

# GENRES



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**Definition of a Genre** – a category used to classify literary and other works, usually by technique or content. The novel, the short story and the lyric poems are all genres.



This symbol shows you how to find the genre using Destiny, the online library catalog.

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## Fiction Genres

### **Novel:**

This is a long work of fiction. In addition to developed plot, the book may also have one or more subplots, or independent related stories, as well as several themes or central messages, which the author is trying to convey. The fiction genres listed below are novels.

### **Adventure:**

The adventure story is one that has to have something happen. There has to be action and conflict within the story. The author has to have the reader identify with a character in the story in order to draw them into the novel.



Search Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Adventurers-Fiction](#), [Adventure Fiction](#), [Adventure Stories](#)

### **Fantasy:**

This genre is any story of the impossible – a tale that has events happening that could never happen in the natural or real world.



Search Subjects: [Fantasy](#) or [Fantasy Fiction](#)

### **Historical Fiction:**

This genre has stories set in the past and tries to recreate the aura of a time past by reconstructing characters, events, movements, ways of life and the spirit of days gone by.



Search Subjects: [Historical Fiction](#)

You may also subject search a specific time in history, then look for the word Fiction after the subject.

For example, [Civil War – Fiction](#)

### **Mystery:**

The plot revolves around some crime—a murder, theft, kidnapping, etc. There is usually a detective or investigator in this type of novel. Using clues from the story, the reader gradually discovers who has committed the crime in order to solve the mystery by the end of the story.



[Search Subjects: Mystery and Detective Stories, Mystery Fiction](#)

### **Realistic Fiction:**

This genre is fiction that deals with events that could really happen in life.



[Search Subjects: School Stories – Fiction, Dogs – Fiction, Divorce – Fiction, Humorous Fiction \(be sure it's not fantasy by looking at the book itself\). Many young adult novels are realistic fiction, dealing with problems that teenagers face at school and at home.](#)

### **Science Fiction:**

This fiction deals with the influence of real or imagined science applied to society and/or individuals. A subset of this is social science fiction, dealing with a society that could exist in the future or another time with different rules than our own (for example, *The Giver*).



[Search Subject: Science Fiction](#)

### **Short Story:**

This writing is a brief work of fiction. The plot deals with a central theme or idea, which deals with the conflict that the main character faces.



[Search Subject: Short Stories](#)

## **Genres Found in the Non-Fiction Section of the Library**

### **Drama:**

This is a story written to be performed by actors. However, one can also read the script, or written version and imagine the action to be performed.

[Most plays are located in the 812's in the non-fiction section.](#)

### **Folktales/Folklore:**

These are stories that have been passed down to us over the years by real people. There are many types of folktales, including fables, tall tales, myths and fairy tales.

[Folklore is found in the 398.2's in the non-fiction section.](#)

**Fables** are brief stories that teach a lesson or moral. The characters are usually animals, but they are given human characteristics or personalities. Example: *The Fox and the Grapes*

**Fairy Tales** usually have magical elements with characters that could be fairies, giants or elves. Many times magical deeds are performed. Example: *Cinderella*

**Tall Tales** are folktales that have a key element of exaggeration, such as Paul Bunyan and his giant blue ox named Babe.

**Myths** are stories that serve to explain some phenomenon of nature. Many incorporate gods and goddesses within the story. The story of King Midas is a myth.

### **Poetry:**

These books are those that include verses or poems. Poems may be humorous, serious, lyrical or narrative (tell a story). Many poems have a rhythm and meter and create imagery in the mind's eye. They are often found in the non-fiction area of the library.

Poetry is found in the 808's, 811's and 821's in the non-fiction section.

### **Biography/Autobiography:**

Biographies are histories of a person's life or parts of his/her life. A biography that is written by a person about his/her own life is called an autobiography. Sometimes biographies of several people are grouped together within one book. These books are classified as non-fiction.



Search by Subject using the last name of the person the biography is about. Example: Einstein, Albert  
All biographies are in the non-fiction section and are marked with a yellow biography sticker.

### **Informational:**

These are non-fiction books written by credible authors and explain how things work, tell facts about many different topics and shows us how to do various things.



Search by Subject: Use the term you want the book to be about.  
For example, use automobiles to read about cars. If you do not get enough books on your subject, use a keyword search to expand it.

### **Picture Books:**

These are books whose stories are written around one or two themes with the illustrations being an integral or important part of the book. They are usually associated with young children and are easy to read.

Picture Books are in a special section by themselves. The beginning call numbers are PIC FIC and all have a green protector over the spine label.

### **Graphic Novels:**

A graphic novel is a narrative story told in an art format similar to a comic book. These are bound more like normal library books rather than magazine-style comics.

Graphic Novels are located in a special section in the library near the Picture Books and Playaways. The call number will be in the 741's.



Search Subject: Graphic novel