

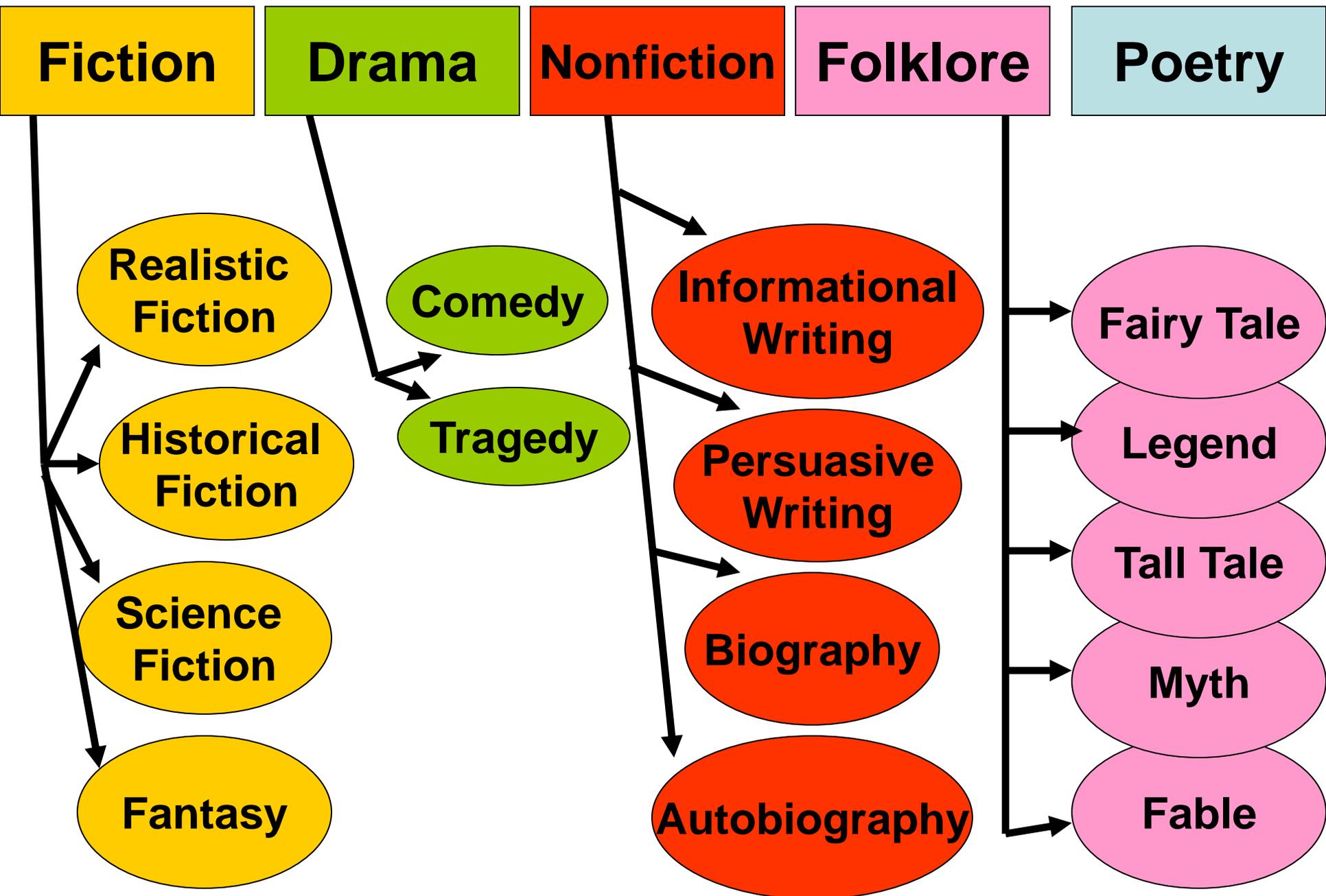
Genre and Subgenre

Categories of Writing

Genre = Category

All writing falls into a category or **genre**.

We will use **5 main genres**
and **15 subgenres**.



5 Main Genres

1. **Nonfiction**: writing that is true
2. **Fiction**: imaginative or made up writing
3. **Folklore**: stories once passed down orally
4. **Drama**: a play or script
5. **Poetry**: writing concerned with the beauty of language

Nonfiction Subgenres

- **Persuasive Writing**: tries to influence the reader
- **Informational Writing**: explains something
- **Autobiography**: life story written by oneself
- **Biography**: Writing about someone else's life

Latin Roots

Auto = Self

Bio = Life

Graphy = Writing

Fiction Subgenres

- **Historical Fiction**: set in the past and based on real people and/or events
- **Science Fiction**: has aliens, robots, futuristic technology and/or space ships
- **Realistic Fiction**: has no elements of fantasy; could be true but isn't
- **Fantasy**: has monsters, magic, or characters with superpowers

Folklore Subgenres

Folklore/Folktales usually has an “unknown” author or will be “retold” or “adapted” by the author.

- **Fable**: short story with **personified** animals and a **moral**

Personified: given the traits of people

Moral: lesson or message of a fable

- **Myth**: 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**
- Exaggeration is humorous

Legend

- **Based on a real person or place**
- Facts are stretched beyond **nonfiction**
- Exaggerated in a serious way

Folklore Subgenres (continued)

Fairytales: 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

What are **Dramas**?

Stories written in script form.

Example

Teacher: Everyone take notes.

Student A: I don't have a pen.

Drama Subgenres

Comedy: has a happy ending.

Tragedy: ends in death and sadness.

Review

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

Fiction: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, and fantasy

Folklore: myth, legend, tall tale, fairy tale, and fable

Drama: comedy and tragedy

Poetry: many subgenres we will not study...

Practice

Looking for participation, completion and accuracy.

1. On a separate sheet of paper, number one through ten.
2. A student will shake the carton and read that numbered piece of writing.
3. On your own sheet of paper you will write the genre and subgenre.
4. **As a group you will decide the best answer based on individual answers and textual evidence. Have one person record the “group” answer. We will be looking for the “genre experts!” –the group to finish first with the best answers.**

1

“Dogs and Cats” by Bob Brady

A five paragraph essay where the student Bob Brady compares and contrasts dogs and cats. He provides a lot of information about both.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

2

Your Science Textbook

Your science textbook contains much of the human knowledge of Earth and the universe.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

3

In My Own Words by Eva Perón

Eva Perón writes the story of her life from childhood to her rise in political power in Argentina.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

4

They Came from the Sun by Tom Mitchell

The story of a race of aliens that come to enslave the residents of Earth with their advanced weaponry. Only one teacher can stop them, but is it too late?

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

5

“The Ant & The Grasshopper” Adapted by Chad Peplum

The really short story of an Ant who works hard all summer to prepare for winter and a Grasshopper who just plays. Winter comes and the Grasshopper freezes to death. The moral is “prepare today for tomorrow’s needs.”

6

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

It is the fictional story of an African American family living in Flint, Michigan who go to their grandmother's home in Birmingham, Alabama in the year 1963. The story is told around the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, an actual event in history.

7

“Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind” retold
by Tom Cranes

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind was the toughest girl in the wild West. Right when she was born, she looked up and said, "Hello! I'm Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind! And I am amazing!" She once made a lasso out of live rattlesnakes, and then she caught a tornado with that lasso.

8

“Going, Going ... Green!” By Angela Gaimari

In this essay, Gaimari tries to convince people to do small things to help the environment. She gives readers many suggestions on how to live more eco-friendly and asks readers to make the change.

9

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling

The first book in the Harry Potter series. Harry goes to wizard school and becomes a Gryffindor. He learns to play quidditch, a soccer like game played on flying broomsticks, and he fights an evil within the school with his newfound magic powers.

10

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

In his first year of middle school, the main character Greg Heffley deals with “cooties,” learning to wrestle, Halloween, acting in the school play, and other problems that many middle school students face.

Answers

1. Nonfiction ; Informational Writing
2. Nonfiction ; Informational Writing
3. Nonfiction ; Autobiography
4. Fiction ; Science Fiction
5. Folktale ; Fable
6. Fiction ; Historical Fiction
7. Folktale ; Tall Tale
8. Nonfiction ; Persuasive Essay
9. Fiction ; Fantasy
10. Fiction ; Realistic Fiction