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| 1. autobiography | a writer's story of his or her own life. | 17. tall tale | a humorous, exaggerated story often based on the life of a real person. The exaggerations build until the character can accomplish impossible things. |
| 2. biography | a writer's account of some other person's life. | | |
| 3. comedy | writing that deals with life in a humorous way, often poking fun at people's mistakes. | | |
| 4. drama | also called a play, this writing form uses dialogue to share its message and is meant to be performed in front of an audience. | | |
| 5. essay | a short piece of nonfiction that expresses the writer's opinion or shares information about a subject | | |
| 6. fable | a short story that often uses talking animals as the main characters and teaches an explicit moral or lesson. | | |
| 7. fantasy | a story set in an imaginary world in which the characters usually have supernatural powers or abilities. | | |
| 8. folktale | a story originally passed from one generation to another by word of mouth only. The characters are usually all good or all bad and in the end are rewarded or punished as they deserve. | | |
| 9. historical fiction | a made-up story that is based on real time and place in history, so fact is mixed with fiction. | | |
| 10. myth | a traditional story intended to explain some mystery of nature, religious doctrine, or cultural belief. The gods and goddesses of mythology have supernatural powers, but the human characters usually do not | | |
| 11. novel | a book-length, fictional prose story. Because of its length, a novel's characters and plot are usually more developed than those of a short story. | | |
| 12. poetry | a literary work that uses concise, colorful, often rhythmic language to express ideas or emotions. Examples- ballads, blank verse, free verse, elegy, limerick, sonnet | | |
| 13. prose | a literary work that uses the familiar spoken form of language, sentence after sentence. | | |
| 14. realistic fiction | writing that attempts to show life as it really is. | | |
| 15. science fiction | writing based on real or imaginary scientific developments and often set in the future. | | |
| 16. short story | shorter than a novel, this piece of literature can usually be read in one sitting. Because of its length, it has only a few characters and focuses on one problem or conflict | | |