



Genres

Genres classify written text according to their structural characteristics; some befitting to become fiction or non-fiction, fantasy or fact, myth or poetry. Every book, every tale is of some genre. The tale of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* is that of folktale, fairytale, fantasy and adventure. For only in such a tale can one find foreign lands, genies and magic.

Kentucky English and Language Arts: Arts and Humanities
Reading (1.2) Arts and Humanities (2.24, 2.25) Grades 4-6
Academic Expectations:

- 1.2 Students make sense of the variety of materials they read.
- 2.24 Students have knowledge of major works of art, music, and literature and appreciate creativity and the contributions of the arts and humanities.

Ohio: Language Arts > Reading Applications > Literary Text Standard
Benchmark(s) Grades 4-6

F. Identify similarities and differences of various literary forms and genres.

Objective

Students will:

- Understand the varying genres of literary text.

Assessment

Students will be able to:

- Define general characteristics of varying literary genres.
- Identify varying literary genre by book title and other text features.
- Determine the literary genre of the production of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*, and give evidence to support their conclusion.

Sample selected response items to gauge student understanding:

1. Explain what is meant by the terms, "literary form."
Answer: The general makeup of written text based on its text structure, text features and format of language use.
2. Genre is an established class or category of artistic composition or literature. True or False.
Answer: True
3. Of the following titles which indicates the genre of fiction?
 - a. The Life of Thomas Edison
 - b. The Case of the Stolen Clock
 - c. Webster's Dictionary
 - d. Living in the Arctic

Answer: b. The Case of the Stolen Clock

Vocabulary

- Genre
- Characteristics

Material

- Poster board
- Markers
- Library Access
- Handouts

Activity

Genre Brainstorm

Teacher will:

1. Introduce the concept of “literary genre” through the reading of first lines only from a variety of books. Have students decide the type of literary text each line is taken from—fantasy, mystery, informational, poetry, biography, etc. Confirm correct choices and text.
2. Define “genre” as literature that is categorized based on certain elements or “characteristics.” Explain how book titles and book text structures provide clues to a book’s genre.
3. Instruct students to brainstorm a list of additional genres, and record for whole class viewing.
4. Pair students and have each pair develop the defining characteristics of a specific assigned genre for sharing with classmates. (See Teacher Resources>Handout, “Sample Genre List”).
5. Distribute Handout, “Genre Scavenger Hunt,” to students. Review directions and have students complete the assignment to locate the book titles and align to the correct genres.
6. Have students reflect on the production of *Disney’s Aladdin, Jr.* Challenge students to identify evidence that confirms *Aladdin, Jr.* aligning to certain genre characteristics (fantasy, adventure, and folk/fairytale).
7. Have students share their evidence and conclusions with detail for how characteristics of the chosen genre were represented in the play.
8. Extend the activity through student creation of a physical model depicting one characteristic of *Aladdin, Jr.’s* genre.



***Language Arts
Handout: Genre Scavenger Hunt**

Name _____

Directions:

Locate the following books in the library. Skim through the book text, the book's cover summary and the title to determine to what genre the book aligns.

Book Title and Author	Genre
1. <u>The Pinball's</u>	
2. <u>Sarah, Plain and Tall</u>	
3. <u>The Dictionary of Idioms</u>	
4. <u>The Diary of Anne Frank</u>	
5. <u>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</u>	
6. <u>The Guinness Book of World Records</u>	
7. <u>Eyewitness Books</u>	
8. <u>Fahrenheit 451</u>	

Directions:

Scavenge the library to discover additional books for the following genres. Write down the title and author of found books under the appropriate genre category.

1. Horror
2. Realistic Fiction
3. Reference book
4. Historical Fiction
5. Fairy Tale

***Language Arts
Handout: Sample Genre List**



Fiction

- Realistic Fiction
- Fantasy
- Mystery
- Fairy Tales
- Folk Tales
- Tall Tales
- Parables
- Plays
- Historical Fiction
- Horror
- Picture Book
- Anthology

Non-fiction

- Biography
- Autobiography
- Atlases
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus
- Periodical
- Database