



Book Reviews

4 Classes of Readers

Sponges that just absorb all they read

Sand-glasses who read to pass time

Strain-bags who retain the dreg of what they read

Mogul Diamonds who profit by what they read and enable others to profit by it also.

- Poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge

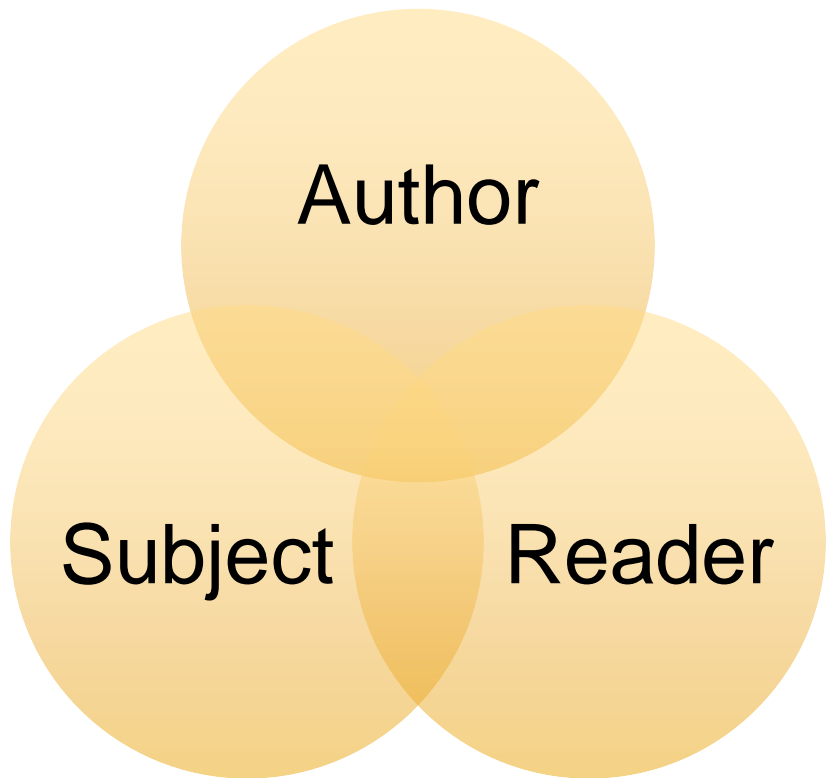


Why do you Read

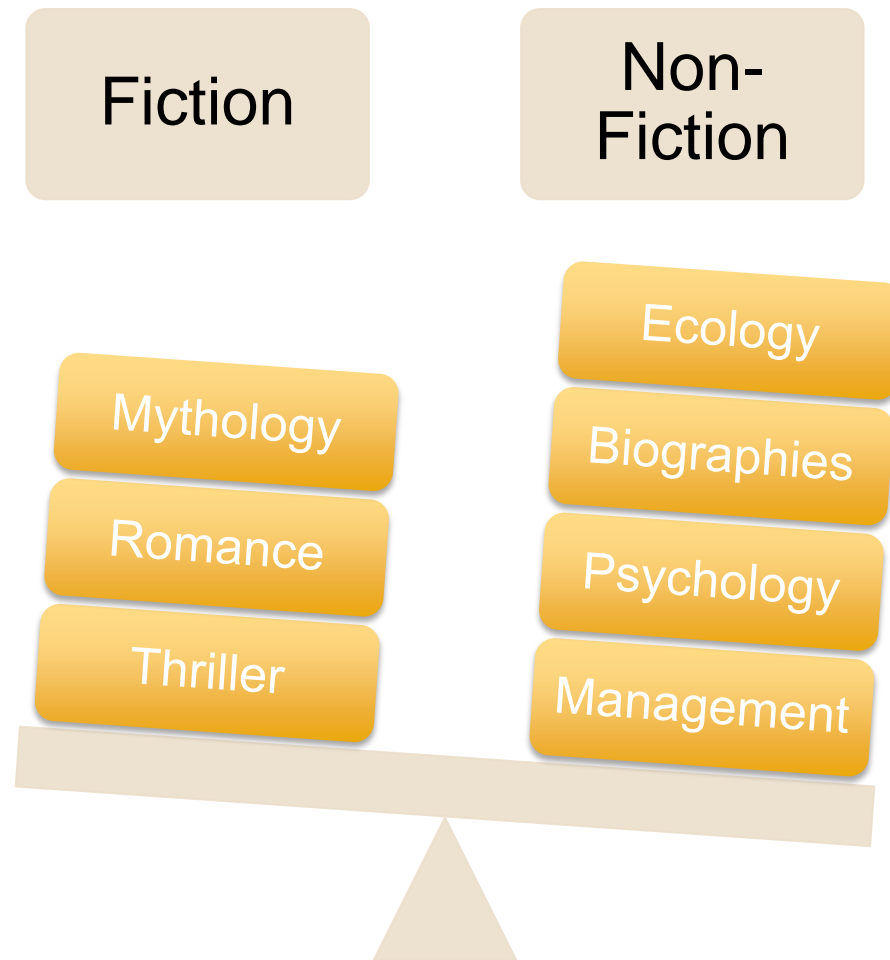
Figure Out !



Intersection



Know your Genres



Book Reviews

- Critical Analysis and evaluation of Quality, Meaning & Significance of the Book
- Subjective & Highly Personal
- Bonding / Chemistry between Reader & Author
- No Rights & Wrongs



Elements of Book Review

- Over all impression
- Purpose
- Author
- Content
- Language
- Editing
- Rasas
- General Tidbits

Not Exhaustive



Overall Impression

- ❑ Strengths / Weaknesses
- ❑ What you liked / not liked
- ❑ Impact on you your mind– changed opinion, enhanced knowledge
- ❑ Impact on your emotions – Happy, disgusted, thrilled, thinking
- ❑ Recommendation



Purpose

- Purpose of Books – Check Preface
- Whose Point of View
- Intended Audience
- Successful – to what extent



- Research the Author before you read
- Knowledge – Accuracy, Research
- Authority / Originality
- Purpose
- Style – Formal / Informal / Academic



- Level of Detail
- What and how much is New
- What level of audience – beginners to experts



Language

- Style – Rythmic / lyrical / matter of fact / colloquial / classic / simple
- Quality
- Space / Time indicator
- Coherence
- Suitability to Intended Audience
- Original or Translation



- Language Coherence
- Grammar
- Spelling
- Structure of the book – Look at ToC
- Most things not to do with the base content



Rasas (Emotions)

Shringar

- Hasya
- Shanta

Veer

- Raudra
- Vibhasta

Karuna

- Bhakti
- Bhaya



Fiction

- Characters
- Plot
- Theme
- Setting – Period & Place
- High points
- Emotion



Non-Fiction

- Accuracy – miss outs if any
- Style – Narrative, Descriptive, Argumentative
- Your opinion – agree / disagree
- Usefulness for the audience



- Length – 50-2000 words
- Basic Information
 - Title, Author, Price, Genre, Publisher, Edition
- Tidbits
 - Cover Design, Binding
 - Typeset
 - Pictures / Drawings / Maps
 - Author Background



Do Not

- Disclose the contents of the books
- Write a Summary
- Take away surprises
- Review what you have not read completely



Writer's Block

Read a few reviews

Think you are telling about the book you just
read to your friend



Structure of Review

- Title of Review
- First Para – Essence
- Your Opinion / Evaluation of the book
- Add your thoughts on the subject
- Usefulness & New Information for audience
- Comparison with similar works
- Connect the dots between author, his world and his work
- Quotes to substantiate
- Picture of Book and / or author
- Summarize



Book Reviews Landscape

- Moving Offline to Online
- From Elitist to more Democratic
- Quality Vs Quantity
- More books being published – need for recommendation increases
- Book Reviews at Online Stores & Book based Communities



I have always imagined Paradise as
a kind of library - Jorge Luis Borges

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