BARTON LIBRARY

Dare to know

Nonfiction Novels

Fiction of any length that intentionally blends verifiably factual journalistic research with fictional elements.

This genre incorporates not only historical characters and events but also includes reports of everyday occurrences found in contemporary newspapers. This blend of historical accuracy and fictional storytelling techniques can combine real-world events with imaginative narratives. In documentary fiction, authors often draw inspiration from actual historical events and figures, incorporating them into their stories while also adding fictional elements to enhance the narrative. By utilizing newspaper reports and other primary sources, they provide a sense of authenticity and create a vivid backdrop for the fictional events to unfold. Nonfiction novels may incorporate elements of New Journalism, such as subjective language, journalistic narration, and extensive imagery. Andre Benton's *Nadja* (1928), Rebecca West's *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1941), Jim Bishop's *The Glass Crutch* (1945), John Hershey's *Hiroshima* (1946), Rodolfo Walsh's *Operation Massacre* (1957), Leo Uris's *Armageddon* (1964), Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* (1965), Paul L. Maier's *Pontius Pilate* (1968), and Norman Mailer's *The Armies of the Night* (1968) are classic examples of the genre.

Common Elements

Authentic historical figures and events	Invented dialogues
Creative literature	Point of view

Benefits of Reading

Enhances readers' knowledge of a subject	Improves readers' intellectual, analytical, and critical skills

Modern Literary Examples

Big Bang (2019) by David Bowman
China After Mao (2022) by Frank Dikötter
Helter Skelter (1974) by Vincent Bugilosi with Curt Gentry
In a Free State (1971) by V. S. Naipaul
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1994) by John Berendt

The People's Hospital (2023) by Ricardo Nuila
Ragtime (1975) by E. L. Doctorow
Ritual (2022) by Dimitris Xygalatas
Snow Job (1995) by Barbara F. Graham
Starvation Shore (2019) Laura Waterman
Strike Patterns (2022) by Leah Zani