Anthology of Children’s Literature

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English 383-1

Table of Context

**Poetry**

*Trees* (1913) Walter De La Mare

**Fairy tale**

*The Reluctant Dragon* (1898)  Kenneth Grahame

**Didactic**

*Don’t for Girls: A Manual of Mistakes* (1902) Minna Thomas Antrim

**Delightful**

*Winnie the Pooh* (1926) A.A. Milne

**Fantasy**

*Capture of Father Time* (1901) L. Frank Baum

**Realistic**

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (1953) Roger Lancelyn Green

**Classical Myths**

*How Theseus slew the Minotaur* (1856) Charles Kingsley

**Introduction to all different kinds of genres**

There are many different kinds of genres in literature that both children and adults enjoy reading. Some might seem to be the same as others and some are completely different. But all will give what you are wishing for in a story. Whether you are looking to learn a lesson to help with your education or what to escape the real world for a while; a book is always a good place to start. If it is the right book you cannot put in down until you are finish or you have read it multiple times and still cannot get enough of the adventure.

Poetry is a unique genre in literature. They can often be called verses too. Unlike, the other types of literature, we have these are shorter and simpler to read. Since they are short, children can easily memorize one to recite to anyone or to themselves when they need cheering up. They might not always be easy to understand or what the author wants you to take away for the saying. Poems have different meanings to them, one person can think it means one thing and the other can think something completely different. Most poems rhyme at the end, which children enjoy. Poetry is not just for children adults like them as well. Also with stories, you maybe have one story per book; but will have multiple poems are in one book, either by the same poet or different poets’ work. *Trees,* is a lovely poem about nature. It describes different trees in England. Children could like just one poem or they can like a whole series of poems.

Fairy tales is always a child’s favorite. It is full of imagination and creative for their minds. Fairy tales are wondrous tales for children to read. These do not have to be just for children, adults can enjoy them just as much. They are like fantasy stories because they have that nostalgia feeling to remind readers of the fun of childhood. They also have some kind of magic element in them to make them more enjoyable. *The Reluctant Dragon* and *Puss in Boots* are examples of the fairy tale genre because dragons and animals cannot talk and that uses a sword does not exist in the real world. These stories are great to read for bedtime because they open there minds to imagination to have adventurous dreams when they sleep and not nightmares.

Didactic a great type of stories for teaching children lessons. They are sometimes called the Books of Instructions. They are for children to learn how to become well-behave girls and boys. *Don’t for Girls: A Manual of Mistakes* teaches girls what they cannot do as young ladies. Girls back twentieth century, were force to follow all these rules correctly if they do not follow these rules exactly they will be punished. Years later when we read them we think they are jokes. This shows you how the time has changed. Girls have more freedom and fun in their lives. These types of stories are not popular but rare to find in today’s time. They will make you feel lucky that times are different and that no one has striated rules to follow like these any more.

Everyone likes a delightful story to read. A story that readers cannot put it down until they are finish with it. *Winnie the Pooh* is a great story to get away from the real world we live, and open our minds to a little boy’s world full of imagination. Children all have imaginary friends, so they can relate and get inspired to create their own world. This story was written after the First World War. *Winnie the Pooh* is an adventure story, its purpose is to bring adventure and fun back into people’s lives after the war. It is different than the others; Milne did not want to teach a lesson but to enjoy another realm of pure fiction for children. Comparing this *Peter Pan* is also a great example for fun reading. With all the adventure put into them, they would make you forget about all your troubles and would make you want to travel to the Hundred Acre Woods or to Neverland.

Fantasy is another form of the fairy tales genres. They are sometimes longer but they still have that make-believe element in it they readers what. They are made for the imaginative child to enjoy reading them and to take part in their journeys. They are often called narratives of wonder because they have many fantastic viewpoints children love to hear about stories. Most of these fantasy tales have a magic plot in them. Most children understand these tales are unrealistic, unlike legends, but they read for the enjoyment. *Capture of Father Time* and *the Phoenix and the Carpet* are two wonderful examples of fantasy tales. *Capture of Father Time* contains spirits and lots of adventure that children look for within a book. While *the Phoenix and the Carpet* has magic flying carpets and exotic animals that are not real in the world.

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is a great example of realistic text. Some people even call these stories legends. The have a part of history with some fiction within each story, but they are true. These stories usually take place during the middle ages. They are helpful for children to learn about the history of the past in a fun way. Realistic stories are made with facts used to educate readers. They are almost like Classical Myths because they show us, people’s tradition stories and about different cultures that they have to share. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* has knights in it and young boys find them very interesting that they want to become one. These types of stories children think they are just reading for fun but they are learning something too. Teachers use these kinds of books to help students learn.

Reading Classical Myths are always packed with adventure and action. They are like fairy tales and realistic. They give some us some history with them, mainly with the Greek and the Roman culture. *How Theseus slew the Minotaur* and *The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy* are great examples of this. Children like reading about heroes fighting villains and going on quests to save the day. Myths are important in literature they are the impossible that becomes possible. They are different than the others, because they have two different views. They are made believe in some readers’ eyes and real in others. They are compared to historical and fairy tales. It is up to the reader to believe in it. Children are the biggest fan because they believe in everything in the world could be true and want to be like the heroes in the stories, slaying the beast and saving the day.

With each new genre and a new story an adventure awaits for a reader. With history background or full action children and adults will find something that they enjoy. Each genre has their own message to share, it is good to like one genre but it is better to have an open mind to different kinds of literature. There are so many choices of stories to choose from. A story is not just words it can be an adventure you can take part of in your mind. It is where history comes to life. What will you discover when you open up a book?

**Further Reading**

**Poetry**

*A Child’s Garden of Verses* (1885) Robert Louis Stevenson

**Fairy tale**

*The Master Cat/ Puss in Boots* (1697) Charles Perrault

**Delightful**

*Peter Pan/ The Boy Who Would Not Grow* Up (1904) J.M Barrie

**Fantasy**

*The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1904) E. Nesbit

**Classical Myths**

*The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy* (1918) Padraic Colum