

AHS Introduction to literary genres



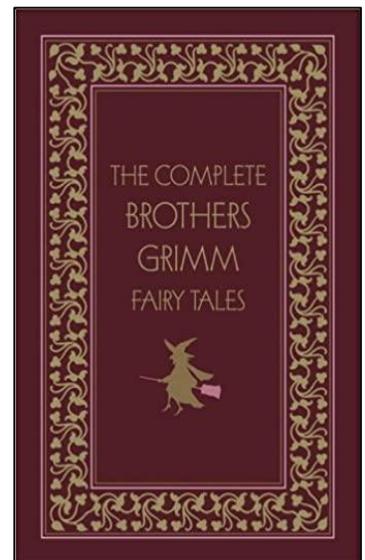
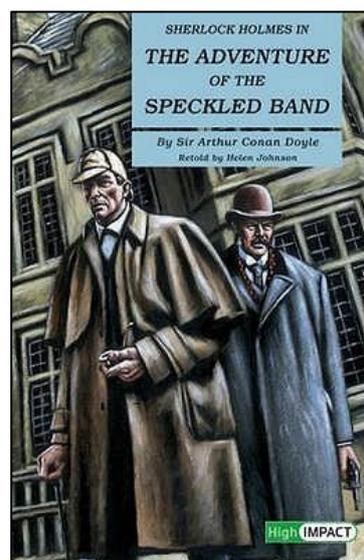
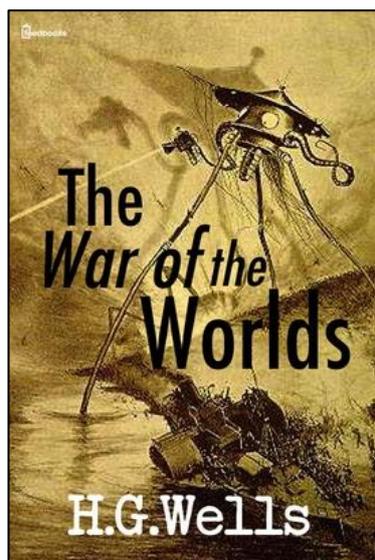
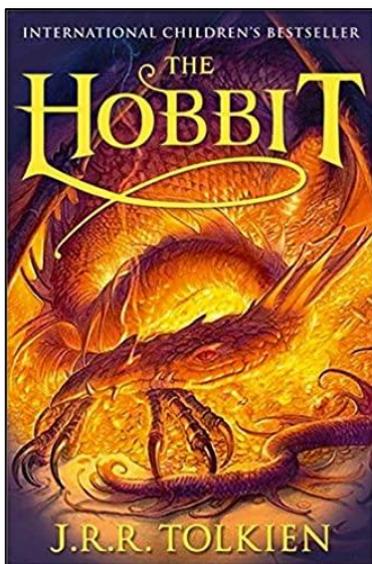
In Y7 you will be introduced to a book titled 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'. This is a **fantasy** novel and throughout the year you will explore how the structure, setting and characters all contribute to an effective story.

To prepare you for this module, we will begin by analysing different **literary genres** and some of the features that are associated with each type of novel.

Literary genre – A type of literature characterised by a specific form, content and style.

Examples:

- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Detective fiction
- Fairy tale



The fantasy novel



Fantasy novels often include features such as magic or the supernatural in their plots, characters and settings. Many of these novels include magical or mythological creatures and often present many of the conflicts we experience in the real world in a new and exciting way.

The Hobbit (by J.R.R.Tolkien) is a famous example of a fantasy novel that utilises supernatural characters, mystical settings and great battles to present the journey of Bilbo Baggins.

Bilbo joins a group of dwarves and a wizard named Gandalf on a mission to reclaim their homeland from Smaug (a mighty dragon).



Using this description of **The Shire** (setting) can you draw an image of Bilbo's home and the surroundings on the next page?

Setting

In a **hole in the ground** there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort.

It had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle. The door opened on to a tube-shaped hall like a tunnel: a very comfortable tunnel without smoke, with panelled walls, and floors tiled and carpeted, provided with polished chairs, and lots and lots of pegs for hats and coats - the hobbit was fond of visitors. The tunnel wound on and on, going fairly but not quite straight into the side of the hill - **The Hill, as all the people for many miles round called it - and many little round doors opened out of it,** first on one side and then on another. No going upstairs for the hobbit: bedrooms, bathrooms, cellars, pantries (lots of these), wardrobes (he had whole rooms devoted to clothes), kitchens, dining-rooms, all were on the same floor, and indeed on the same passage. The best rooms were all on the left-hand side (going in), for these were the only ones to have windows, **deep-set round windows looking over his garden and meadows beyond, sloping down to the river.**

You can also use this video of **The Shire** from The Lord of the Rings to help you.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meK0G3o9mPw>



A large empty rectangular box for student work or notes.

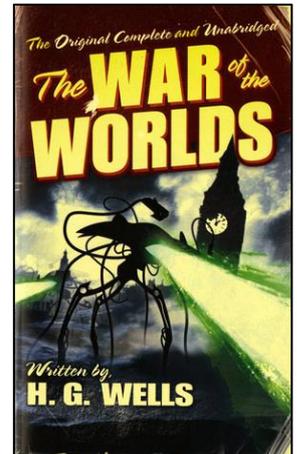


The Science Fiction novel



Science fiction novels often deal with **futuristic ideas** such as **advances in science, technology, space travel, time travel** and many other concepts.

The War of the Worlds is by H.G. Wells tells the story of a Martian invasion on earth. The story is told from the perspective of an unknown male narrator and his brother as they struggle to survive and all of the humans struggle to fight off the aliens.



This is an extract from Chapter 4, the first reveal of the Martians on Earth.

A big greyish rounded bulk, the size, perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder. As it bulged up and caught the light, it glistened like wet leather.

Two large dark-coloured eyes were regarding me **steadfastly**. The mass that framed them, the head of the thing, was rounded, and had, one might say, a face. There was a mouth under the eyes, the lipless brim of which quivered and panted, and dropped saliva. The whole creature heaved and **pulsated convulsively**. A **lank tentacular appendage** gripped the edge of the cylinder, another swayed in the air.

Those who have never seen a living Martian can scarcely imagine the strange horror of its appearance. The peculiar V-shaped mouth with its pointed upper lip, the absence of brow ridges, the absence of a chin beneath the wedgelike lower lip, the **incessant** quivering of this mouth, the **Gorgon** groups of tentacles, the tumultuous breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere, the evident heaviness and painfulness of movement due to the greater gravitational energy of the earth—above all, the extraordinary intensity of the immense eyes—were at once vital, intense, inhuman, crippled and monstrous. There was something **fungoid** in the oily brown skin, something in the clumsy **deliberation** of the **tedious** movements unspeakably nasty. Even at this first encounter, this first glimpse, I was overcome with disgust and dread.

Glossary:

Steadfastly – firm and determined.

Pulsated convulsively – got bigger and smaller violently.

Lank tentacular appendage – long, thin tentacle.

Deliberation – careful action

Incessant – will not stop

Gorgon – snake

Fungoid – looks like fungus

Tedious – slow and dull

Task

Using the extract on the previous page, imagine you work for a newspaper and it is your job to **report on the Martian landing on Earth**. You need to **describe the creature**, but you also need to **inform people about how they should act moving forward**. Make a prediction about whether your readers need to be afraid of these creatures or whether they should welcome them. You need to **name your newspaper and add at least one appropriate picture**.

Bright Sparks

Write a letter that will be sent to the Martians directly, try to make peace and inform them about the human race and what life is like on Earth.



Detective Fiction



Throughout a detective fiction novel, we will often follow a detective as they try to **solve a crime**. The reader will usually be presented with the same **clues** as the detective and will therefore have the same opportunities to **solve the crime** before the answer is revealed at the end of the novel.

Sherlock Holmes

Perhaps the most famous example of detective fiction is the **Sherlock Holmes series** written by **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** between 1887 and 1927. Holmes is known for being a genius and is able to **spot clues and solve mysteries** that no one else can. Most of the stories are narrated by **Holmes' partner Dr John. H. Watson**, who helps Holmes solve mysteries and lives with him at their famous residence '**221B Baker Street**'.



Sherlock Holmes – The Adventure of the Speckled Band

This Sherlock Holmes story begins with a young lady named Helen Stoner visiting Holmes and Watson to ask for their help investigating the death of her sister, Julia Stoner.

Look at the extract on the following page and **highlight all the clues** you can see that could help you to solve this mystery.





'Oh, my God! Helen! It was the band! **The speckled band!**' There was something else which she would fain have said, and she stabbed with her finger into the air in the direction of the doctor's room, but a fresh **convulsion** seized her and choked her words. I rushed out, calling loudly for my stepfather, and I met him hastening from his room in his dressing-gown. When he reached my sister's side she was unconscious, and though he poured brandy down her throat and sent for medical aid from the village, all efforts were in vain, for she slowly sank and died without having recovered her consciousness. Such was the dreadful end of my beloved sister." "One moment," said Holmes, "are you sure about this whistle and metallic sound? Could you swear to it?" "That was what the county **coroner** asked me at the inquiry. It is my strong impression that I heard it, and yet, among the crash of the **gale** and the creaking of an old house, I may possibly have been deceived." "Was your sister dressed?" "No, she was in her night-dress. In her right hand was found the charred stump of a match, and in her left a match-box." "Showing that she had struck a light and looked about her when the alarm took place. That is important. And what conclusions did the coroner come to?" "He investigated the case with great care, for Dr. Roylott's conduct had long been notorious in the county, but he was unable to find any satisfactory cause of death. My evidence showed that the door had been fastened upon the inner side, and the windows were blocked by old-fashioned shutters with broad iron bars, which were secured every night. The walls were carefully sounded, and were shown to be quite solid all round, and the flooring was also thoroughly examined, with the same result. The chimney is wide, but is barred up by four large staples. It is certain, therefore, that my sister was quite alone when she met her end.

Glossary

The speckled band – a circular object with small dots or spots.

Convulsion – a sudden and violent movement.

Coroner – A person who investigates the date, time and cause of death.

Gale – strong wind.

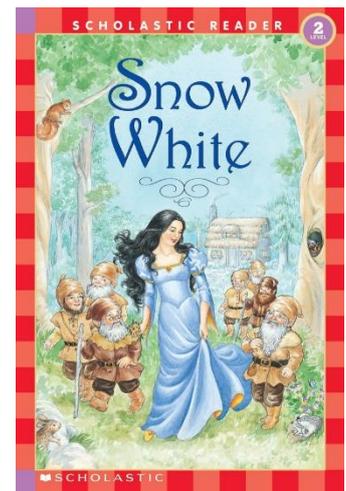
Bright Sparks

Imagine you are Sherlock Holmes and write a short explanation as to how you think Julia Stoner may have died using the evidence that is presented here.



The Fairy Tale

Fairy tales contain many elements **similar to fantasy novels**. These features include the use of **mythological creatures and settings**. However, the main difference is that fairy tales will often include a **moral message** and be **much shorter** than fantasy novels.



Moral message – a lesson about how we should act.

Snow White

In this story, Snow White's evil Stepmother/Queen asks her magic mirror, 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?'. The mirror always replies that the Queen is the fairest, but one day the mirror replies, 'Snow White'. The jealous Queen tries to kill Snow White in multiple ways. The Queen fails to kill Snow White, who eventually goes on to live happily ever after, while the Queen is punished for her actions.

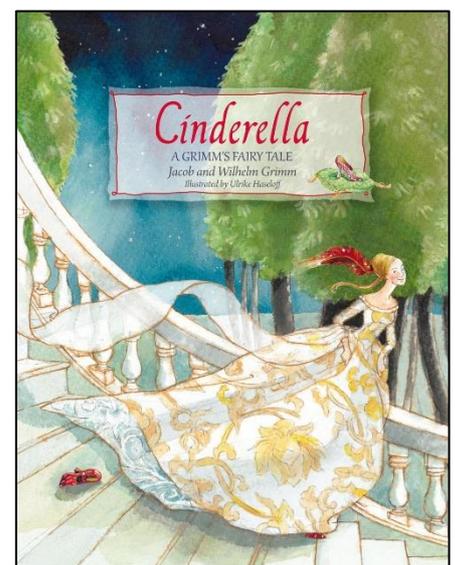
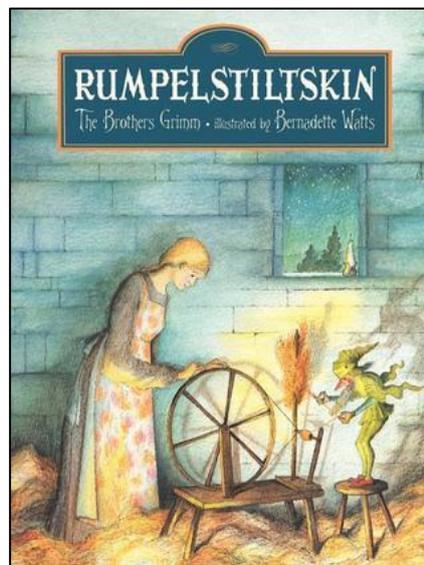
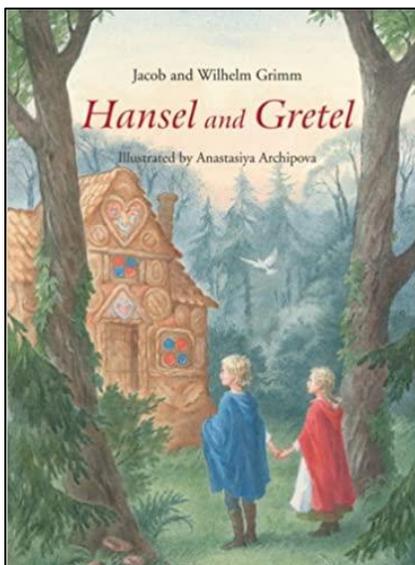
Moral message

Being vain is dangerous and real beauty comes from within. Although the wicked Queen is beautiful on the outside, she ugly on the inside and we see this through her actions.

Vain – Placing high importance on your appearance.

Task

Look at the summaries on the next page. Can you draw a line to match each fairy tale to the moral message it contains?





Extra fact :

All of these stories come from ancient folklore and were made famous by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (The Brothers Grimm) who first published their collection of 86 fairy tales in 1812.

Plot summary

Hansel and Gretel - Two children are left in the woods alone by their parents. An old woman lures them to her house and promises to prepare a feast for them. However, the old woman is a witch who plans to feed them and then eat the children. Hansel and Gretel manage to trick the witch and trap her in the oven.

Rumpelstiltskin - A Miller tells the King a lie that his daughter can turn straw into gold. The King imprisons the daughter and tells her to fill the prison cell with gold. The daughter cannot complete the task, until a small creature named Rumpelstiltskin arrives and promises to create the gold for her if she gives him a gift. Eventually the daughter runs out of gifts and is forced to agree to give away her child unless she can guess Rumpelstiltskin's name. She accomplishes this three days later and Rumpelstiltskin splits in half.

Cinderella – Cinderella lives with her evil stepmother and stepsisters who are unkind to her and make her complete all the housework and sleep in the attic. Even though the sisters are horrible Cinderella continues to be kind to them. A ball is organised for the Prince, Cinderella prays for a dress so she can attend the ball and one appears under a tree next to her mother's grave. Cinderella meets the Prince but is forced to leave the ball quickly and her shoe is left behind. The prince searches throughout the Kingdom for the person who fits the shoe and eventually finds Cinderella.

Moral

Greed, lying and a desire for power will only lead to bad outcomes.

Do not trust strangers even if they treat you well initially.

Be kind even if you live in difficult circumstances, this behaviour will pay off in the end.

Bright Sparks

Write a short fairy tale or create a storyboard for your own fairy tale. Decide upon a moral message that you want to give your audience and try to reveal it within your story through the actions and speech of your characters.



Answers



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How do I return my work?

Congratulations on completing your Y7 transition tasks! To submit your work to the AHS English department and receive your certificate please follow these instructions.....

Return by post

If you have printed the booklet and want to return a hard copy, please return to this address:

Mr Morrell
Archbishop Holgate's School
Hull Road
York
YO10 5ZA

Return online

If you have completed the booklet and want to return a digital copy, please email an attachment to this address:

emorrell1@archbishopholgates.org



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