

Literary Terms #1 – Genres

- I. Genre – is a category or grouping
 - A. 3 main genres in literature:
 1. Prose – ordinary written or spoken form of language without meter
 - a. Fiction – not factual
 - b. Nonfiction – factual
 2. Poetry – verse expressing one’s emotion often thru rhythm, shape, and meaning
 3. Drama – a literary piece which is performed
 - a. Comedy
 - b. Tragedy
 - B. Subgenre - a subdivision or subgroup of the genre
 1. Fantasy, Science Fiction, etc.
 2. Comedy or Tragedy
 3. Free Verse or Lyrical
 4. Biography, Informational, etc.
- II. Author’s Purpose – as a reader, we must ask... why was the piece written?
 - A. Four main reasons:
 1. to entertain
 2. to inform
 3. to explain
 4. to persuade
- III. Inference – a conclusion based on clues provided in the text; an educated guess. The key is to find the clues in the text.

**These notes are to be placed in your notebook, in the section - “Literary Devices.”*