

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to Know

Realistic Fiction

Fiction that features characters, settings, and situations that are based in reality.

A genre in which entirely fictional scenarios are set in the normal world, either in the present or the recent past. Stories deal with relatable personal problems or events, societal issues, and technology without the use of magical, fantastic, supernatural, surreal, or science fiction elements. Realist fiction features ordinary people going about their ordinary lives and reflects on the realities, absurdities, ironies, and contradictions contained therein. The story often revolves around a challenge in the protagonist's everyday life. Characters act as they might in real life, making them and the settings, conflict, and resolutions more believable to the reader. Rómulo Gallegos's *Doña Bárbara* (1929) is a classic example.

Common Elements

Personal point of view
Growing self-awareness
Relevant topics
Mirroring of contemporary life

Avant-garde narrative techniques
True-to-life situations
Informal and conversational dialogue

Falling in love
Marriage
Divorce
Jobs
Alcoholism

Benefits of Reading

Offers readers relatable topics and characters
Allows readers to better empathize with people in real life
Validates readers' experiences
Assists readers who may be facing one of life's many challenges
Provides readers with examples of responding to difficult times

Permits readers to gain better understanding of themselves and their potential
Enables readers to have a broader appreciation for people of a different culture, religion, lifestyle, level of ability, or socioeconomic status

Modern Literary Examples

<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> (2012) by John Green
<i>The Hate U Give</i> (2017) by Angie Thomas
<i>Jonathan Unleashed</i> (2016) by Meg Rosoff

<i>Needle and Thread</i> (2007) by Ann M. Martin
<i>Storm Mountain</i> (2010) by Tom Birdseye
<i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> (2007) by Jay Asher