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| Literary      | • Narrator recounts and reflects on a significant event or time period in his life (true event) and he understands how he feels about it today  
• Written in first person: narrator is the author of the passage  
• Often uses literary elements such as dialogue, setting, real-life characters, conflict, and climax  
• Examples: memoir, reflective essay, autobiography, biography | • Read to gain insight on the narrator’s experience                                  | • Has been tested in the form of a memoir  
• Told in the first person point of view  
• Students need to understand key details that contribute to the narrator’s reflection  
• Make logical inferences  
• Find theme  
• Average length: 2 pages |
| Nonfiction    |                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                        |
| Memoir        |                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                        |
| Poetry        | • Written in stanzas  
• Poets choose every word with care, heart, and thought                                  | • Read to experience rich language                                                   | • Analyze the impact of rhyme and the repetition of sounds, such as alliteration, on the meaning of a specific stanza or the entire poem  
• Analyze figurative language and imagery  
• Analyze structure  
• Find theme and central ideas  
• Average length: 1 page or less |
| “Powerful Points in Puny Packages” |                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                        |
| Fiction       | • Short prose  
• Can be read in one sitting—focus on one incident  
• May contain a limited amount of characters  
• Usually focus on one theme  
• Tend to begin and end abruptly, with little to no prior information and no major lapses in time  
• As they involve just one plot line and are limited in word length, there is little room or need for the extended developments we frequently find in novels. | • Read to be entertained                                                              | • Test in the form of a short story or excerpt from a larger piece of work such as a novel  
• Average length: 2-3 pages  
• Plot development  
• Understand and make inferences about the relationship between plot elements and character and setting  
• Follow flashback and foreshadow  
• Make connections to lesson or theme  
• Understand how a character may change from the beginning to the end; conflict resolution |
| (Short story) |                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                        |
| Drama         | • told through dialogue and action and is integrated with the setting  
• Live action shaped by a conflict                                                        | • Read in order to perform                                                             | • Average length 2-3 pages  
• Tested in the form of a play or adaptation from a large pieces of work such as short story or novel (excerpt)  
• Understand the importance of stage directions  
• Understand how dialogue portrays character, plot, and theme |

Sources: Unlocking Complex Texts: A Systematic Framework for Building Adolescents’ Comprehension by Laura Robb and Lead4Ward Genre Challenge