Story Genres

Expository Non-Fiction

Explains information and ideas
Uses illustration with captions, labels, diagrams
Creates sections with headings
Ex: Comets, Anasazi Indians

Fables

1-2 main characters
Outsmarts others
Lesson learned
Ex: The Tortoise and The Hare

Fantasy

Invented world and characters
Anything can happen
Ex: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Informational Narrative/Fiction

Presents facts and information

Realistic Fiction

Characters and events are like real people and events
Main character has a problem
Contains dialogue, details, descriptive language
Ex: The Oxcart Man

Poetry

Uses images, figurative language, sensory details
Expresses emotion and ideas with minimal words (uses simile, etc.)
Creates rhythm
Ex: Where the Sidewalk Ends, Something Big Has Been Here

Historical Fiction

Historical events (past events from 1 time period)
Portrays as if characters are real
Setting as important at main events
Ex: The Cabin Faced West

Fairy Tale

"Once upon a time"
Main character uses magic to solve problems
Events occur in 3's
Ex: Cinderella

Folk Tale

Story passed down over time
"Once, long ago.."
Animals behave/talk as humans
Presents a lesson
Ex: Pelé, Raven, Coyote stories

Tall Tale

Main character is clever, "bigger than life"; defeats a powerful foe
Uses humor and imagination
Main character creates lakes, canyons, etc.
Ex; Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill

Native American Tales/Legends

Story passed down over time
Clever animals sow how e world changed ("and that is how…")
Ex. How Raven Stole the Moon

Science Fiction

Set in space, inside the earth, etc.
Uses science, invention and fantasy
Characters achieve success through new or invented technology
Ex: Spy Kid, Star Wars

Mystery

Hidden problem, "red herrings", false leads
Main character must uncover the truth
Ex: Nate the Great, Cam Jensen

Add-on-Story

1 character has a problem
1 by 1 characters arrive to help solve the problem
Together they solve the problem or create a surprise ending
Ex: Stone Soup, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie