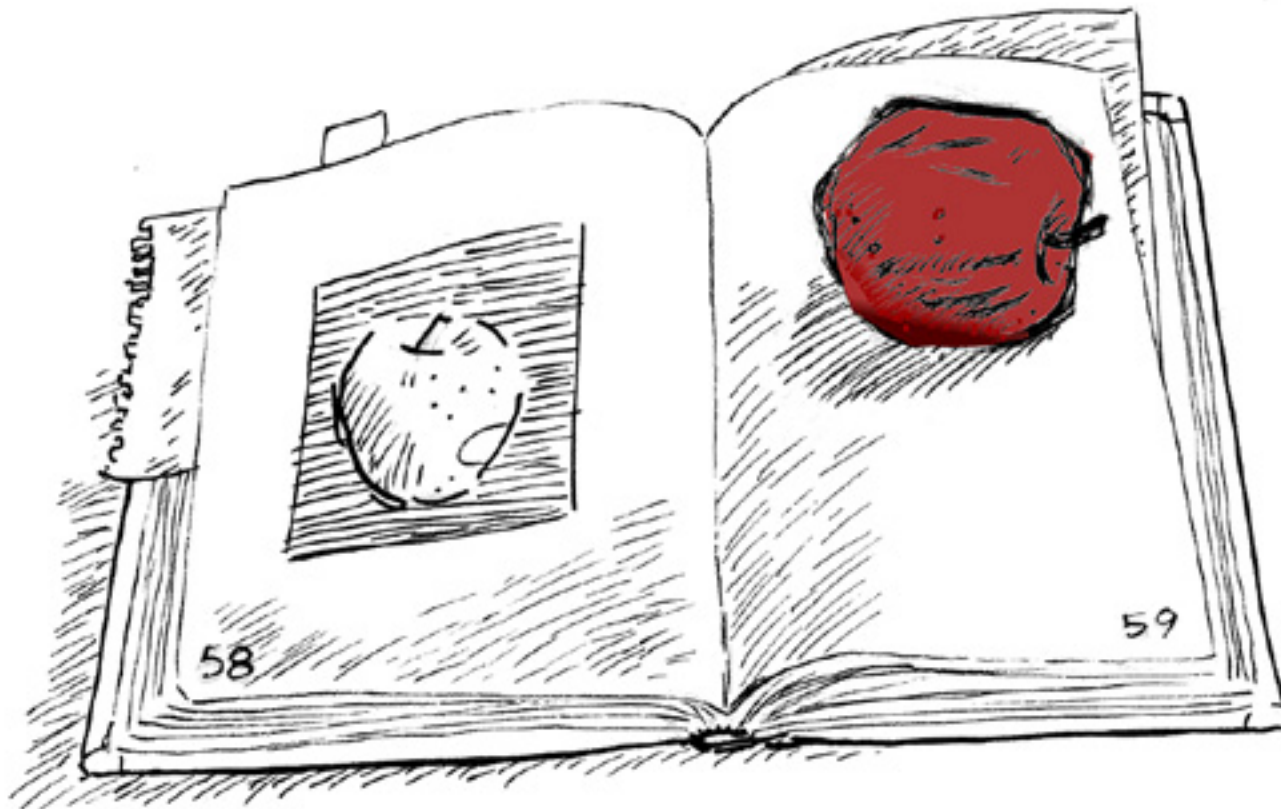


Conflict • Classifications of Literature



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
- human vs self
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(computers / industrialism / corporations)
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examples:

Homer	<i>Odyssey</i>
Grimm Brothers	“Little Red-Cap”
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.

For Each Reading Assignment

To help build patterns with the various readings, identify the following elements in stories as the class progresses with different examples of literature.

1. protagonist
2. antagonist
3. conflict type
4. protagonist's motivation / goals (journey)
5. journey type
6. mode of transportation

• Likewise, be able to back-up your observations with evidence from the story itself.

Note specific passages and phrases which defend your views.

Literary Modes

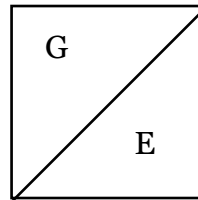
Realistic mode: Equal balance of extremes between good and evil.

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.

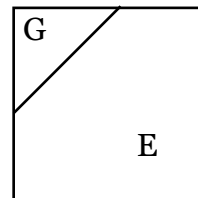
Keep in mind, the happiness is not always achieved in the story.



Naturalistic mode: Writer wants to expose evil, corruption.

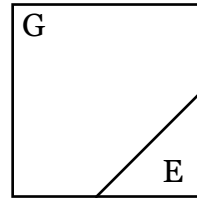
Here the author shows evil existing in abundance.

The protagonist fights against extreme horror, suffering.

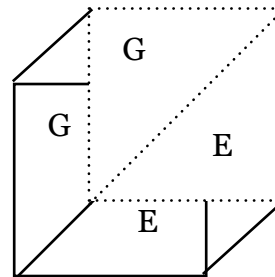


Literary Modes

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 Modes

Existential mode: The most complex mode of these five concepts: the world is seen as a living hell for humans, a surreal nightmare; the human race is dehumanized by the modern world. The goal of the work *expresses a want* for the protagonist to see how a happy ending is possible; however, more than likely the protagonist cannot move outside of the self-induced rut of their environment. Such characters are displayed as anti-heros. At best the element of good might be reached if characters acknowledge their mistakes. However, oftentimes these flawed characters are overwhelmed by the prospect of change and refuse to transform themselves. The idea of ‘good’ therefore is a state not achievable—it is an idealistic dream and nonexistent. Involves elements of realism, fantasy, naturalism, and romanticism.

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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, Drama, and Prose.
- We will focus on what is considered ancient and 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.