

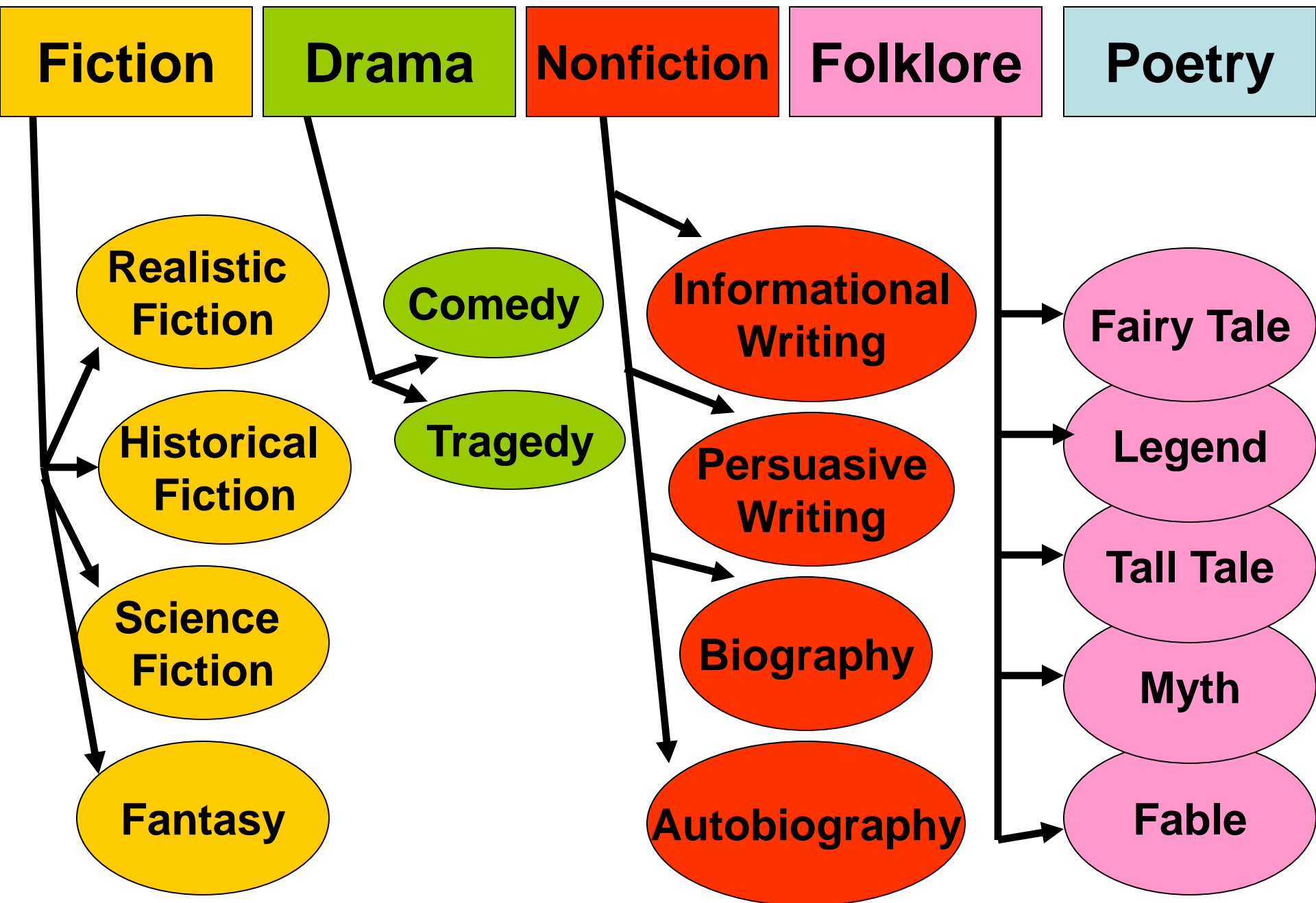
# **Genre and Subgenre**

## **Categories of Writing**

# Genre = Category

All writing falls into a category or **genre**.

We will use **5 main genres**  
and **15 subgenres**.



# 5 Main Genres

1. **Nonfiction**: writing that is true
2. **Fiction**: imaginative or made up writing
3. **Folklore**: stories once passed down orally
4. **Drama**: a play or script
5. **Poetry**: writing concerned with the beauty of language

# Nonfiction Subgenres

- **Persuasive Writing**: tries to influence the reader
- **Informational Writing**: explains something
- **Autobiography**: life story written by oneself
- **Biography**: Writing about someone else's life
- **Memoir**: public portion of the author's life as it relates to a person, historic event, or thing

## Latin Roots

**Auto** = Self

**Bio** = Life

**Graphy** = Writing

# Fiction Subgenres

- **Historical Fiction**: set in the past and based on real people and/or events
- **Science Fiction**: has aliens, robots, futuristic technology and/or space ships
- **Realistic Fiction**: has no elements of fantasy; could be true but isn't
- **Fantasy**: has monsters, magic, or characters with superpowers

# Folklore Subgenres

**Folklore/Folktales** usually has an “unknown” author or will be “retold” or “adapted” by the author.

- **Fable**: short story with **personified** animals and a **moral**

**Personified**: given the traits of people

**Moral**: lesson or message of a fable

- **Myth**: has gods/goddesses and usually accounts for the creation of something

# Folklore Subgenres (continued)

## Tall Tale

- Set in the Wild West, the American frontier
- **Main characters skills/size/strength is greatly exaggerated**
- Exaggeration is humorous

## Legend

- **Based on a real person or place**
- Facts are stretched beyond **nonfiction**
- Exaggerated in a serious way



# Folklore Subgenres (continued)

**Fairytales:** has magic and/or talking animals.

- Often starts with “Once upon a time...”
- Like **fantasy** but **much older**
- Often has a human main character
- **Fables** also have talking animals, but fables are VERY short

# What are **Dramas**?

**Stories written in script form.**

## **Example**

**Teacher:** Everyone take notes.

**Student A:** I don't have a pen.

## **Drama Subgenres**

**Comedy:** has a happy ending.

**Tragedy:** ends in death and sadness.

# Review

**Nonfiction:** persuasive writing, informational writing, autobiography, and biography

**Fiction:** historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, and fantasy

**Folklore:** myth, legend, tall tale, fairy tale, and fable

**Drama:** comedy and tragedy

**Poetry:** many subgenres we will not study...

# Practice

**You will be graded on participation and completion, not on accuracy.**

1. On a separate sheet of paper, number one through ten.
2. I will describe a piece of writing.
3. You will write the genre and subgenre.
- 4. DO NOT SHARE ANSWERS!**

# 1

## “Dogs and Cats” by Bob Brady

A five paragraph essay where the student Bob Brady compares and contrasts dogs and cats. He provides a lot of information about both.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

# 2

## Science Textbook

This science textbook contains much of the human knowledge of Earth and the universe.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

# 3

## As I Was Saying by Augustus Gluten

Mr. Gluten writes the story of his humble origins as a child in Germany to his meteoric rise to power in the candy industry.

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.

# 4

## They Came from the Sun by Tom Mitchell

The story of a race of aliens that come to enslave the residents of Earth with their advanced weaponry. Only one teacher can stop them, but is it too late?

Write the **genre** and **subgenre** on your paper.



# 5

## “The Ant & The Grasshopper” Adapted by Chad Peplum

The really short story of an Ant who works hard all summer to prepare for winter and a Grasshopper who just plays. Winter comes and the Grasshopper freezes to death. The moral is “prepare today for tomorrow’s needs.”

# 6

## Bag Lunch by Dillard Perkins

It is the fictional story of two young African American girls living in Greensboro, N.C. in 1960. One day while waiting to buy food at a Woolworth's lunch counter, the girls find themselves at a significant crossroads in American history.

# 7

“Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind” retold  
by Mitch Colwell

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind was the toughest girl in the Wild West. She flosses with rattlesnakes and dries her clothes in a tornado. She’s tougher than a ten-year-old steak. Read about her extraordinary adventures in this humorous text.

# 8

## “Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine!” By Sasha Marsh

In this essay, Marsh tries to convince people to do small things to help the environment. She gives readers many suggestions on how to live more eco-friendly and challenges readers to make the world a better place for future generations through small contributions.

# 9

## Eric Vaser and the Educator's Rock by J.P. Tumblin

This is the first book in the Eric Vaser series. Eric goes to mage school and becomes a star student. He learns to play pencetrench, a football like game played on flying platforms, and he fights to stop a growing evil within the school that will test his newfound magic powers.

# 10

## Journal of a Lumpy Kid by Ken Jiffy

In his first year of middle school, Hank Griffin, the main character of this story deals with “cooties,” older bullies, running for a class election, and other problems that many middle school students face.

# Answers

1. Nonfiction ; Informational Writing
2. Nonfiction ; Informational Writing
3. Nonfiction ; Autobiography
4. Fiction ; Science Fiction
5. Folktale ; Fable
6. Fiction ; Historical Fiction
7. Folktale ; Tall Tale
8. Nonfiction ; Persuasive Essay
9. Fiction ; Fantasy
10. Fiction ; Realistic Fiction