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DEFINITIONS OF GENRES

Main articles: Literary genre

GENRES

A genre is a specific type of music, film, or writing. Your favourite literary *genre* might be science fiction, & your favourite film *genre* might be horror flicks about cheerleaders.

In music, genre refers to musical style such as jazz, salsa or rock. In film or literature, the genre is determined by the subject, setting or plot of the story. When you are wandering around a book store, books are usually arranged by genre. Many genres, such as "mystery" or "fantasy," overlap in film and literature, while others, such as "romantic comedy" in film or "historical fiction" in books, are specific to one or the other.

Film genres are various forms or identifiable types, categories, classifications or groups of films that are recurring and have similar, familiar or instantly-recognizable patterns, syntax, filmic techniques or conventions - that include one or more of the following: settings (and props), content and subject matter, themes, mood, period, plot, central narrative events, motifs, styles, structures, situations, recurring icons (e.g., six-guns and ten-gallon hats in Westerns), stock characters (or characterizations), & stars. Many films are considered *hybrids* - they straddle several film genres.

By the end of the silent era, many of the main genres were established: the melodrama, the western, the horror film, comedies, & action-adventure films (from swashbucklers to war movies). Musicals were inaugurated with the era of the Talkies, and the genre of science-fiction films wasn't generally popularized until the 1950s. One problem with genre films is that they can become stale, cliché-ridden, & over-imitated. A traditional genre that has been reinterpreted, challenged, or subjected to scrutiny may be termed *revisionist*.

# Action Films

Action movies include the heart-pumping, high-energy scenes that get people talking long after the film has finished. Some typical elements of action movies include brawls, car chases, natural disasters, & martial arts.

Like some other genres, the plot of this type of film usually revolves around a battle between good and evil. The characters can range from everyday heroes and bad guys to high-tech robots & machines. Most big-budget films are action movies, simply because of the cost involved in putting these blockbuster scenes together.

### Examples of action movies include:

* X-Men
* The Matrix
* Fast and Furious

Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice – March 25, 2016

# Adventure

The adventure genre is based on story-telling. Often combined with at least one other genre such as action or science fiction, adventure films weave richly detailed settings together with a plot based on a journey or quest. Common themes in adventure movies include time travel , treasure hunting, historical time periods, and coming of age. These movies often contain a moral or social commentary.

### Some examples of adventure films are:

Star Wars

Pirates of the Caribbean

The Chronicles of Narnia

# Comedy

Any movie that is designed to make people laugh falls under the comedy umbrella. Whether it's an animated movie suitable for the whole family or a bawdy adult film, if it's meant to be funny, it's a comedy. There are many sub-genres of comedy, including romantic comedies, physical or slapstick comedy, & dark comedy. In this genre the plot is usually light, with the focus on the actors and their ability to “amuse” their audiences.

The following films are considered comedies:

* Caddyshack
* The 40-Year*-*Old Virgin
* Home Alone

# Crime

A crime story is about a crime that is being committed or was committed. It can also be an account of a criminal's life. It often falls into the action or adventure genres.

* Courtroom drama
* Detective story
* Gangster
* Gentleman thief

# Drama

Drama is a genre of narrative fiction (or semi-fiction) intended to be more serious than humorous in tone, focusing on in-depth development of realistic characters who must deal with realistic emotional struggles. A drama is commonly considered the opposite of a comedy, but may also be considered separate from other works of some broad genre, such as a fantasy.

The Revenant – December 2015 – Director: John Muller-Fritzgerald

# Fantasy

A fantasy story is about magic or supernatural forces, rather than technology, though it often is made to include elements of other genres, such as science fiction elements, for instance computers or DNA, if it happens to take place in a modern or future era. Depending on the extent of these other elements, the story may or may not be considered to be a "hybrid genre" series; for instance, even though the Harry Potter series canon includes the requirement of a particular gene to be a wizard, it is referred to only as a fantasy series.

**Film Genre Rating**

Star Wars 7 Sci-Fi Big Film

Batman vs Superman Action, Adventure, Fantasy Big Film

Gods of Egypt Adventure Big Film

Goosebumps Fantasy, Teen Big Film

The Adventurer Family, Fantasy Medium Film

Cinderella Adventure, Family Big Film

Wer Action, Fantasy Small Film

# Historical fiction

The genre historical fiction includes stories that are about the past. To distinguish historical fiction from any fiction that is written about an era in the past, the criteria that the book must have been written about a time that occurred in a historical context in relation to the author of the book. The criteria that the story be set before the middle of the previous century are sometimes added. Historical fiction stories include historical details and include characters that fit into the time period of the setting, whether or not they are real historical people.

# Horror

An Illustration of Poe's 'The Raven' by Gustave Doré

A horror story is told to deliberately scare or frighten the audience, through suspense, violence or shock. H. P. Lovecraft distinguishes two primary varieties in the "Introduction" to *Supernatural Horror in Literature*: 1) Physical Fear or the "mundanely gruesome" & 2) the true Supernatural Horror story or the "Weird Tale". The supernatural variety is occasionally called "dark fantasy", since the laws of nature must be violated in some way, thus qualifying the story as "fantastic".

* Ghost story:
* Monster
  + Giant monsters: A story about a giant monster, big enough to destroy buildings. Some such stories are about two giant monsters fighting each other, a genre known as *kaiju* in Japan, which is famous for such works after the success of such films & franchises such as *Godzilla*.
* Werewolf fiction