Genres of Literature

Prose – The ordinary form of writing in paragraphs
- Fiction - writing that tells about imaginary characters and events
- Nonfiction - writing that presents and explains ideas or that tells about real events, people, places and objects.

Elements of Nonfiction
- Functional texts – practical documents that help readers perform everyday tasks
- Literary nonfiction - features some of the same elements as fiction

Types of Nonfiction
- Articles - short prose works that present facts about a subject
- Essays – short prose works that focus on a particular subject, author has emotional connection to the subject

Purposes of Nonfiction
- Expository – presents facts and ideas
- Persuasive – convince readers to take an action or adopt a point of view
- Narrative – tell a story of a real-life experience
- Descriptive – provide a vivid picture of something
- Reflective – explain the writer’s insights about an event or experience
- Humorous – entertain an amuse
- Analytical – break large idea into parts to show how the parts work as a whole

Poetry – Literature that appears in verse form. Many poems have regular rhythm and rhyme patterns. Poetry uses highly concise language to tell a story or present an image.

Drama – A story written to be performed by actors.

Elements of Drama
- Dialogue - the words spoken by an actor
- Stage directions – the playwright’s instructions about how the drama should be performed

Playwright - author of a play
- Script – written text of a drama
- Acts - units of action on a drama
- Scenes – Acts are often divided into parts called scenes.
- Aside – a comment made by a character to the audience. It’s not meant to be heard by other characters.
- Soliloquy – speech in which a character is alone and reveals private thoughts
- Monologue – long, uninterrupted speech spoken by one character to another.
Literary Terms

Plot – sequence of events selected by the author to present and resolve a conflict.

  Conflict – a struggle between opposing forces
    Internal conflict – occurs within a character
    External conflict – occurs between a character and a force outside of himself.
    Types – man vs. man, man vs. nature

Climax – the turning point of the story

Setting – the time, place, and general environment in which the events of the story take place.

Theme – is the underlying meaning of a literary work.

Characterization – the methods an author uses to create a fictional character.

  Protagonist – main character
  Antagonist – the character that is the source of conflict for the protagonist.

Point of view – the relationship between the narrator and the story. The author’s choice of narrator determines the amount of information a reader will be given.

  Types – First person – narrator is a character in the story
    Third person – is when the narrator is not a character in the story.

Figurative Language – language expanded beyond its ordinary literal meaning.

Figures of Speech

  Simile – a comparison in which the words *like* or *as* are used to point out a similarity between two basically unlike things.

  Metaphor – a comparison between two unlike things that does not use the words *like* or *as*.

  Personification – a figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to nonhuman things.

  Hyperbole – exaggeration for effect
Identify the following authors.

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963* – Christopher Paul Curtis

“Rikki-tikki-tavi” – Rudyard Kipling

“Two Kinds” – Amy Tan

“The Night the Bed Fell” – James Thurber

“Stolen Day” – Sherwood Anderson

*A Christmas Carol* – novel – Charles Dickens

“The Third Wish” – Joan Aiken

“Ribbons” – Laurence Yep

Be prepared to discuss the plot, characters, themes, settings, conflicts in *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and *A Christmas Carol.*

You will be required to identify figures of speech in excerpts from some of the works we have read this semester.