

Genre Tone Examples

(overall “feel” of the story)

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Genre	What Readers Want to Feel	Tone
Mystery	See justice served Solve a puzzle	Suspenseful Secrecy Curiosity
Romance	Emotional satisfaction Optimistic about relationships Happily For Now ending	Hopeful Romantic
Suspense	Uncertainty Tension Who to trust?	Danger threatens Anxiety
Thriller	Adrenaline Rush Danger Intrigue	Constant movement Distress Periodic Despair
Action Adventure	Heroic Daring Purposeful	Risk Peril Quest
Dystopian	Triumph Over Dark Self Survival Enjoys Allegory Tales	Dark Bleak Pessimistic
Fantasy/Fairy Tales	Sense of wonder Hope Whimsy	Complex World The unexpected Blends old with new