poetry; the genre of historical fiction...*

As proficient readers with a lifetime of experience, we have built a large body of knowledge about text genres, and we use this knowledge every time we read, most of the time unconsciously. We enter texts with *expectations* that have everything to do with our enjoyment and appreciation (or dislike) of that genre and the associations we make to other texts of that genre. As experienced processors of written texts, we automatically adjust our reading (or listening) to suit the genre.

Genres have developed over centuries, and writers have consistently found ways to structure texts to suit their own purposes. A specific genre is a tool writers use to communicate with their audience and accomplish their purpose. Genre and purpose are interrelated in a complex way, and the audience must be considered in the process.

Due to the ambiguous nature of the defining of genres, it is important to note that there are a number of ways they might be defined and organized. For example, biography and autobiography are often classified as nonfiction, but the Elementary TEKS organize the genres into the major categories of Literary and Informational Texts, rather than fiction and nonfiction.

Because much biographical literature at the elementary level is organized in a narrative structure, the TEKS address biography and autobiography within the overarching category of literary text. “Literary Nonfiction” is a special category of text... simply nonfiction that is written in a narrative (storytelling) structure.

Other differences will be noticed from one instructional resource to another. One such example is the organization of literature into the categories of fiction and nonfiction in *Genre Study: Reaching with Fiction and Nonfiction Books* by Fountas and Pinnell.

There are hallmarks and signs that one piece of text is fantasy, another is fiction, while yet another is persuasive/ informational. Learning to identify these different hallmarks and signs takes years of practice with support from teachers.

Understanding both the obvious and subtle differences between genres helps the reader know how to apply the most appropriate strategies for any given text.

To support vertical alignment and consistency, the following pages provide Genre Charts for each grade level. They are organized according to the Reading TEKS. Feel free to add other well-known genres (science fiction, mystery, etc.) as you and your students share these genres in your class. [Have them help you determine where they best fit on the chart.]

We encourage you to display the appropriate poster(s) in your classroom, challenging students to use each genre term correctly, as well as to use the poster(s) to do their part in maintaining an organized classroom library.



# Genre Chart for Kindergarten

## Literary

Fiction

Traditional

Folktales

Realistic

Fairy Tales

Fantasy

Fables

Poetry

## Informational

Expository

Examples:  
nonfiction  
reference books,  
magazine articles  
(print /on-line)...

Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...



# Genre Chart for First Grade

## Literary

Fiction

Traditional

Folktales

Realistic

Fairy Tales

Fantasy

Fables

Poetry

## Informational

Expository

Examples:  
nonfiction  
reference books,  
magazine articles  
(print /on-line)...

Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...



# Genre Chart for Second Grade

## Literary

## Informational

Fiction

Traditional

Folktales

Realistic

Fairy Tales

Fantasy

Fables

Myths/  
Legends

Poetry

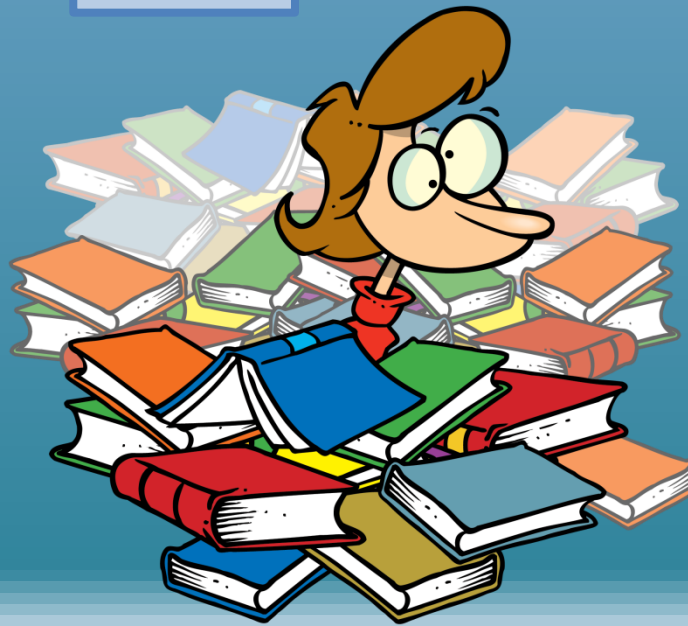
Drama

Expository

Examples:  
nonfiction  
reference books,  
magazine articles  
(print /on-line)...

Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...



# Genre Chart for Third Grade

## Literary

## Informational

Fiction

Traditional

Folktales

Realistic

Fairy Tales

Fantasy

Fables

Historical

Myths/  
Legends

Literary  
Nonfiction

Biography

Autobiography

Diary

Poetry

Drama

Expository

Examples:  
nonfiction  
reference books,  
magazine articles  
(print /on-line)...

Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...

Persuasive

Examples:  
editorial and news  
articles,  
advertisements



# Genre Chart for Fourth Grade

## Literary

## Informational

### Fiction

#### Traditional

Folktales

#### Realistic

Fairy Tales

#### Fantasy

Fables

#### Historical

Myths/  
Legends

### Literary Nonfiction

#### Biography

#### Autobiography

#### Diary

#### Memoir

### Poetry

### Drama

### Expository

Examples:  
reference books,  
reports, magazine  
articles (print /on-  
line)...

### Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...

### Persuasive

Examples:  
editorial and news  
articles, essays,  
advertisements,  
speeches...



# Genre Chart for Fifth Grade

## Literary

### Fiction

Traditional

Folktales

Realistic

Fairy Tales

Fantasy

Fables

Historical

Myths/  
Legends

### Literary Nonfiction

Biography

Autobiography

### Poetry

Diary

### Drama

Memoir

## Informational

### Expository

Examples:  
reference books,  
reports, magazine  
articles (print /on-  
line)...

### Procedural

Examples:  
recipes,  
instruction  
manuals, science  
experiments...

### Persuasive

Examples:  
editorial and news  
articles, essays,  
advertisements...

