

SHELLEY MCNAMARA

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Creating Picture Books: a student work ebook

Shelley McNamara

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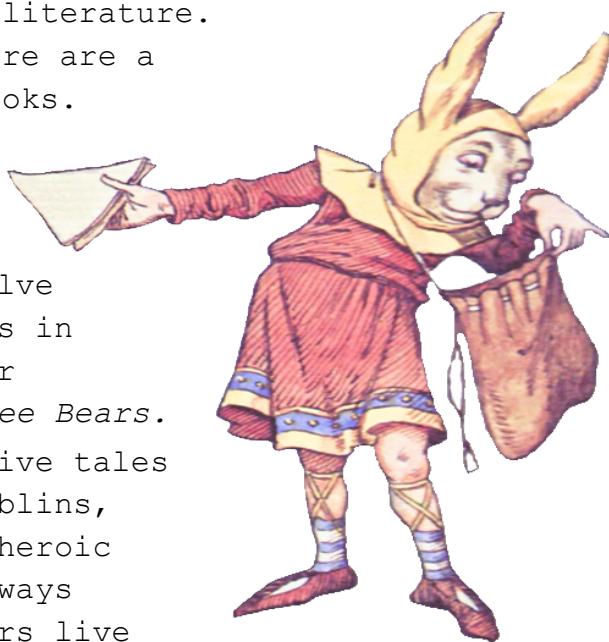
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6. Genres of picture books

Genre refers to the kind or sort of literature. Genre defines the type of story. There are a number of genres found in picture books.

- **Folktales** - These are oral and written stories that have been handed down over generations. These stories involve fantastical or unreal characters in either human or animal form. For example, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.
- **Fairytales** - These are imaginative tales of fantastic characters like goblins, dwarves and fairies conducting heroic deeds. In these stories good always overcomes evil and the characters live 'happily ever after'. For example, *Cinderella*.
- **Fables** - In these stories animal characters act as if they were human. There is usually a lesson or moral at the end of the story. For example, *The Hare and the Tortoise*.
- **Myths** - In these stories societies tell about how they see the origin of the world and its inhabitants. For example, Aboriginal myths of the *Dreamtime*.
- **Legends** - These are historical stories about heroes and their adventures. The heroes are remembered for their bravery, courage, strength and sense of justice and fairness. For example, *Robin Hood* ballads and tales.
- **Fantasy** - These are stories about supernatural and fantastic worlds. Child characters explore these worlds and learn lessons along the way. For example, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.
- **Nursery rhymes** - These are short stories told to young children. Due to rhyme and rhythm they have a musical sound to them and are therefore often sung to children. For example, *Little Miss Muffet*.
- **Mystery and adventure**: In these stories the characters go on an adventure and attempt to uncover a mystery. The ending is usually unexpected. For example, *Where is the Green Sheep?* by Mem Fox.



- **Realism:** These are stories that deal with real life issues such as family relationships, conflict resolution, identity, violence and different cultures. These stories teach children about the society and world they live in. For example *The Red Tree* by Shaun Tan.

Complete the exercise below.



Exercise 5: Interpreting genres of picture books



Time: 20 minutes

1. In the table below are a series of imaginary lines representing different genres of picture books. Fill in the table by matching each extract with the appropriate genre. Explain why you think this. The first one has been done for you.

Picture book opening lines	Genre	Why you think this
1. <i>Sometimes when I wake up, I feel sad.</i>	Realism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotions, such as sadness, are something all humans experience in real life• The story looks at real life experiences
2. <i>Once upon a time there were three little pigs ...</i>		
3. <i>Twinkle, twinkle little star...</i>		
4. <i>Robin Hood was courageous in battle.</i>		
5. <i>Many years ago, in the deep dark woods, there lived a coppersmith, who loved to go mountain climbing</i>		

6. <i>Way back in the beginning of time, the mountains were created by the wind ...</i>		
7. <i>Mr Owl said to the cat, 'Be careful with your claws. You could hurt someone with those'.</i>		
8. <i>As Billy opened his eyes, he saw a giant fire breathing dragon coming towards him.</i>		
9. <i>Milly the giant bear put on her back pack and set off into the forest to search for the golden egg.</i>		

2. Write a line for a potential picture book narrative for each of the genres below:

- folktale:

- fairytale:

- fable:

- myth:

- legend:

- fantasy:

- nursery rhyme:

- mystery & adventure:

- realism:

3. To extend yourself, research three titles and authors (if known) for each genre. Choose three genres and read at least one example of each genre. Write a short critique of the story by arguing why or why not it is relevant for a young and/or adult audience.
4. Research the history of development of one or more genres of picture books. Design a research method and apply this to your research.