

GENRES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

CHILDREN'S GENRES		Notes
Approx. Age		
0-7	Picture Books Board Books Concept Books	Typically 32 pages and <1000 words Usually first a success as a PB
5-8	Readers	200-2000 words, often in a series
6-9	Transitional Books	Early chapter books (<i>Polk Street series</i>)
7-10	Chapter Books Hi-Lo Books	High interest, low reading level (usually part of a series)
8-12	Middle Grade Upper Middle Grade	Protagonists aged 9-13 Protagonists 11-13 Manuscripts 100-150 pages
10-14	Tween	Emerging category, Middle School
13 and up	YA (Young Adult)	Protagonists aged 13 and up Manuscripts 150-225 pages

TRADITIONAL GENRES	
Fiction	
Fantasy <i>Either Fiction or Non-Fiction*</i>	
	Poetry /Verse/Rhyme
	Biography/Memoir
	Mystery
	Contemporary/Historical
	Graphic
Commercial (Mainstream) versus Literary Ex: <i>Wimpy Kid</i> v. <i>Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</i> Aim: Entertainment v. Art/Awards Strengths: Plot v. Characters Theme: Obvious v. Complex Sales: Larger v. Smaller	
Non-Fiction	
Expository Non-Fiction	
Narrative Non-Fiction	
Blended (narrative & expository)	

To describe your book, use both the Children's Genres and Traditional Genres, and whether it is commercial or literary
Look Both Ways in Barrio Blanco by Judith Robbins Rose is literary middle grade contemporary multi-cultural fiction
Rock On by Denise Vega is commercial young adult contemporary fiction

Non-fiction note: Everything in the book must be non-fiction and verifiable.

Primary Source: Laura Backes, Publisher of Children's Book Insider
<http://writeforkids.org/blog/2014/02/understanding-childrens-book-genres/>