

## Genres of Children's Literature

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### Types of Books

- **Picture book:** Content is conveyed through the use of words and pictures in combination or through pictures alone.
  - Differs from an illustrated book because the pictures form an essential part of the book
- **Chapter book:** Story book for readers ages 7-10 where the story is communicated mainly through prose (not picture)
  - Chapter books for young readers typically contain illustrations, though the illustrations are not an essential part of the story

### Types of Picture Books

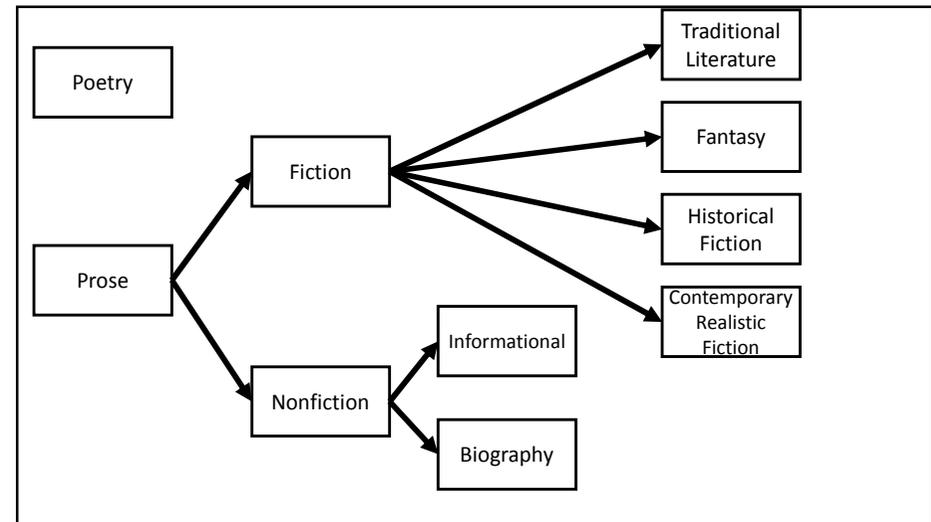
- **Board Books:** Use cardboard pages to survive wear and tear from small children
  - Designed for the youngest readers
- **Concept Books:** Introduce a theme such as the alphabet, counting, colors or shapes
- **Wordless Books:** Stories are told completely by the pictures
  - Having the child create a story by the pictures is a good emergent literacy activity

### Genre: Identifies the book by content

- **Prose:** Written in paragraphs
- **Poetry:** Written by lines and can include rhyme and/or rhythm
- **Fiction:** Created by the imagination
- **Nonfiction:** Based on fact
- **Biography:** Story of an actual person's life
- **Informational:** Factual information about the world

## Genre: Identifies the book by content

- **Fantasy:** Events, settings, or characters are outside the realm of possibility
- **Historical Fiction:** Set in a historical time period that combines authentic historical settings and facts with imaginary characters and plot
- **Contemporary Realistic Fiction:** Stories that could happen to people or animals
- **Traditional Literature:** Ancient stories or poems of a culture



## Poem

Sick, by Shel Silverstein

"I cannot go to school today,"  
Said little Peggy Ann McKay,  
"I have the measles and the mumps,  
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.  
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,  
I'm going blind in my right eye.  
My tonsils are as big as rocks,  
I've counted sixteen chicken pox  
And there's one more--that's seventeen,  
And don't you think my face looks green?  
My leg is cut--my eyes are blue--  
It might be instamatic flu.  
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,  
I'm sure that my left leg is broke--  
My hip hurts when I move my chin,  
My belly button's caving in,

My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained,  
My 'pendix pains each time it rains.  
My nose is cold, my toes are numb.  
I have a sliver in my thumb.  
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,  
I hardly whisper when I speak.  
My tongue is filling up my mouth,  
I think my hair is falling out.  
My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight,  
My temperature is one-o-eight.  
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,  
There is a hole inside my ear.  
I have a hangnail, and my heart is--what?  
What's that? What's that you say?  
You say today is. . . Saturday?  
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"