

# A LOOK AT BOOKS

literature & reading words (r15-4 and r16-3)

**kinds of reading:**

reading for gist/ general understanding  
 skimming  
 - reading for pleasure

reading for detail  
 scanning

- to get information

**kinds of literature:**

**fiction**

- prose**
  - short stories
  - novels (... by a novelist)
- poetry**
  - poems (written by a poet)
    - verses in rhyme
    - (have an ending which sounds similar)
  - drama / (theatre) plays
    - tragedy – comedy
  - dramatist – writer who writes drama
  - monologue - one person speaks his mind
  - dialogue

**genres:**  
 romance / love-story  
 detective novel  
 true crime  
 science fiction  
 fantasy / fairy tale  
 thriller  
 horror story

biography  
 - autobiography / memoir  
 a story written by yourself  
 describing your personal experience

**adaptation** – story is retold in a different setting/ time

extract – part of the book, shortened version

**non-fiction**

phonebook / directory  
 dictionary  
 encyclopaedia  
 manuals / read-me.txt  
 periodicals – monthly, weekly, daily  
 (news)papers (journals)

book review – article about a book

**critic** – person who criticizes books

**books:**

cover: hardcover or paperback  
 blurb – text on the back of the cover  
 content / index / chapters / pages  
 publisher - editor

author - writer - novelist  
 narrator – person who tells the story  
 point of view from which the story is told:  
 1<sup>st</sup> person narrator – “I...”  
 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrator – “The young man...”

main character / hero  
 characters  
 setting – place and time of the story  
 plot – storyline which is told (*Handlung*)  
 ending - open or happy ending

**Writing a review (describing books)**

**setting:**

The story is set in / takes place in ....                      ... scary, creepy atmosphere in the middle of the night ..

**plot = storyline:**

The plot starts slowly , but takes up speed...    ...is fast-paced..    ...full of action...                      a real page-turner

A simple plot with - some twists in the story

- surprising turns which keep you thrilled, gripped
- a pulse-stopping showdown
- a romantic happy ending

**character and qualities:**

intelligent, bright, clever, smart,  
 brave, full of courage, courageous  
 kind, nice, friendly, generous, helpful                      opp: mean, nasty, cruel  
 out-going ≠ shy, quiet  
 confident ≠ nervous  
 cool, pleased    ≠ depressed  
 angry, bad-tempered, annoyed, awful  
 interested in, keen on ≠ bored, full of boredom  
 glad, happy, ecstatic,  
 honest (*ehrlich*) ≠ dishonest

**false friends:**

fantasy – story with magic creatures like dragons, elves or vampires  
 imagination – lots of ideas (*Fantasie*)  
 suspense - *Spannung*  
 sensible - *vernünftig*  
 sensitive - *sensibel*

**looks:**

blonde, fair-haired, dark-haired,  
 bald, curly, straight,  
 pretty, beautiful, good-looking, handsome  
 casual, well-dressed, fashionable, gorgeous  
 tiny, small, short, tall,  
 thin, slim, well-built, overweight, big, fat