Genre at a glance: 12 genres

The reader promise, typical length and the ending readers expect. Use it to check that your book delivers what its genre promises.

Genre	Reader promise	Typical length	Ending readers expect
Epic Fantasy	A world big enough to get lost in, a destiny that costs something, and a climax that pays off every promise the story has made.	90,000–130,000 words	Earned victory with a real cost
Progression Fantasy & LitRPG	Visible growth, clever use of limited power, and the steady pleasure of watching a hero earn each step up.	80,000–150,000 words	Arc closes; growth feels earned
Urban Fantasy & Paranormal	Hidden magic in a recognisable city, a street-smart hero, and a mystery solved at a cost.	70,000–90,000 words	Case solved; hero changed
Romance	Two people the reader adores overcome a believable obstacle and earn a satisfying, emotionally true happy ending.	55,000–90,000 words	Happily ever after or happy for now
Thriller & Suspense	Constant tension, a ticking clock, and a twist the reader did not see coming but that was fair.	70,000–95,000 words	Threat defeated; twist pays off
Mystery & Cozy Mystery	A solvable puzzle, a cast worth returning to, and justice delivered without the reader feeling cheated.	60,000–85,000 words	Culprit revealed; fair clues
Science Fiction	A big idea explored through people, with rules the story honours and consequences that matter.	75,000–110,000 words	Idea resolved with consequences
Young Adult	A teenage voice making high-stakes choices about identity, loyalty and love — with an ending that feels earned and true.	60,000–90,000 words	Hopeful, with growth
Middle Grade	Adventure, friendship and humour with a clear moral centre, real but age-appropriate stakes, and a warm, satisfying ending.	30,000–55,000 words	Hopeful and safe
Horror	Dread that builds, a threat the hero cannot simply outrun, and an ending that leaves a mark.	70,000–95,000 words	Dread resolves or lingers by design
Historical Fiction	An immersive world, true-to-life detail and personal stakes set against real events.	80,000–110,000 words	Personal stakes resolved against history
Inspirational & Values-Driven Fiction	Stories that respect the reader's beliefs, treat faith and family as real strengths, and deliver hope without preaching.	70,000–95,000 words	Hope and values affirmed

Lengths are typical ranges, not rules. The Genre Playbook (paid) goes deeper on structure, must-have elements and common mistakes for each genre.

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