



BOOK WRITING & SELF-PUBLISHING COURSE

Module 1: THE ART OF WRITING

Topic 2: Choosing Categories for your book

As an aspiring author, it is important you understand the different types of books that there are, and the different available genres in which they are classified. This will help you to decide early on which category you want to pitch your book, from the outset. Understanding book genres enables you to be niche-focused. This helps you know how to focus your book before you even write down the first words. In other words, before you start, it will be nice to figure out which genre your book is likely going to be classified. A single book can actually be classified in about 3 genres.

Two types of books

- Fiction
- Non-fiction

Within fiction and non-fiction we have Genres. Genres are kinds, categories or varieties of books that authors' works can be classified. Below are examples of books types and genres into which each could be identified.

Fiction

Action & adventure
Alternate history
Anthropology
Classic
Comic book
Crime
Drama
Fairy tale
Graphic Novel
Historical fiction
Horror
Mystery
Paranormal Romance

Non-fiction

art/architecture
autobiography
Biography
business/economy
cook book
Dictionary/ Diary
Encyclopedia
History
Home and Garden
Humour
Journal
Math
Memoir

Poetry	Prayer
Political thriller	Religion, spirituality
Romance	Textbook
Satire	True Crime
Short story	Science
Suspense	Self-help
Thriller	Sports & Leisure

There are most popular Non-fiction genres that aspiring authors can latch onto and begin to niche themselves in

1. **Food** – cook books, recipes
2. **History** – Books that layout the known facts about a particular time, culture or event in history
3. **Memoir** – authors emphasize moments or events that brought about specific life lessons for them
4. **Politics** – Political non-fiction books can include books written by career politicians, books that explore political systems, books that discuss political leadership in general.
5. **Self-help** - self-help books aim to aid the reader in improving some part of their lifestyle. Common topics covered by self-help books include relationships, finances, mental health, personal grooming, effective writing, public speaking, etc. A typical example of a self-help book is “**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People**”, by Stephen Covey

Popular Books in the Fiction Genres

Most adult fiction is categorised as general fiction, while a large portion of children’s books are classified as fiction.

The most popular fiction genres are

1. **Young adults** – fiction books written for readers ages 12-18. They incorporate typical reading level and world wide of ‘twens’ and ‘teens’ in this category.
2. **Children’s books** – Children’s fiction is often called children’s literature or juvenile fiction. Books in this genre are written with readers under age of 12 in mind. Types of children books include picture books.
3. **Crime Thriller** – Thrillers are suspenseful stories which make a crime thriller a book that has a crime as its main subject, while keeping readers on edge. The main characters are often fighting for justice.
4. **Literary Fiction** – If a work of fiction doesn’t fit into any of the other available genres, it can be labelled as literary fiction. These books are usually character-driven and introspective. They are sometimes called serious fiction because of their tone.

5. **Science Fiction** – Also known as Sci-Fi, science fiction deals with the imagined future in terms of science or technology. This genre includes things like time, outer space, and artificial intelligence.
6. **Short stories** – books that tell imaginary or real life stories that teach specific lessons.

As an author, you will have to position your book in the right category for easy visibility.