

**BACKGROUND:** In general, literary resources are assigned genre/form terms according to the guidelines in J 110, but there are certain aspects of literary resources that require special provisions that are not applicable to other resources. This instruction sheet presents guidelines on those special provisions.

**1. Fiction.** In addition to terms assigned in accordance with the guidelines in J 110, assign a term that indicates the length of the resource when it is readily apparent (e.g., **Novels; Novellas; Short stories; Flash fiction**). *Examples:*

*Title:* The secret of the old clock / Carolyn Keene.  
*Terms:* Detective and mystery fiction.  
Novels.

*Title:* The fall of the House of Usher and other tales / Edgar Allan Poe.  
*Terms:* Horror fiction.  
Short stories.

**2. Poetry.** The general guideline to assign genre/form terms only as they come readily to mind after a superficial review of the resource being cataloged (see J 110) is particularly important for poetry. For both individual poems and collections of poetry, rely chiefly on the title, introduction, cover information, etc., to determine whether the poetry is of a specific genre or form. If after a superficial review a specific genre or form cannot be determined, assign the term **Poetry**.  
*Examples:*

*Title:* Sonnets / William Shakespeare.  
*Terms:* Sonnets.

*Title:* For you with love / compiled by Kay Anne Carson.  
*Terms:* Love poetry.

*Title:* Half of the world in light : new and selected poems / Juan Felipe Herrera.  
*Terms:* Poetry.

**2. Poetry. (Continued)**

*Title:* The hunting of the Snark / Lewis Carroll

*Data:* "The Hunting of the Snark tells the story of how the Bellman and his eccentric crew, who include a butcher, a baker, a beaver, and a tailor, set off in quest of that most mysterious and elusive of creatures, the Snark."--Page 4 of cover.

*Terms:* Narrative poetry.

If the genre or form of a poem or collection of poetry is known to the cataloger due to the cataloger's academic or cultural background, etc., one or more genre/form terms may be assigned to represent the genre or form. *Examples:*

*Title:* The Odyssey / Homer.

*Terms:* Epic poetry.

*Title:* The rape of the lock / Alexander Pope.

*Terms:* Mock-heroic poetry.