

# COMMON Literary Genres

A genre is a category of literature. When filling out your reading log for a fiction book, always start with the genres listed in bold. If you want to be more specific, you can then combine the bolded genre with another. For example, SF/DYS or F/AS.

Fiction		
Genre	Code	Definition
<b>Fantasy</b>	F	Characters may be realistic or have magical powers (wizards or dragons); the conflict may be realistic or completely imaginary, but the story could never happen in real life
<b>Graphic Novel</b>	GR	Stories told using a series of pictures with callouts indicating what characters say
<b>Historical Fiction</b>	HF	Stories that take place in the past; they are based on real historical events, but they come from the author's imagination
<b>Realistic Fiction</b>	RF	Stories with realistic characters and a highly believable conflict
<b>Science Fiction</b>	SF	A type of fiction that uses science and technology (futuristic machinery or time travel); the events and characters in these stories could happen in real life but in the future
Animal Stories	AS	Stories where an animal is the main character
Drama	DR	Stories written as a scripts to be performed on stage, for television, or for film
Dysfunctional Society	DYS	Stories about alternative social structures that have problems; often, but not always, set in the future
Horror	H	Stories designed to frighten or scare the reader
Humor	HU	Stories where the main purpose is to be funny or entertain
Mystery/Detective Story	M/D	Stories about solving a crime or mystery
Poetic Novel	PN	Stories told in a poetic format rather than prose
Short Story Collection	SSC	A collection of short stories by written by one or more authors
Sports Story	SP	Stories that focus on characters participating in sports
Traditional Literature	TL	Stories that are passed down orally, including folktales, fairy tales, fables, legends, and myths from different cultures
Nonfiction		
Autobiography/Memoir	A/M	The person tells the story of his or her own life
Biography	B	The author tells the story of a real person's life
Informational	I	Texts that provide factual information to readers

\*REMEMBER: use the **genre code** when completing your reading/writing log.