**Readers’ Advisory Information**

**Mysteries**

Novels of disruption

The puzzle is the key to the story

The anticipation of if order is going to be restored

Places readers within a disordered world and track how characters uncover the cause and reestablish order

Filled with intriguing characters, intricate plots, and well-realized settings

**Thrillers**

Plot driven

Gripping

Professions – legal, medical, spy, art thrillers

Protagonist is placed in jeopardy

Pulls the reader into the story in just a few pages

Takes place during a short period of time – 24 hours or a few days

Cinematic or movie-like

**Suspense**

Protagonist v. Antagonist

Full of elegantly twisted plots and dangerously twisted minds

Uncertainty over what has happened or who is telling the truth

Claustrophobic feel

Tension

Fast paced

Told from a threated point of view

Something is dreadfully wrong in a seemingly normal world

Usually has a resolved ending

**Inspirational Fiction**

Comfortable reads

Gentle reads

No sex, no violence, no swearing

Tone sets these books apart

**Women’s Fiction**

About lives and relationships

Emotional stories filled with characters seeking to find balance, accept loss, or start anew

Story lines recount moments of inner conflict and domestic discord typically played out on a small, intimate scale

Problems in the book are rarely too big to overcome

Impart lessons learned to readers

**Street Lit/Urban Fiction**

Presents realistic characters in realistic environments, often focusing on the characters’ everyday lives

Focus on realism makes it relatable for readers

Fast paced stories, often involving flashbacks

Vivid descriptions of urban environments and inner city life

Characters are often young adults, often within the age range of 19-25

A focus on relationships, including overcoming obstacles or abuse, betrayals by friends, plans to take revenge

Can include romance, erotica, or mysteries

Gritty themes such as drug use or domestic violence

**Fantasy**

Magic

Good versus Evil; Light versus Dark

Characters, clearly defined as good or bad, often attain magical gifts and the story often explores ways to discover one’s own potential, magical or otherwise

Mythical creatures – dragons, unicorns, elves, wizards

Story may be based on a myth or legend

Starts slow while the author sets the scene, often involving a large group of characters in a strange world

Usually part of a series

**Urban Fantasy**

Subset of contemporary fantasy, with supernatural and/or magical elements set in a contemporary, real-world, urban setting

Often told in the first person narrative

Feature supernatural beings such as vampires, shapeshifters, fairies, witches, sorcerers, and demons

Tend to have a high amount of suspense and action

May also include romance, mystery, humor, or horror in the plotline

**Science Fiction**

Speculative fiction, usually set in the future

Explores moral, social, intellectual, philosophical and/or ethical questions

Setting is crucial and invokes otherness of time, place, and reality

Technical and scientific detail is very important

Characters are usually secondary to issues and atmosphere of the story

Because of the complexity of creating another world, authors often write series

**Romance**

Offers affirming stories and characters to cheer for and dream about

Optimistic novels that relate tales of courtship, mutual respect, and appreciation

Focuses on the developing relationship between the main characters

Provides interesting story backdrops and details

Promises a happy ending

Feeling of togetherness, support, and deep bonding