Genre

Defining Genre

Novel

- Longer
- Plot, character, setting, point of view, theme
- Plot includes subplots and more than one conflict and sometimes more than one theme
- Some novels may have related or independent stories and conflicts within the one main plot
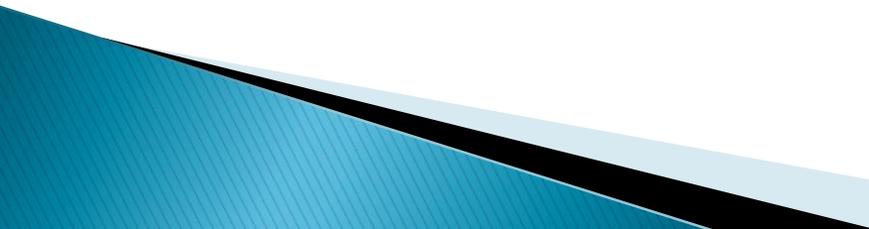- Shorter than a novel but longer than a short story? = Novellas

Short Story

- Brief
- Plot, character, setting, point of view, theme
- Focus: one main plot, one main conflict, one theme, read in one sitting

Genres (fiction)

- Historical
- Science
- Fantasy
- Adventure
- Mystery
- Realistic
- Traditional
- Thriller

- **Short Stories and Novels** will take on the characteristics of any of these types of genres

Realistic Fiction

- Drawn from the imagination of the author and is very believable
- Represents the burdens, struggles, joys, and happenings of everyday life
- Themes of society, community, family, friendship, coming of age
- Use of dialogue and dialect (to represent real life/ real geographical influences/ everyday people/character's thoughts)

Fantasy Fiction

- Imagination of the author breaks free from reality
- Story takes place in a nonexistent and unreal world
- Unreal characters
- Scientific principals not yet discovered or supported by logic, math, science, real life
- Dialect – new vocabulary/terms to represent alternative world(s), new beings, imaginary lands

Historical Fiction

- Author's imagination is weaved around historical events, characters, settings, time periods
- The historical element plays a pivotal role in the story's theme and plot
- Use of dialect (to represent time period / geographical influences / real life)

Science Fiction

- Author's imagination is weaved around technology, and the impossible.
- Most Science Fiction explores the "What If?" question of our world, society, and culture (critical commentary).
- Modern day Science Fiction is filled with realistic and unrealistic characters/ but always believable plots.
- Modern day Science Fiction explores controversial issues (such as cloning, mental illness, political power/ control, interpersonal identity, social relations, etc).
- Elements of reality are weaved into the story!
- Dialect – new vocabulary/terms to represent alternative world(s) and new technologies
- Usually futurisitic

Mystery Fiction

- Characters are asked to solve a crime or puzzle or to discover and expose a secret
- The crime, puzzle, or secret is the driving force for the plot
- A sub-genre can be present(Realistic, Historical, Science, Fantasy Fiction), but the primary drive of the plot is through the solving of the mystery

Adventure Fiction

- The main characters go on an adventure that ultimately leads to self discovery and/or the resolution of the story's conflict
- Travel
- Can present as a sub-genre of Realistic, Historical, Science, Mystery, Thriller, etc.

Traditional Fiction

- Folklore
  - represents the beliefs and practices of a culture (carvings, pottery, writing, art, music, prayer, cooking traditions, etc.)
- Disseminated – passed down orally over generations
- Fables, **Tall Tales**, **Myths**, Legends, Folk Songs (b/c most are narrative)
- Use of dialect – idioms, vocabulary (phrases/ figures of speech), and accent
  - Accent: "Ya'll go over yonder and take cover before it starts raining cats and dogs."
    - DIALECT INCLUDES:
      - Ya'll – accent
      - Go Over Yonder – vocabulary
      - Raining Cats and Dogs – idiom

Thriller Fiction

- Suspense is the driving force for the plot
- Characters are usually placed in danger or cause danger
- A sub-genre of Realistic, Historical, Science, and Fantasy Fiction