
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

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1. What is literature?

Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit. The term is most commonly used to refer to words of the creative imagination including works of poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction. Literature is the art of written works. It is the body of written works of a language period or culture. Literature is published in written works in a particular style or particular subject. Literature is the mirror of life. Our lives and all the subjects that are related to our lives can be the subject matters or elements of literature. So we can get the touch with our lives through literature.

2. Briefly discuss the major genres of literature

The major forms of literature can be written in various genres. Genre is a category characterized by similarities in style, or subject matter.

Genres of literature are important to learn about. The two main categories separating the different genres of literature are:

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- ❖ **Fiction** (nonfactual descriptions and events invented by the author)
- ❖ **Non Fiction** (a communication in which descriptions and events are understood to be factual).

Fiction

- **Drama** is the genre of literature that's subject for compositions is dramatic art in the way it is represented. This genre is stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.
- **Poetry** is verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that evokes an emotional response from the reader. The art of poetry is rhythmical in composition, written or spoken. This genre of literature is for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts.
- **Fantasy** is the forming of mental images with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.
- **Humor** is the faculty of perceiving what is amusing or comical. Fiction full of fun, fancy, and excitement which meant to entertain. This genre of literature can actually be seen and contained within all genres.

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- **Fable** is a story about supernatural or extraordinary people usually in the form of narration that demonstrates a useful truth. In Fables, animals often speak as humans that are legendary and supernatural tales.
- **Fairy Tales** or wonder tales are a kind of folktale or fable. Sometimes the stories are about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.
- **Science Fiction** is a story based on impact of potential science, either actual or imagined. Science fiction is one of the genres of literature that is set in the future or on other planets.
- **Short Story** is fiction of such briefness that is not able to support any subplots.
- **Realistic Fiction** is a story that can actually happen and is true to real life.
- **Folklore** are songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a person of “folk” that was handed down by word of mouth. Folklore is a genre of literature that is widely held, but false and based on unsubstantiated beliefs.
- **Historical Fiction** is a story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting.

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- **Horror** is an overwhelming and painful feeling caused by literature that is frightfully shocking, terrifying, or revolting. Fiction in which events evoke a feeling of dread in both the characters and the reader.
- **Tall Tale** is a humorous story with blatant exaggerations, swaggering heroes who do the impossible with an here of nonchalance.
- **Legend** is a story that sometimes of a national or folk hero. Legend is based on fact but also includes imaginative material.
- **Mystery** is a genre of fiction that deals with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets. Anything that is kept secret or remains unexplained or unknown.
- **Mythology** is a type of legend or traditional narrative. This is often based in part on historical events, that reveals human behavior and natural phenomena by its symbolism; often pertaining to the actions of the gods. A body of myths, as that of a particular people or that relating to a particular person.
- **Fiction in Verse** is full-length novels with plot, subplots, themes, with major and minor characters. Fiction of verse is one of the genres of literature in which the narrative is usually presented in blank verse form.

Non Fiction

- **Narrative Nonfiction** is information based on fact that is presented in a format which tells a story.
- **Essays** are a short literary composition that reflects the author's outlook or point. A short literary composition on a particular theme or subject, usually in prose and generally analytic, speculative, or interpretative.
- A **Biography** is a written account of another person's life.
- An **Autobiography** gives the history of a person's life, written or told by that person. Often written in Narrative form of their person's life.
- **Speech** is the faculty or power of speaking; oral communication; ability to express one's thoughts and emotions by speech, sounds, and gesture. Generally delivered in the form of an address or discourse
- **Textbook** - Authoritative and detailed factual description of a topic.

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- **Reference book** - Dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, almanac, atlas, etc.

REFERENCES: *Oxford English Dictionary, Dictionary.com, springerlink.com, Wikipedia*