



Book Genres + Sub Genres

A longlist of genres to help you market your book well!





Book Genres + Sub Genres

Genre matters to readers for several key reasons:

Expectation Setting:

Genre helps readers anticipate the type of story they are about to engage with, including its tone, themes, and style. Knowing a book's genre provides a framework for what to expect, whether it's a thrilling mystery, a heartfelt romance, or an epic fantasy.

Personal Preference:

Readers often have specific genres they enjoy more than others. Some may prefer the escapism and imaginative worlds of fantasy, while others might be drawn to the tension and intrigue of crime dramas. Genre helps readers find books that align with their tastes and interests. This enables you to find the *right* reader for your book.

Ease of Discovery:

Genre classifications make it easier for readers to discover new books. Bookstores, online retailers, libraries, and online platforms often categorise books by genre, helping readers quickly find the type of story they are looking for.

Community and Discussion:

Genres often have dedicated fan communities and discussion groups. Readers can connect with others who share their interests, discuss favorite books and authors, and get recommendations within their preferred genre.

Marketing and Recommendations:

For authors and publishers, genre is crucial for marketing. It helps target the right audience, media outlets and increases the chances of the book being discovered by readers who are likely to enjoy it. Reviews, recommendations, and book clubs also often focus on specific genres, guiding readers towards books they might love.



Book Genres + Sub Genres

Read through the list below and choose which one applies to your book! There might be aspects of a few genres that relate to your book - that's ok.

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Fantasy	Magical worlds and mythical creatures, where heroes embark on epic quests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Epic Fantasy</i>: grand, multi-layered stories with extensive world-building and complex plots.• <i>High fantasy</i>: set in a fully fictional, richly detailed world, featuring epic quests, heroic characters, and pervasive magical elements.• <i>Urban Fantasy</i>: fantasy elements set in contemporary, urban environments.• <i>Dark Fantasy</i>: combines fantasy with horror elements, creating a grim and often violent setting.
 Science Fiction	Futuristic technology, space travel, and often complex societal issues in speculative settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Hard Science Fiction</i>: focuses on scientific accuracy and technical detail.• <i>Cyberpunk</i>: features advanced technology and cybernetics in dystopian settings.• <i>Space Opera</i>: epic adventures set in space, often involving large-scale conflicts and high-stakes drama.
 Mystery	Intricate plots that involve solving crimes or uncovering secrets, with plenty of suspense.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cosy Mystery</i>: light-hearted and often set in small communities, with amateur sleuths.• <i>Police Procedural</i>: Focuses on the detailed investigative work of law enforcement.• <i>Noir</i>: Dark, cynical stories often featuring morally ambiguous characters and gritty settings.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Thriller	High-stakes, fast-paced narratives that keep readers on the edge of their seats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Psychological Thriller</i>: emphasises the mental and emotional states of the characters.• <i>Crime Thriller</i>: centres on criminal activities and the pursuit of justice.• <i>Spy Thriller</i>: involves espionage, covert operations, and international intrigue.
 Drama	Emphasises realistic, emotional, and character-driven narratives, often exploring complex human experiences and relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Crime Drama</i>: focuses on the investigation and resolution of criminal activities, often involving law enforcement and the legal system.• <i>Medical Drama</i>: centers around the lives of medical professionals and the challenges they face in hospitals and healthcare settings.• <i>Family Drama</i>: explores the intricate dynamics, conflicts, and relationships within families, often highlighting personal and generational struggles.
 Romance	Love stories with emotional depth, exploring relationships and romantic connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Contemporary Romance</i>: set in modern times, focusing on current social contexts.• <i>Historical Romance</i>: romantic stories set in historical periods, with period-specific details.• <i>Paranormal Romance</i>: involves supernatural elements such as vampires, werewolves, or ghosts.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Historical Fiction	Set in a well-researched past, blending historical facts with imaginative storytelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Historical Mystery</i>: combines historical settings with mystery plots.• <i>Historical Romance</i>: focuses on romantic relationships in historical settings.• <i>Alternate History</i>: explores what-if scenarios by changing historical events.
 Horror	Evoke fear and suspense through supernatural elements or psychological terror.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gothic Horror</i>: features dark, brooding atmospheres and often includes elements of romance.• <i>Paranormal Horror</i>: involves supernatural entities such as ghosts or demons.• <i>Survival Horror</i>: characters struggle to survive against horrific threats.
 Young Adult (YA)	For a teen audience, often focusing on coming-of-age themes and young protagonists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>YA Fantasy</i>: fantasy stories with young protagonists, often involving coming-of-age themes.• <i>YA Dystopian</i>: features young protagonists in oppressive, dystopian societies.• <i>YA Contemporary</i>: realistic stories focusing on teenage life and modern issues.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Memoir	Personal life experiences, providing insight and reflection on significant moments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Travel Memoir</i>: recounts personal experiences and adventures while travelling.• <i>Celebrity Memoir</i>: autobiographical accounts written by celebrities or public figures.• <i>Survival Memoir</i>: stories of overcoming extreme challenges or life-threatening situations.
 Adventure	Thrilling journeys and exploits, often featuring a heroic protagonist in exotic locales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Survival Adventure</i>: focuses on characters overcoming extreme environments and challenges.• <i>Exploration Adventure</i>: involves discovering new places or uncovering ancient secrets.• <i>Action Adventure</i>: features fast-paced, high-energy sequences and heroic feats.
 Literary Fiction	Character development and thematic depth, often with an emphasis on prose style.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Realist Fiction</i>: portrays everyday life and ordinary experiences with depth and insight.• <i>Experimental Fiction</i>: challenges traditional narrative structures and conventions.• <i>Coming-of-Age</i>: focuses on the growth and development of a protagonist from youth to adulthood.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Dystopian	Oppressive societies and explore themes of control, rebellion, and survival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Post-Apocalyptic</i>: set in the aftermath of a catastrophic event, focusing on survival.• <i>Techno-Dystopian</i>: explores the dark side of advanced technology and its impact on society.• <i>Political Dystopian</i>: centres on oppressive political regimes and social control.
 Graphic Novel	Story told through a combination of text and visual art, often appealing to a wide range of ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Superhero</i>: follows characters with extraordinary abilities and their heroic exploits.• <i>Manga</i>: Japanese-style graphic novels, encompassing various genres and styles.• <i>Slice of Life</i>: depicts everyday life and personal experiences in a realistic manner.
 Self-Help	Offer practical advice and strategies for personal improvement and growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Personal Development</i>: focuses on improving individual skills, mindset, and well-being.• <i>Health and Wellness</i>: provides advice on physical health, fitness, and nutrition.• <i>Relationships</i>: offers guidance on building and maintaining healthy relationships.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Poetry	Use expressive and rhythmic language to convey emotions, ideas, and imagery in a concise form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Lyric Poetry</i>: expresses personal emotions and thoughts in a melodic style.• <i>Narrative Poetry</i>: tells a story through verse, often with a clear plot and characters.• <i>Epic Poetry</i>: long, grandiose poems that often recount heroic deeds and adventures.
 Biography	Chronicle the life of a real person, highlighting their achievements and impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Autobiography</i>: written by the subject themselves, providing a personal account of their life.• <i>Authorised Biography</i>: written with the permission and cooperation of the subject.• <i>Political Biography</i>: focuses on the lives and careers of political figures.
 Erotica	Focus on explicit sexual relationships, exploring fantasies and sensual experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Romantic Erotica</i>: combines explicit content with deep emotional connections.• <i>Dark Erotica</i>: explores taboo or unconventional themes with intense emotional and physical interactions.• <i>Fantasy Erotica</i>: incorporates fantastical elements and settings in erotic narratives.



Book Genres + Sub Genres (cont.)

Genre	Description	Sub Genre Examples
 Western	Set in the American frontier, featuring cowboys, outlaws, and rugged landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Classic Western</i>: features traditional themes of frontier life, cowboys, and outlaws.• <i>Weird Western</i>: blends Western elements with supernatural or fantastical aspects.• <i>Historical Western</i>: grounded in historical accuracy, depicting real events and figures.
 Humour	Write with the intention of entertaining and amusing readers through wit and comedy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Satire</i>: uses humour to critique and mock societal norms and institutions.• <i>Parody</i>: imitates and exaggerates the style of a particular genre or work for comedic effect.• <i>Anecdotal Humour</i>: relies on amusing personal stories and observations.

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