

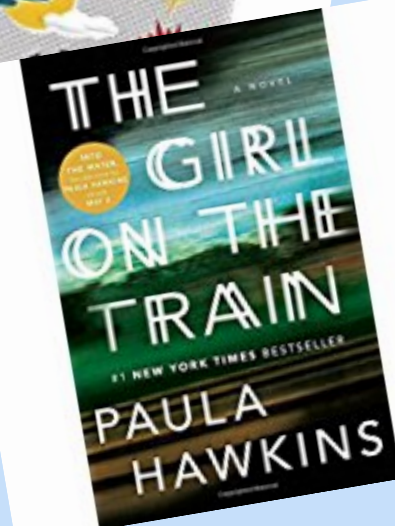
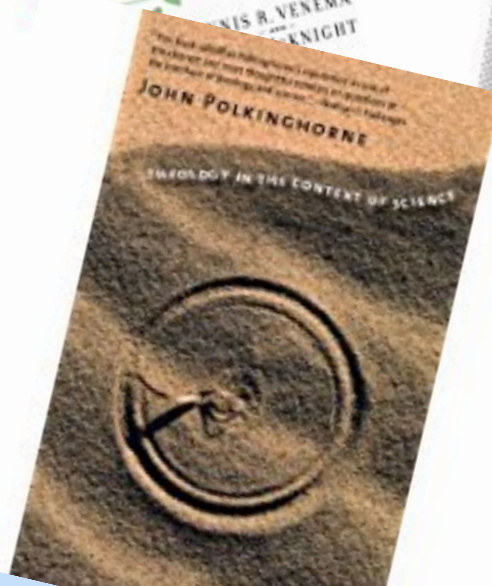
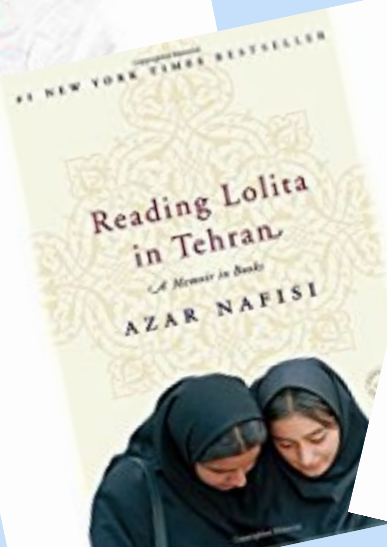
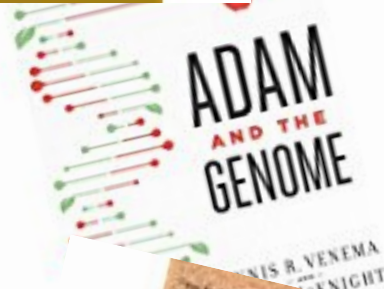
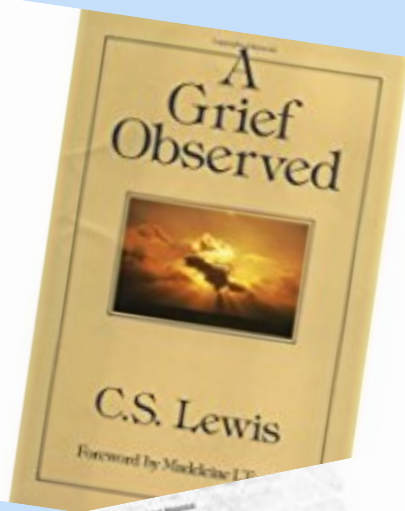
Genre:
What? So What?

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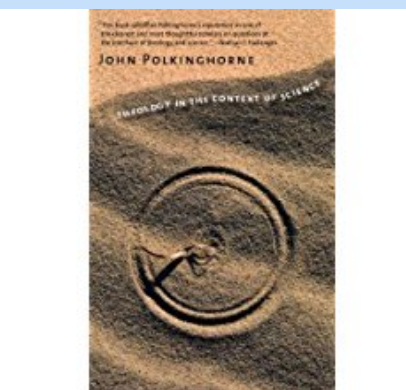
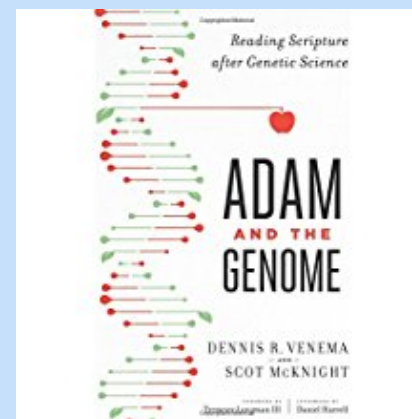
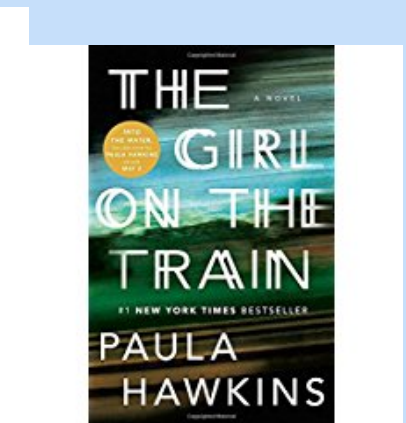
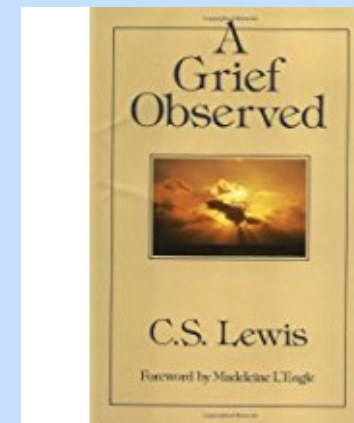
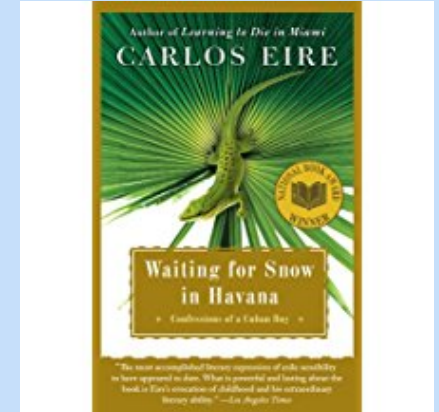
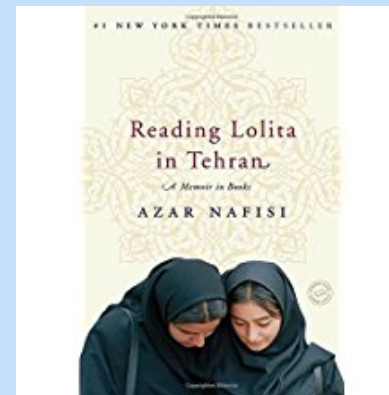


Modern Genres of My Titles

- ◆ Memoirs and biographies
- ◆ Mystery, thriller, suspense
- ◆ Science and religion
- ◆ Religion and spirituality
- ◆ Motivational self-help
- ◆ Fiction

Library of Congress: 734 genre terms as of March 2012

- “The last fifty years have seen the growth and flourishing of what have come to be called contextual theologies.”
- “There is a pile of clothing on the side of the train tracks.”
- “In the fall of 1995, after resigning from my last academic post I decided to indulge myself and fulfill a dream.”
- “No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.”
- “The world changed while I slept, and much to my surprise, no one had consulted me.”



Reading Strategy

- ◆ Reading strategies are mental procedures that readers apply to texts to facilitate their comprehension.
 - ◆ Can fulfill or subvert communication
- ◆ Triggered by the text itself, genre specific
 - ◆ “Once upon a time...”
- ◆ Reader’s purpose for reading should match author’s purpose for writing

Genre & Reading Strategy

“The clock on the mantelpiece said ten thirty, but someone had suggested recently that the clock was wrong. As the figure of the dead woman lay on the bed in the front room, a no less silent figure glided rapidly from the house. The only sounds to be heard were the ticking of that clock and the loud wailing of an infant.”

Who is the dead woman? How did she die?

Who is the silent figure?

Who is the infant?

What is the genre?

Genre & Reading Strategy

- ◆ Genres function within a culture; the text is fulfilling a cultural function, e.g. entertain, educate, inform, etc.
- ◆ Genre guides an author in writing the text.
- ◆ Genre cues reading strategy:
 - ◆ How to understand ambiguity
 - ◆ How to understand vocabulary
 - ◆ How to understand referents

Genre & Reading Strategy

- ◆ “The White House said today, ...”
- ◆ The greenhouse said, ...

Genre id?

Biblical Genres

- ◆ Narrative
- ◆ Poetry
 - ◆ proverb, riddle, imagery, metaphor, simile, structure
- ◆ Wisdom
- ◆ Prophecy (not as future oriented as prophecy in our culture)
- ◆ Gospels (they're *not* biographies of Jesus)
- ◆ Letters/epistles
- ◆ Apocalypse (the most foreign of biblical genres)

New Testament Letters

- ◆ What assumptions should inform our reading strategy?
- ◆ real inter-personal communication, grounded in real events
 - ◆ relationship of author to original audience?
 - ◆ what motivated the letter?
 - ◆ what did the author wish to accomplish with the letter?
- ◆ probably not poetic imagery, structure, etc (other than rhetorical questions and some metaphors)
- ◆ Linear logical progression (unlike, e.g., apocalypse)
- ◆ we're probably missing much shared knowledge

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ...Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?”

Reading NT Letters

- ◆ Read as real, historical letters meant to communicate;
- ◆ Read as a whole, not piecemeal;
- ◆ Read in original historical context;
 - ◆ ancient, Greco-Roman with different cultural values than ours
- ◆ Read as theology, as God's word for us;
 - ◆ “Written *for* us but not *to* us.”
 - ◆ Caution in application (“you” doesn’t always mean us)
 - ◆ What would it have meant to the original readers?

THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN
1 JOHN

1 JOHN

THAT WHICH WAS from the beginning, which we
which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked
have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life
was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and
to you the eternal life, which was with the Father
manifest to us—that which we have seen
you, so that you too may have
fellowship: