

Genre Bookmarks

NON-FICTION

Characteristics of non-fiction:

- Usually written to inform.
- Has a topic or subject area.
- Has content which has been researched by the author(s).
- Lists the books and other resources the authors used to learn about the topic.
- Has statements of fact that were true at the time the selection was written or recorded.
- Often has labeled pictures, illustrations charts, graphs, diagrams, tables, or maps to clarify information.
- Usually has a table of contents in front and an index in the back.

FICTION

Characteristics of fiction:

- Usually written to entertain.
- Has story elements:
 - Plot – the action or series of events that affect the main characters. One event often causes or leads to the next.
 - Theme – the story’s main idea, lesson, or statement of truth.
 - Mood – emotions the author wishes readers to feel.
 - Point of view – usually one voice (the narrator, the main character) tells the story.
 - Character development – main character(s) are given personalities and physical descriptions.
- Has characters that may or may not be human beings.
- Is an invention of the author(s).
- Uses pictures or illustrations to show an event or setting from the story.
- Has a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

POETRY

Characteristics of poetry:

- Shares the writer’s personal meaning and feelings.
- Creates an overall mood.
- Focuses on one topic – usually from the author’s life.
- Uses precise and vivid words.
- Often creates imaginative images for the senses: sight, touch, hearing, taste, and smell.
- Uses figurative language.
- Breaks lines so each image stands on its own.
- Often has a pattern or beat (rhythm, meter).
- May have rhyming words.

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FAIRY TALE

Characteristics:

A fairy tale is a part of a kind of fiction called fantasy. They were often created to teach children how to behave.

A fairy tale:

- Has non-human characters such as fairies, goblins, dragons, talking animals, etc.
- Gives characters magical powers such as magic wands.
- Often changes one thing into another like a pumpkin into a carriage or a shoe into a glass slipper.
- Often the reader can't tell the time and place of the story.
- Often has characters that are not well developed.

FOLKTALE

Characteristics:

A folktale is a part of the kind of fiction called fantasy.

A folktale:

- Has many exaggerations in it. Another name for exaggeration is hyperbole.
- Gives the main character a problem to solve that is very much like a problem that real human beings had to solve at the time the folktale began.
- Makes the main character bigger than life by increasing real human abilities (speed, intelligence, strength) to super-human size.
- Has a plot that is funny and impossible.
- Has the main character solve a problem, overcome an obstacle and/or defeat an antagonist, i.e. bad guy.
- Has lots of action.

Fable

Characteristics:

- A fable is a type of fiction.

A fable:

- Is usually short.
- Teaches a lesson, has a moral, or shows what can happen because of a character's thoughtless choices or poor behavior.
- Seeks to keep real human beings from making costly mistakes.
- Often uses animals that speak and act like human beings.