**GENRES OF LITERATURE:**

**Structure of the question:**

* Characterize basic literary genres
* Popular genres today
* Your preferences
* Other

**LITERATURE:**writing considered to be an art form, or any single writing deemed to have artistic or intellectual value

**We divide literature into three basic forms: poetry, drama, prose**

**Poetry:** It is divided into **epic, lyric** and **dramatic**

- writing that is concerned with the beauty of language; often uses rhyme and rhythm. A poet writes poems to express his/her feelings and ideas. The sub-genres of poetry are *ballads, sonnets, songs, limerics.*

- sonnet – Shakespearean sonnet (rhyme scheme is *abab cdcd efef gg;* usually consist of three four-line stanza and a final couplet)

- limerick - a limerick is a kind of a witty, humorous, or nonsense **poem**, with a strict rhyme scheme (AABBA), which is sometimes obscene and humorous. The form can be found in England in the early years of the 18th century. It was popularized by Edward Lear in the 19th century.

Examples of limerick:

*An exceedingly fat friend of mine,*

*When asked at what hour he'd dine,*

*Replied, "At eleven,*

*At three, five, and seven,*

*And eight and a quarter past nine.*

*There was a young lady named Kite*

*Whose speed was much faster than light.*

*She left home one day*

*In a relative way*

*And returned on the previous night.*

*A young schizophrenic named Struther,*

*Who learned of the death of his Brother,*

*Said, "I know that its bad,*

*But I don't feel too sad.*

After all, I still have each other."

Famous poets in English and American literature:

E. A. Poe, Walt Whitman, William Blake, W. Shakespeare…

**Drama** includes **comedy** and **tragedy**, but also **tragicomedies**. The comedy has sub-genres, including farce, comedy of manners (Oscar Wilde was a great writer of these comedies, his most famous play is The Importance of being Earnest – a satire on a social class, on the society), or satire (although satire is usually funny, its greater purpose is often social criticism).

Another famous playwrights in English speaking countries:

W. Shakespeare, A. Miller, S. Becket….

*I often / hardly ever go to the theatre to watch a play. my favourite theatre is ...................... My favourite playwright is.............................*

**Prose** is the most typical form of language, with ordinary grammatical structure and natural speech. It is used, for example, in literature, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, broadcasting, film, history, philosophy, law and many other forms of communication.

There are two forms of narrative: **fiction and non-fiction.**

**Fiction** deals, in part or in whole, with information or events that are not factual, but rather, imaginary. However, it may be based on a true story or situation. Traditionally, fiction includes novels, short stories, fables, fairy tales, plays, poetry, but it now also includes films, comic books, and video games.

**Subgenres of fiction:**

**Myth:** a story or group of stories that form part of the traditional knowledge of a society; has gods/goddesses and usually accounts for the creation of something

**Legend:** story, sometimes of a national or folk hero, that has a basis in fact but also includes imaginative material

**Fairy tale:** story about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children

**Crime/detective** - fiction about a crime, how the criminal gets caught, and the repercussions of the crime

**Fable** - legendary, supernatural tale demonstrating a useful truth

**Fantasy** - fiction in a unreal setting that often includes magic, magical creatures, or the supernatural

**Historical fiction** story with fictional characters and events in an historical setting

**Magical realism** story where magical or unreal elements play a natural part in an otherwise realistic environment

**Mystery** fiction dealing with the solution of a crime or the revealing of secrets

**Science fiction** story based on the impact of actual, imagined, or potential science, often set in the future or on other planets

**Western** fiction set in the American Old West frontier and typically in the late eighteenth to late nineteenth century

*My favourite genre of fiction is ........................................... My favourite author/writer is ................................................ She/he writes ............................................... I like her/him because ............................................................................................................................*

**Non-fiction** deals with factual events, descriptions, observations, etc. (e.g., [biographies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biography), [histories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), textbooks, travel books, manuals, journalism).

*I like /don´t like reading non-fiction because ...........................................................................*

**Quiz: Guess the genre:**

1)  "Elves and Dragons! I says to him. "Cabbages and potatoes are better for me and you. Don't go getting mixed up in the business of your betters, or you'll land in trouble too big for you," I says to him *(example: prose, fiction. Novel, fantasy – Lord of The Rings)*

2)  The hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "when I put forth my full speed. I challenge anyone here to race with me.

3)  Once upon a time a woodcutter lived at the edge of a great forest with his wife and their two children. They had a boy called Hansl and a girl called Gretl.

4)      Man has gone out to explore other worlds and other civilizations without having explored his own labyrinth of dark passages and secret chambers, and without finding what lies behind doorways that he himself has sealed.

5)      "There are not many people travelling, I imagine", Poirot said to the conductor.   
"No, Monsieur. I have only two other passengers - both English. A Colonel from India, and a young English lady from Baghdad."

6)      I WAS sick -- sick unto death with that long agony; and when they at length unbound me, and I was permitted to sit, I felt that my senses were leaving me. The sentence -- the dread sentence of death -- was the last of distinct accentuation which reached my ears

7)      She was beautiful, brilliant, successful, dynamic, amusing… but there had always been something missing, something tender and gentle and kind. Those were not words one used to describe Rachel. And she had wanted more out of life than just loving Alexander, more than just being an attorney in San Francisco and someone’s wife.

8)      Medea: What is the use of living? Come thunder, come lightning of the sky, come and crash upon my head! I cannot stand the pain! Hades, come! Come Hades and cut down this miserable life of mine!

9)      O! that you were your self; but, love, you are  
No longer yours, than you your self here live:  
Against this coming end you should prepare,  
And your sweet semblance to some other give