

Tributary forms

1. Sketch

2. Yarn

3. Marchen

4. Fable.

Distinctness is not always preserved. Two or more traditional currents converge and a reader may have to refocus as various conventions flow together.

Sketch

Primary emphasis is on what some thing, person or place is like, not on what happens.

A sketch is descriptive. Fred was an unhappy chap with a melancholic face.. is a sketch.

Fred packed up and left his village to seek his fortune...there is a line of action, having an anecdotal core and it develops into a tale, into a yarn

Sketch proper is virtually static. In 1820 Washington Irving published his Sketch Book.

But the durable pieces in it like Rip van Winkle are actually yarns.

A sketch has play of thought, weaving of characters, a faithful exhibition of scenes in common life.

Several sketches were produced in 1820s and 30s, regional vignettes of local scenery, customs and the like.

At the same time in England something similar is to be found in the essayists like Charles Lamb. Purpose of South sea House, Oxford in the Vacation is to limn a scene in the memory.

Other examples, Walter Pater's 'A Child in the House'...contemplative, interest in personality

Orwell's shooting an Elephant'.. describes a situation

Earlier 18th century periodical writers produced sketch like pieces. Addison and Steele depicted fictitious personages like Sir Roger de Coverley in The Spectator essays without involving them in substantial events.

A mere landscape essay or pen portrait cannot be a short story, but there is usually a movement towards a narrative dimension in a sketch.

Read Kushwant Singh's Portrait of a Lady

James Thurber's University Days.

Yarn

An elaborate anecdote or a series of anecdotes

Narration: colloquial and casual tone appropriate to a raconteur working in oral tradition.

Sailor's slang: rope making became a metaphor story spinning..yarn

Implies the atmosphere of foc's'le..part of the ship or campfire or bar room. Story telling to a group of people

Implicit norm naturalistic unlike the supernatural of fairy tales.. true even of extravagant tales.. tall tale.

Highly improbable.. but related in a matter of fact manner.

Read Night of cyclone by RKN