Genre and Subgenre

Categories of Literature
4 Main Genres

1. **Nonfiction**: writing that is true
2. **Fiction**: imaginative or made up writing
3. **Drama**: a play or script
4. **Poetry**: verse & rhythmic writing with imagery
Fiction Subgenres

- **Fantasy**: has monsters, magic, or characters with superpowers.

- **Science Fiction**: based on impact of science, either actual or imagined. Set in the future or on other planets, has aliens, robots, and/or futuristic technology.
Fiction Subgenres

• **Horror**: frightfully shocking, terrifying, or horrible. Creates a feeling of fear in both the characters and the reader.

• **Mystery**: deals with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets. Anything that is kept secret or remains unexplained or unknown.
Fiction Subgenres

- **Historical Fiction**: set in the past and based on real people and/or events

- **Realistic Fiction**: has no elements of fantasy; could be true but is not
Fiction Subgenres

- **Folklore/Folktale**: usually has an “unknown” author or will be “retold” or “adapted” by the author
  - Fable
  - Mythology
  - Tall tale
  - Legend
  - Fairytale
Folklore Subgenres

- **Fable**: short story with personified animals and a moral
  - **Personified**: given the traits of people
  - **Moral**: lesson or message of a fable

- **Mythology**: has gods/goddesses and usually accounts for the creation of something
Folklore Subgenres (continued)

Tall Tale:
- Set in the Wild West, the American frontier
- Main characters skills/size/strength is greatly exaggerated (hyperbole)
- Exaggeration is humorous

Legend:
- Based on a real person or place
- Facts are stretched beyond nonfiction
- Exaggerated in a serious way
Folklore Subgenres (continued)

Fairytale: has magic and/or talking animals.
• Often starts with “Once upon a time...”
• Like fantasy but much older
• Often has a human main character

• Fables also have talking animals, but fables are VERY short
Elements of Poetry

• **Prosody**: meter, rhythm, & tone
• **Sound**: Rhyme, assonance, alliteration, & consonance
• **Form**: Lines & Stanza
Nonfiction Subgenres

• **Informational:** explains something that is actual, real life, & contains facts.
  Ex.) textbooks, magazines, newspapers

• **Essay:** a short literary composition that reflects the author’s point of view. Based on a particular theme or subject. (argumentative or narrative)
  Ex.) Mrs. Lust writes an essay about eating fast food and how it can have harmful affects on your body.
Nonfiction Subgenres

• **Speech**: spoken communication; ability to express one’s thoughts & emotions by speech, sounds, & gesture. Delivered in the form of an address or lecture.

**Narrative**: is information based on fact that is presented in a format which tells a story.
Nonfiction Subgenres

- **Autobiography**: life story written by one’s self

- **Biography**: Writing about someone else’s life

**Latin Roots**

*Auto* = Self

*Bio* = Life

*Graphy* = Writing
**Drama**

Stories written in **script** form

**Example:**

**Teacher:** Everyone take notes.

**Student A:** I don’t have a pen.

**Student B:** You can borrow one from me!

**Subgenres**

**Play:** divided in acts & scenes with actors, sets, & costumes.

- **Comedy:** has a happy ending

- **Tragedy:** ends in **death** and sadness

**Reader’s Theater:** spoken presentation from literature (usually no costumes or sets).
Review

Nonfiction: persuasive writing, informational writing, autobiography, and biography

Fiction: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, & folklore (myth, legend, tall tale, fairy tale, and fable)

Drama: comedy and tragedy

Poetry: many subgenres (free verse, limerick, haiku, concrete, etc.)