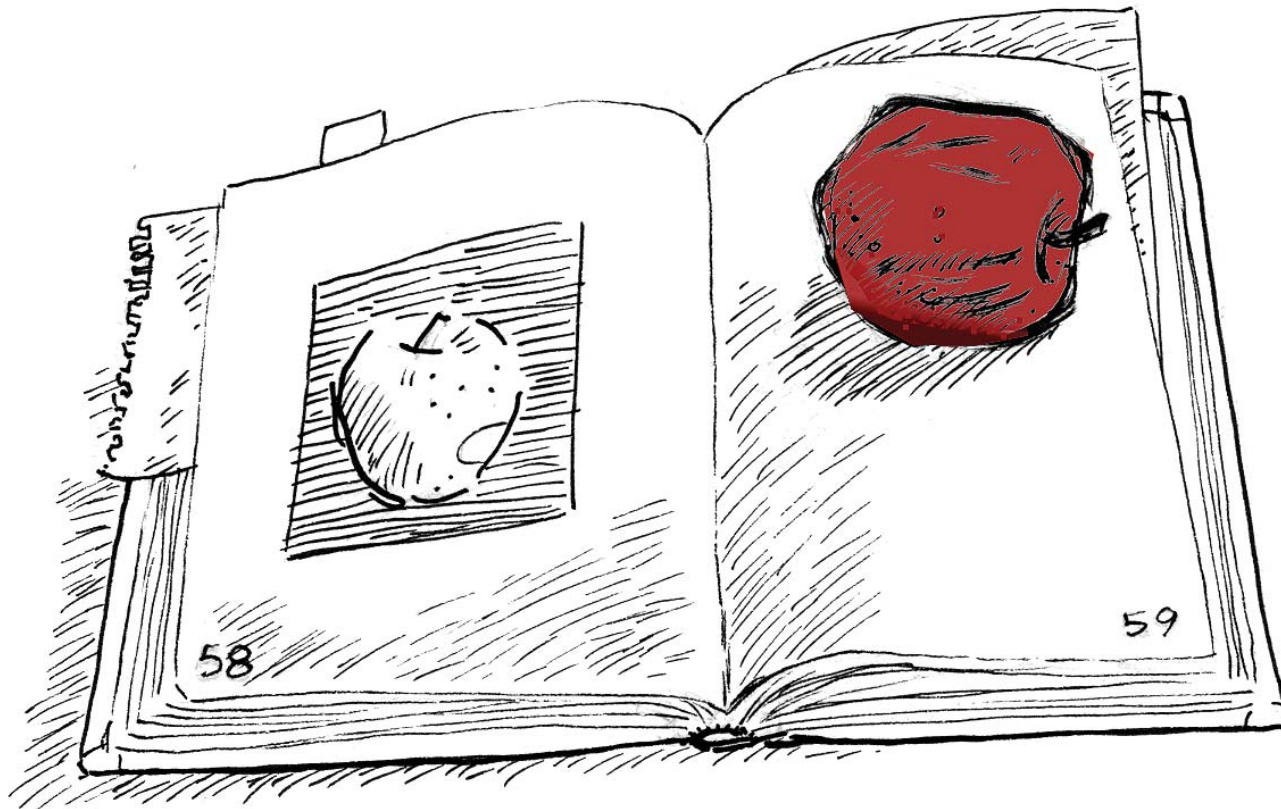


# Conflict • Classifications of Literature

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# *Literary Modes*

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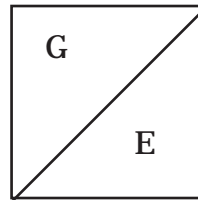
**Realistic mode:** Equal balance of extremes between good and evil.

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.

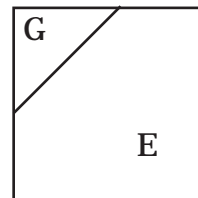
*Keep in mind, the happiness is not always achieved in the story.*



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

Here the author shows evil existing in abundance.

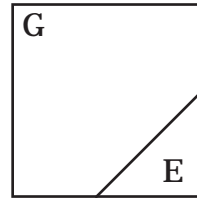
The protagonist fights against extreme horror, suffering.



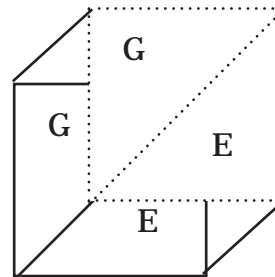
# Literary Modes

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**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*

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**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*

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## **Literary Movements:**

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

The movements shift between these various modes of literature.

Renaissance

Romantic

Transcendental

Realism

Naturalism

Modernism

Postmodernism

Meta-modernism (Post-post Modernism)

# *Literary Movements & Genres*

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## **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*

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- 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.