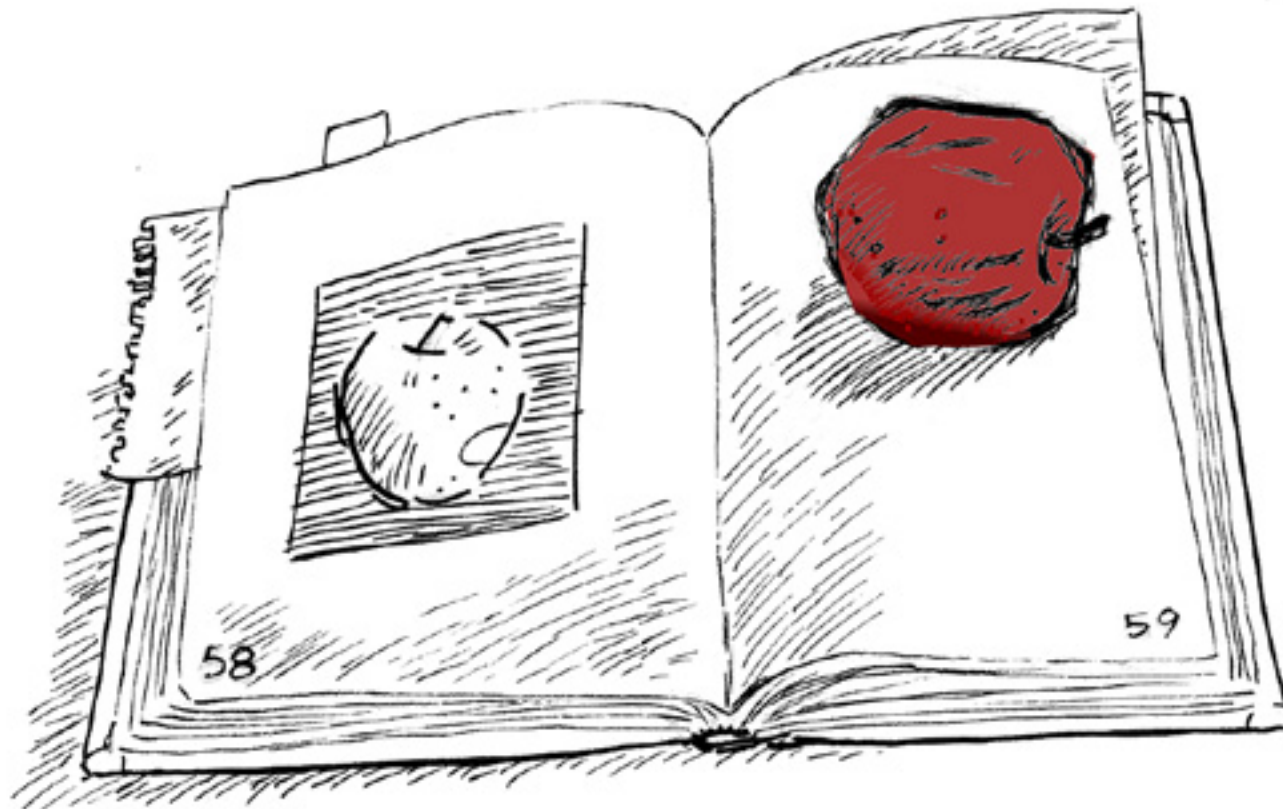


Conflict • Classifications of Literature



Types of Conflict

All stories deal with **conflicts** and secondary-conflicts in one fashion or another:

- human vs nature
- human vs human
- human vs supernatural *or* gods/God/ Fate
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(computers / industrialism / corporations)
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examples:

Homer	<i>Odyssey</i>
Grimm Brothers	“Little Red Riding Hood”
Mark Twain	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
L. Frank Baum	<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>
J. D. Salinger	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>
George Lucas	<i>Star Wars</i>
Richard Wright	“The Man Who Was Almost a Man”

Journey = Quest

Modes of Transportation

ship, boat, raft

train, locomotive, subway, roller-coaster

car, racecar, recreational vehicle

spaceship, rocket

motorcycle, motorbike, bicycle, tricycle

horse, donkey, goat

on foot

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- *Any* mode of transportation becomes an obvious symbol.
- It is up to the critic to decide the *relevancy* of the vehicle in the plot—
- and to decide the *type* of journey:
 - physical psychological
 - spiritual moral
 - cultural *et cetera*

Journey = Quest

mode } quest { life

- In addition, if characters are shown at a standstill, resting, relaxing, sleeping—these actions show: a state of limbo
or confusion
or lack of motivation
or lack of conflict in their life.
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Literary Modes

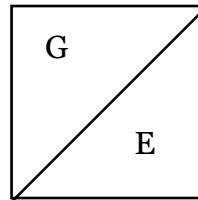
realistic mode: Equal balance of extremes between good and evil.

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.

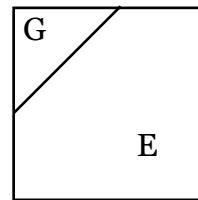
Keep in mind, the happiness is not always achieved in the story.



naturalistic mode: Writer wants to expose evil, corruption.

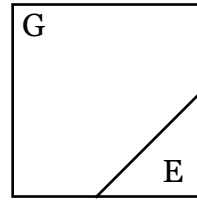
Here the author shows evil existing in abundance.

The protagonist fights against extreme horror, suffering.

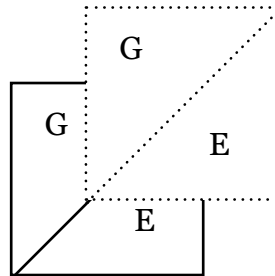


Literary Modes

romantic mode: In this case the hero is ultimately good, patriotic, devoted. He/She will triumph even if it means dieing. Some 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 Movements & Genres

Literary Movements:

Generally, the movements are markers of time within the various centuries.

The movements shift between these various modes of literature.

Renaissance

Romanticism

Gothic

Transcendentalism

Realism

Naturalism

Symbolism

Modernism

Surrealism

Postmodernism

Magical Realism

Imagism

Literary Movements & Genres

Literary Genre:

- On the other hand, a Genre is a different classification of writing.

The *LWP* states in its glossary that Genre is “a classification of literature:

drama, novel, short story, poem.”

- The term does go beyond this—a genre is a category of literary composition and are determined by technique, tone, content, or even length.
- In other words, there are more than four categories: classes and subclasses exist in this huge litany of Literature.
- Just looking at short story alone, some genres include:

horror fantasy

romance

science fiction

mystery

westerns

et cetera

A Matter of Historical Perspective

- In class we will cover the development of the literary classic genres of Poetry and Prose.
- We will focus on what is considered modern examples of these forms of creativity.
- It is important to remember, the current writing develops from a pre-history of our earliest attempts at explaining what is meant by human nature.
- Before writing developed around the 4th Century BCE, stories were memorized and passed to generation from generation. Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey* are two ancient examples of the literary tradition which developed *before* writing was invented.