

# Your Library Today



Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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## Different Strokes, Different Folks: Fiction Genres

There are different types of music, movies, and books. We can organize them into **genres**, identifying the characteristics they share. When we look at books, we need to ask:

1. Is a book about information and is it all true? If so, it is a nonfiction book.
2. Has an author used her imagination to create a story? If the story is not literally true, it is fiction.

Nonfiction books are kept together on library shelves, organized by the information they contain. Information books, nonfiction books get classified by **Dewey Decimal** numbers.

Fiction books are organized by author, arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. If you enjoy books by one author, you will probably enjoy more.

We can also think about the types of fiction stories authors create – genres. If we enjoy one type of story, one genre, we will probably enjoy more – even if they are by different authors.

Let's look at a simple way to think about genres – 5 types of fiction books. Almost any fiction book can be classified as one of the following:

**Realistic Fiction, Problem Novels.** Realistic fiction is about situations and problems that people live with and experience today. Some are about growing up, being a teenager, or the challenges that adults face. These books let us learn about how others manage their lives.

**Humor.** Don't we all like to laugh? Even the most serious story can contain humor. We can

### Nonfiction Books: Dewey Decimal System

Information books are organized by ideas – Dewey Numbers. Here are the ten general classifications for nonfiction books:

**100-199s – Who Am I?** Books About how we think and act. These are the things that make us human.

**200-299 – Who Made Me?** Book about God, religion and myths.

**300-399 – Who Is My Neighbor?** Folktales, fairytales, how people live.

**400-499 How Do I Communicate With My Neighbors?** Books about languages, writing, and grammar.

**500-599 – What Will I Talk About?** Natural sciences.

**600-699 – What Will I Do With Science?** Applied sciences.

**700-799 – Time For a Break!** Books about what we do for fun.

**800-899 – Back to Work: Literature.** Humor, plays, poems, short stories.

**900-999 – Who, What, Where, When, Why?** How Did Everything Happen? History, geography, biographies.

**000-099 – Everything Else - Room to Grow!** Computer software, general works, almanacs, and uncertain knowledge like aliens and monsters.

find humor in practically every situation. It can be an effective tool to deal with problems. Writers of any genres can use humor to develop situations and characters.

**Adventure, Sports, Mysteries, Supernatural, Horror.** Looking to "get away?" This genre is all about the pleasure reading and how we can "escape" through literature. For example, sports can be a metaphor for "the game of life." These forms of literature take readers out of his/her normal day-to-day existence and put them in extraordinary circumstances.

**Fantasy and Science Fiction.** Do you like to see an author create an exciting world unlike anything anyone has seen? Fantasy writers get to make up all the rules. Perhaps you prefer to stretch your imagination within the world as it could be. Science fiction stays within reasonable boundaries. A precise definition of these two types of

books is difficult, because these genres are related. To enjoy either one, we need to accept the author's story, suspending any disbelief. Then, these books are fun.

**Historical Fiction.** Historical fiction presents the past in a manner that connects with readers on a personal and emotional level. By nature, gets readers involved with history in exciting and interesting ways. The characters, although not real historical figures, behave appropriately for the historical setting.

**Poetry, Drama, Short Stories.** Perhaps due to the popularity of "spoken word" and rap music, poetry books have become very. Short stories are also "hot" now. The stories can be highly entertaining while representing a more manageable read than a novel. For busy readers, short stories have a lot to offer.