

# Know Your Genre

## TROPES CHECKLIST



### Fantasy

- World building
- A quest
- Archetype characters
- Magical artifacts
- Imagined new species/creatures
- Battle of good vs. evil

### Science Fiction

- Advanced technology
- Space/time travel
- Alien species, robots and AI,
- Parallel worlds
- Dystopian world
- Unknown/ deadly viruses

### Magic Realism

- A realistic setting
- Surreal elements
- Fantastical elements are normal
- Improbable details
- Stories revealing a hidden meaning
- Magic expected, not explained

### Action Adventure

- Far from home
- A chase/fight
- Fleeing from a threat
- Protecting from a threat
- Stories revealing a hidden meaning
- Hero/Heroes at work

# HOW TO USE YOUR CHECKLIST

This checklist serves as a base for you to get a sense of the genre you would like to write.

There are 8 genre groups listed below, with 6 commonly identified tropes.

When we talk about tropes, we refer to themes, motifs, plot devices, plot points, and storylines that are familiar genre conventions.

This list will also give you an idea of which tropes might naturally overlap for your stories - such as a supernatural comedy, or a fantasy romance.

If you'd like to explore genres and sub-genres in more detail, just let me know with an email to [contact@awriterslighthouse.com](mailto:contact@awriterslighthouse.com)

Good luck!

Xeni x

A Writer's Lighthouse  
#eyestothehorizon

# Know Your Genre

## TROPES CHECKLIST



### Romance

- Love triangles
- Forbidden love
- Second chance at love
- Lovers meet unconventionally
- Convenient relationships
- Secret love - Royalty/Celebrity

### Crime / Thriller

- A 'whodunit?'
- Detective & sidekick
- A red herring (false trail)
- Up against high stakes
- Plot twists
- Justice delivered

### Mystery

- Unexplained events
- Haunted locations
- Unreliable narrator
- Clues hidden in plain site
- Nothing is at it seems
- The big reveal

### Horror/ Ghost Story

- Isolated locations
- Conjuring evil spirits
- Blood / gore
- Characters split up / alone
- Darkness
- Monsters

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### Young Adult (YA)

- Genre trait here \_\_\_\_\_
- Genre trait here \_\_\_\_\_
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### New Adult (NA)

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### Children's

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### Family Saga

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