

# LITERARY GENRES



## Exegesis: What Does It Say?

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### Basic Questions for Narrative

What is the unifying action in this story?

Divide the story into scenes and give a name to each one.

Who are the main characters of the story? What do you learn about them through their actions, traits, thoughts, feelings, relationships, responses, and their similarity to universal character types?

What role, if any, does the setting (time or place) play in the events of the story?

Is there a conflict or climax in the story? What is it? How is it resolved?

What is the theme of this story, and what does it say about that?

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### Basic Questions for Poetry

What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers?

Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?

What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?

What is the unifying central idea, feeling, or situation?

What does each individual part contribute to that unifying idea?

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### Basic Questions for Epistles

What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?

What are the questions that the author is seeking to address?

How does this portion relate to the occasion that gave rise to the letter?

Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (for, therefore, but, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?

What is the main point? What supporting points does the author make?

What surprises are there in the flow of the argument?

Identify any poetic elements (imagery, metaphor, paradox, proverbial statements) in this section and interpret them accordingly. How do they contribute to the author's argument?