

COURSE TOPIC: READING: BOOK GENRES

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(<https://reference.yourdictionary.com/books-literature/different-types-of-books.html>)

List of Book Genres

The two types of books can be further divided into many different subtypes, called [genres](#). Here are some of the different genres and types of books available today.

Fiction (28)	Nonfiction (28)
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Action and adventure	Art/architecture
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Alternate history	Autobiography
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Anthology	Biography
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Chick lit	Business/economics
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Children's	Crafts/hobbies
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Classic	Cookbook
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Comic book	Diary
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Coming-of-age	Dictionary
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Crime	Encyclopedia
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Drama	Guide
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Fairytale	Health/fitness
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Fantasy	History
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Graphic novel	Home and garden
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Historical fiction	Humor
Horror	Journal
Mystery	Math
Paranormal romance	Memoir
Picture book	Philosophy
Poetry	Prayer
Political thriller	Religion, spirituality, and new age
Romance	Textbook
Satire	True crime
Science fiction	Review
Short story	Science
Suspense	Self help
Thriller	Sports and leisure
Western	Travel
Young adult	True crime

Popular Nonfiction Book Genres Explained

These are five of the most popular nonfiction genres according to book sales.

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Food

Nonfiction food books include cookbooks, but more modern food books encompass everything from specific cooking elements and ingredients to specialized diets. You'll find classic cookbooks with recipes and books that are part memoir/autobiography and part cookbook. *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* by Julia Child is an example of a popular food book.

History

Nonfiction history books include any books that lay out the known facts about a particular, time, culture, or event in history. *Killing England* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard is an example of a popular history book.

Memoir

Memoirs are one type of autobiography. In this type of book, the author puts emphasis on specific moments or events that brought about specific life lessons. A popular example of a memoir is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

Politics

Political nonfiction books can include books written by career politicians, books that explore political systems, or books that discuss the politics of a certain period. Political [satires](#) are one type of political book that make fun of some sort of person or institution. *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole is an example of a political satire.

Self-Help

Self-help books aim to aid the reader in improving some part of her life. Common topics covered by self-help books include relationships, finances, and mental health. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey is a classic example of a popular self-help book.

Popular Fiction Book Genres Explained

Most adult fiction is categorized as general fiction, while a large portion of children's books are classified as fiction. The popularity of genres changes over time, but these genres rarely lose popularity.

Young Adult

Young adult fiction is written for readers ages 12 to 18. They incorporate the typical reading level and worldview of tweens and teens in this age group. *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins is an example of popular young adult fiction.

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Children's Books

Children's fiction is often called children's literature or juvenile fiction. Books in this genre are written with readers under the age of 12 in mind. Types of children's books include picture books and chapter books. Classic Dr. Seuss books like *Green Eggs and Ham* are examples of children's fiction.

Crime Thriller

Thrillers are suspenseful stories, which makes a crime thriller a book that has a crime as its main subject while keeping readers on edge. The main characters are often fighting for justice. John Grisham is a well-known crime thriller author.

Literary Fiction

If a work of fiction doesn't fit into any of the other available genres, it can be labeled as literary fiction. These books are usually character-driven and introspective. They are sometimes called serious fiction because of their tone. Stephen Crane's *The Open Boat* is an example of literary fiction.

Science Fiction

Also known as Sci-Fi, science fiction deals with the imagined future in terms of science or technology advances. This genre includes things like time travel, outer space, and intelligent life. *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells is a classic example of science fiction.

Explore Different Book Types or Books

Now that you know more about the different types of genres, you can continue exploring other works of fiction and nonfiction. You may even find a new favorite! If you can't choose one favorite genre to read, consider reading [short stories](#) or [an anthology](#). You might even want to crack open [a novella](#).