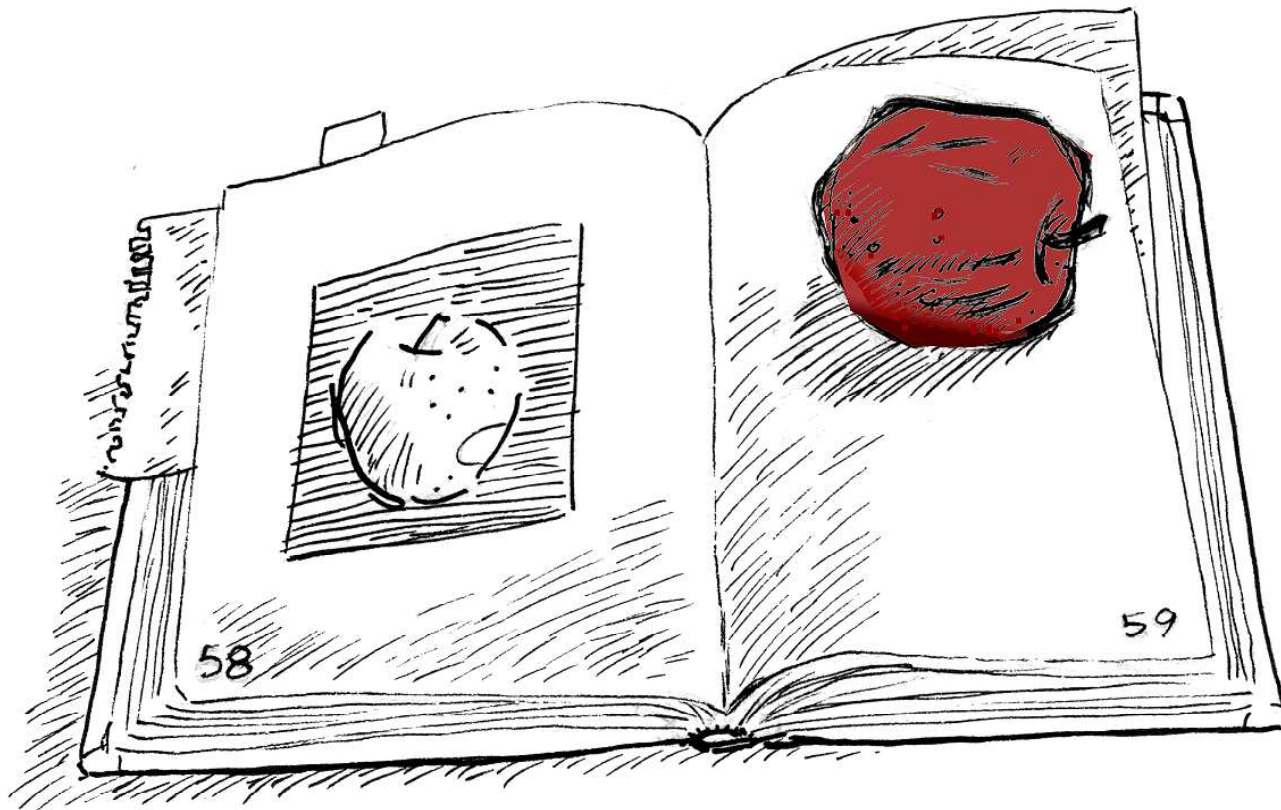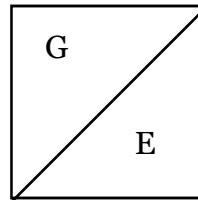# Literary Modes

Literary Modes

Realistic mode: Equal balance of extremes between good and evil.

The world is full of both forces.

The world is controlled by both unseen forces at one time or another.

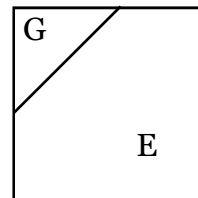The goal of the work *expresses a want* to achieve the happy ending.

Keep in mind, the happiness is not always achieved in the story.

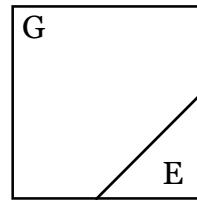**Naturalistic mode:** Writer wants to expose evil, corruption.

Here the author shows evil existing in abundance.
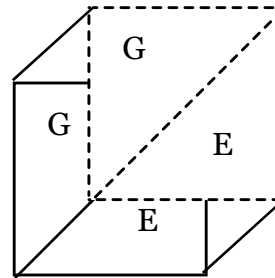
The protagonist fights against extreme horror, suffering.

Literary Modes

Romantic mode: You recognize the protagonist immediately. In this case the hero is ultimately good, patriotic, devoted. He/She will triumph even if it means dying for the cause. Some stories are shown in more realistic settings than others. The protagonists ultimately controls the environment.

There exists an ultimate struggle between good and evil; however, there *will be* a happy ending.

Fantasy mode: Examples include surrealism, magic-realism, unreality, dream logic. Good and evil struggle against one another in terms similar to realistic models.

Literary Modes

For the sake of clarity: in regards to the King Arthur Romances, it is best
to consider this genre as a combination of modes:

Romantic-Fantasy mode: You recognize the protagonist immediately. In this case
the hero is ultimately good, patriotic, devoted. He/She will triumph even if it means
dying for the cause. Some stories are shown in more realistic settings than others.
The protagonists ultimately controls the environment.

There exists an ultimate struggle between good and evil; however, there *will be* a
happy ending. Elements of magic exist mixing both Christian and pagan
references throughout the text. Good and evil struggle against one another
for full control.

Often in King Arthur stories, the reader will discover a strong influence of
Christian themes and elements; most common is the search for the Holy Grail.
However, do not confuse this material with hagiographies from the same time period.