Literary Genre Poster Set
For upper elementary and middle school students

★ Includes 25 coordinated and informative posters
★ Aligned with CCSS, grades 4-8.

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Realistic Fiction

A type of fiction writing that features realistic characters, settings, and events. Although fictional, and at times humorous, dramatic, or exaggerated, all elements of the story are believable and reflect reality.
Science Fiction

A type of fiction writing that incorporates elements of science, technology, space exploration, time travel, alien life forms, or other aspects of life in the future.
Mystery

A type of fiction writing in which the conflict is a puzzling problem or situation. Often mysteries are very suspenseful, and full of red herrings which distract the reader from uncovering the mystery until the end.
Fantasy

A kind of fiction writing that features elements outside the realm of possibility and without a scientific basis, including magical powers, talking animals, or other worlds.
Historical Fiction

A type of fiction writing that accurately reflects a time period from the past. In many cases the characters and their actions are fictional, while the settings and major events are true to the historical period in which the story takes place.
Humorous Fiction

A type of fiction writing that uses hyperbole and humor to parody everyday life. Often the events have some basis in reality, but are greatly exaggerated for comedic effect.
Adventure Fiction

A type of fiction writing that involves suspense, risk-taking, and physical danger. Often the plot involves threats to the survival of the characters. For the most part the events are realistic, however, they are also often harrowing and outside the realm of normal day to day activities.
A kind of traditional literature that is specific to a culture and is passed down orally from one generation to another. The folk tale genre includes myths, legends, fables, fairy tales, and tall tales.
TALL TALE

A kind of folk tale that often combines real people and/or places with unbelievable elements of exaggeration. Tall tales use hyperbole both for humorous effect, and to make the main character appear heroic or larger than life.
A kind of folk tale that has historical roots. The settings, characters and/or events have a factual basis. The events of a legend are not completely outside of the realm of possibility, although they may involve miracles, elements of magic, or the supernatural.
Myth

A kind of folk tale that provides an explanation of why things are or how they came to be. Myths most often feature gods and goddesses, humans, and animals that transform easily. Many myths are considered sacred and reflect the beliefs of their culture of origin.
Fairy Tale

A kind of folk tale that often features fantastical characters such as elves, goblins, giants, mermaids, or dragons. Fairy tales often involve elements of magic, and the struggle between good and evil.
Fable

A kind of folk tale that illustrates a moral lesson or viewpoint. The characters in fables are usually animals who talk and act like humans while retaining their animal traits.
Informational Nonfiction

A type of nonfiction writing that focuses on communicating factual information about a topic. Nonfiction writing often includes text features like photographs, headings, charts, graphs, maps, and diagrams that provide additional information.
Narrative Nonfiction

A type of nonfiction writing that contains factual information about a real person, place, thing, or event, but follows the format of a story, with characters and a plot.
Biography

A type of nonfiction writing that focuses on retelling the events in a real person’s life. The author will use research, interviews, journals, diaries, photographs and items belonging to the individual in order to accurately reconstruct the subject’s life story.
Autobiography

A type of nonfiction writing in which a person writes about his or her own life story. In this case the author uses memories to reconstruct the events from his or her life.
Memoir

A kind of nonfiction autobiographical writing in which, instead of focusing on his or her entire life story, the author writes about a specific memory or experience that shaped his or her personality. Memoirs tend to focus on the emotions of the author and his or her perspective now looking back on the events.
PHOTO ESSAY

A kind of nonfiction article or book that relies heavily on the use of photographs to relay information about the topic. Often the photographs tell a story, express a feeling, or evoke an emotion in the reader.
Reference

A type of informational nonfiction that focuses on the facts relating to a subject area. Reference books are consulted for the purpose of finding specific information on a topic, and are not necessarily intended to be read cover to cover.
A type of literature made up almost entirely of scripted dialogue between characters. Unlike other forms of literature, a play is meant to be performed for an audience rather than just read.
A type of literature that primarily consists of illustrations and captions in a comic book-style format. Instead of long paragraphs of descriptive text, the story unfolds through a sequence of pictures, captions, and speech bubbles.
Poetry

A type of literature characterized by the use of rhythm, meter, and often rhyme. In poems, the look and sound of words is taken into account along with their meaning. Poets often use literary devices such as simile, metaphor, alliteration, and onomatopoeia to infuse beauty and emotion into their language. The structure of a poem is made up of lines, verses and stanzas. Couplets, quatrains, ballads, and sonnets are all forms of poetry.
Drama

A type of literature meant for performance by a cast of characters in front of an audience. Dramatic works are characterized by short descriptions of characters and settings, stage directions, and dialogue between characters. Some dramatic works include song and dance. Plays and opera are both examples of dramatic works.
Prose

A type of literature characterized by the use of language in its natural form, without the use of meter. Prose follows only the ordinary rules of grammar and is composed of sentences and paragraphs. Fiction and nonfiction writing are both forms of prose.