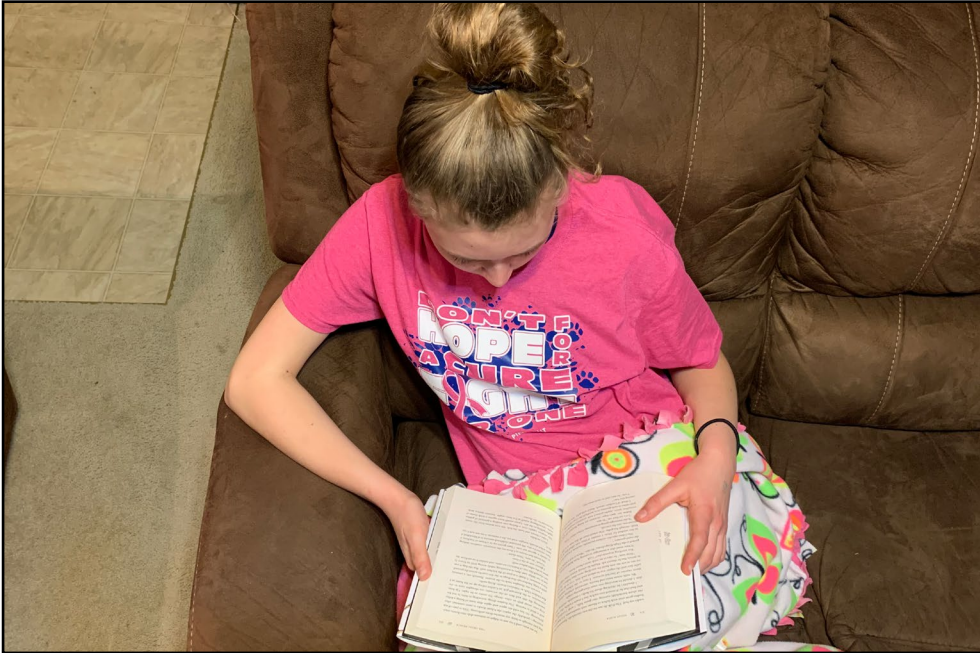




# Reading Challenge: Exploring Literary Genres



Reading provides many avenues for discovery and enjoyment. Many different types of books can be found in public and school libraries, bookstores, on-line and within reading apps. Webster Dictionary defines “genre” as a category of literary composition characterized by a particular style, form or content. Through this challenge, you will be encouraged to explore and discover the many genres of books that are available on bookshelves around the world. Your goal is to understand that genres can be a common language, connecting your literary voyage to someone else.

## Inspire Kids to Do

### Skill Building

- Seek out interesting books that you will enjoy reading. Explore the different literary genres.
- Learn how to use a library and its many services.

### Goals

- Read and experience a wide variety of literary genres.
- Ask your school/public librarian to help find a new book genre.
- Explore a school/public library to learn where different genres are located.
- Complete a book scavenger hunt identifying titles of books from different genres.

### Project Ideas

- Create an exhibit highlighting different genres you have read.
- Complete a book report from the nonfiction genre.
- Read an excerpt from a new genre at county/district 4-H Club Day.

### Self-Evaluation Before

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

- 1 = not at all
- 2 = a little
- 3 = a lot

#### I know how to ...

- Find different genres in the library ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Define a literary genre ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Share about books
- I read ..... 1 - 2 - 3

### Starting Out

- Talk with a teacher or librarian about different types of genres.
- Select and read books from three different genres.
- Identify four books from each of the genres you have explored.
- Explore books selected for national and international awards (for example, the Caldecott Award).

### Learning More

- Become comfortable with harder reading levels and other genres.
- Select a book genre and prepare a poster or display.
- Read a variety of books selected for national and international awards.
- Create a YouTube video that highlights books, by genre, available at your local library.
- Lead a book drive for a library to expand select literary genre collections.

### Expanding Horizons

- Start a book club discussion for teens at your library to introduce new genres to peers.
- Create an “Explore Literary Genres” challenge for youth.
- Host an “Explore Literary Genres” reading at your school/public library.
- Work with a school or public librarian to create a virtual tour of the library, highlighting various literary genres.

# Reading Challenge: Exploring Literary Genres

Challenge Instructions	Helpful Tips	Leadership	Curriculum and Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore literary genres by reading the resource on definitions of children's literature genres (p. 3).</li> <li>Visit with your librarian to identify books you can read in other genres.</li> <li>Watch the video "Exploring Children's Literary Genres" here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsHz-3KosKLI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsHz-3KosKLI</a></li> <li>Create an entry for the fair.</li> </ul> <p><b>When finished, please visit:</b> <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4H-Challenge">www.tinyurl.com/KS4H-Challenge</a> to tell us what you learned. Thanks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your teacher and/or school/public librarian to assist you in selecting books to expand your knowledge of literary genres.</li> <li>Look for special displays in school/public libraries introducing new books.</li> <li>Check local thrift shops and garage sales to purchase books.</li> <li>Visit a Carnegie Library to find nonfiction books about the area you live in.</li> </ul>	<p><i>(Suggested for Intermediate and Advanced Levels.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer to lead an after school reading program at a library.</li> <li>Volunteer at your school/public library.</li> <li>Create a story walk at your school, library, or fair featuring a favorite children's book.</li> </ul> <p>Using social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record a book review.</li> <li>Create a "how to" video about something you have learned through reading.</li> </ul>	<p>To learn more visit the Kansas 4-H Reading Project page at <a href="http://www.Kansas4-H.org">www.Kansas4-H.org</a> 4-H Reading Project (4H988)</p> <p>Additional Leader Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start a Reading Buddies Club for grade school students that encourages and explores different book genres.</li> <li>Host a Reading Hour for youth at a local library.</li> <li>Prepare a game (e.g., Bingo) and match with reading books on card.</li> </ul>

## Life Skills Learned (check all that apply)

- Positive Self-Concept
- Inquiring Mind
- Concern for Community
- Sound Decision-Making
- Healthy Interpersonal Relationships

## Share

- Host a "Book Tasting" to explore genres with others.
- Volunteer at a library to give tours of different areas.
- Present a project talk at a club meeting discussing literary genres.
- Assist the local librarian with the summer reading program.

## Evaluate Your Experiences!

What did you learn about literary genres? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important for young readers to read a variety of literary genres? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could categorize a new type of reading genre, how would you do that and what would you name it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain the different types of literary genres in a format that beginning readers could understand. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**To complete the Challenge,** take a selfie while doing the activity. Upload the photo and take the survey about your Challenge experience. [www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge](http://www.tinyurl.com/KS4HChallenge)

## Local Contact Information

## Self-Evaluation After

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

- 1 = not at all
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### I know how to ...

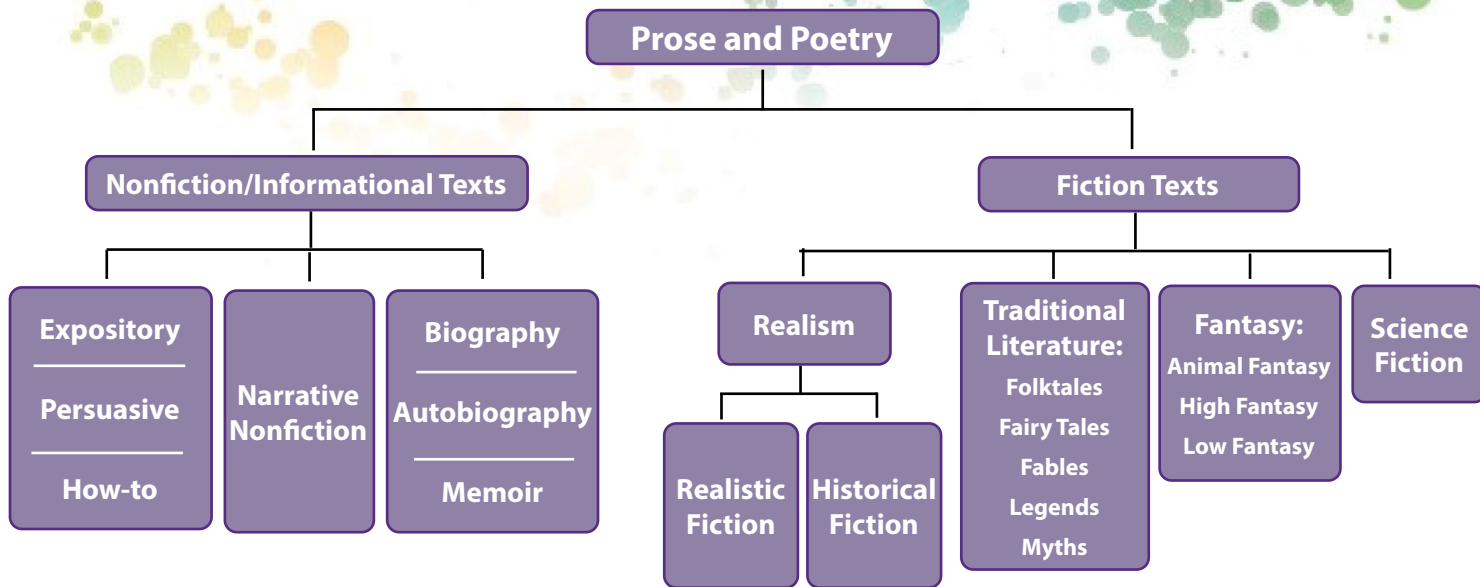
- Find different genres in the library ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Define a literary genre ..... 1 - 2 - 3
- Share about books I read ..... 1 - 2 - 3

## Kansas Clover Classroom

Adapted from NW 4-H Advisory Challenge created by Kathryn George, 4-H Volunteer Walnut Creek District, and Kim Naber, Post Rock District 4-H Program Coordinator



# Genre Chart



## Genre Definitions

1. **Nonfiction** or **Informational** texts present documented facts on any aspect of the physical, biological, or cultural world.
2. **Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs** provide detailed descriptions of a *person's life*.
3. **Realistic Fiction** portrays stories that could occur to characters in a *believable setting*. Realistic fiction often discusses issues that children confront in their *everyday lives*.
4. **Historical Fiction** features *fictionalized accounts of actual historical figures, events, or places*.
5. **Traditional Literature** features stories (*myths, legends, folktales, fairy tales, etc.*) passed down to teach lessons and impart wisdom.
6. **Fantasy** features *magical and/or supernatural* elements as part of the plot, setting, or theme.
7. **Science Fiction** features *futuristic* elements that are within the realm of scientific probability and/or the laws of nature.
8. **Poetry** is the artistic expression of ideas and feelings through *carefully selected words* that may or may not be *rhythmical or rhyming*.

More information about genres can be found at: [guides.library.appstate.edu/childrensliterature](https://guides.library.appstate.edu/childrensliterature)

Source: Fountas, I.C. & Pinnell, G.S. (2012). *Genre Study: Teaching with Fiction and Nonfiction Books*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann.

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