

## **LANDSCAPE GENRES**

### **Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Westerns**

1. Intricately described backgrounds—magical, historical, or mythic—frame these novels. Since the purpose of these genres is to take readers to a particular time and place, details are crucial and must ring true.
  
2. Mood, ranging from humorous to bleak, plays an important role in creating these authentic settings and establishing the feel of time and place.
  
3. Plots may be complex or more straightforward, focusing on particular time periods, events, or characters. In Fantasy and sometimes Westerns there a battle between good and evil propels the story line.
  
4. Characters may be black and white or more complex. These novels often portray characters coming of age or coming into their own powers. While magical beasts feature prominently in Fantasy, characters in Westerns and Historical Fiction may be actual historical figures or imagined.
  
5. Pacing may be fast in the action-oriented stories, but the wealth of details often makes the pacing more measured.
  
6. Language may be stylized and “authentic” or more conversational. Interesting styles—stories told through letters—and illustrations or maps enrich some novels.