

Spotlight on Fantasy

Created by Inaburra Senior Library, 2016

Fantasy is a form of speculative fiction. These books are about magic, magical creatures and mythology and are often set in other worlds, or during the medieval period of history.

Before fantasy existed as a genre there were fantasy stories in the form of fairy tales and mythologies like the Arthurian legends and the Greek and Roman myths.

The genre of fantasy began in the Victorian era with books like *Alice in Wonderland*, published in 1865.

Fantasy became a popular genre in cheap fiction magazines during the early twentieth century.

The Hobbit, published in 1937, brought fantasy to a wider audience.

Some famous fantasy authors include

J.R.R. Tolkien

C.S. Lewis

George R.R. Martin

Ursula le Guin

J.K. Rowling

Terry Pratchett

Raymond E. Feist

Emily Rodda

David Eddings

Anne McCaffrey

Terry Brooks

Common themes in fantasy

The novels are set in very detailed worlds, often with their own histories, cultures, races and languages.

There is magic and magical creatures. Some of the magical creatures are borrowed from existing mythology (eg. unicorns), and some are made up.

The main character often goes on a quest.

The story is usually about a battle between good and evil, and good usually wins.