

GENRES OF LITERATURE

POETRY (LYRIC VOICE)

Langston Hughes
Mary Oliver

The poet projects the aesthetic image or new vision of life through the most personal, most universal lyric voice. This voice of musical speech may or may not be intended to be sung. (Hughes intended his lyrics to be sung with improvisational jazz accompaniment.)

NOVEL/SHORT STORY/IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE (EPIC VOICE)

Zorba the Greek by Nikos Kazantzakis
Salina by A. Samad Said
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The novelist or short-story writer projects the aesthetic image or epiphany through the epic or paratactic voice of shared retrospect. Imagination's story may be told through omniscient or first-person voice. The omniscient narrator may shift into narrating the interior monologues of main characters. The first-person narrator may be reliable (Boss) or unreliable (Huck Finn) and may shift into direct interior monologue. Sometimes the first-person narrator, such as Huck, may directly address the reader.

DRAMA

Antigone by Sophocles
Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov

The dramatist projects the aesthetic image or new vision of life through self-overheard dialogue, which is intended to be embodied and enacted in a theatre. The dramatist may compose in all three lyric, epic, and dramatic voices.

PROSE: NON-FICTION, MEMOIR

Wind, Sand and Stars by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
An Evil Cradling by Brian Keenan

The composer often offers his/her special definition of memoir and projects the aesthetic image or new vision of life through first-person historical voice. The author's new insight, realization or epiphany casts light upon the significance of memory and his/her historical circumstance as well as the historical-political world inhabited by author and reader alike.