

21W.758 Genre Fiction - Instructor's Notes by Shariann Lewitt

Class 3

Reader-Writer contract –

What do you, as a Reader, expect from a book of your genre?

How much are you willing to suspend disbelief?

For what?

Play by the rules

Play fair

So what must you as a writer provide?

Full world

5 senses

full sensory experience

characters we care about

everything makes sense

“They all got run over by a truck and died. The End.”

Problems are Real -

Something is at STAKE for the Characters

You've done your research

Dangers of research

too little

too much

Dangers of world building

too derivative

too diverting

You need to know EVERYTHING, but your Reader does not need to know everything.

(I just learned the history of the dirigible for my steampunk book - I don't know how much I'll use)

Detail, detail - the specific and important details

Use 3 sensory details to describe a restaurant so I know what kind of food it serves, how fancy, who is there.

Subgenres - list for your genre (we can list on the board).

Some subgenres are popular crossovers (historical mystery).

Remind them to watch for Reveals in 9 Tailors!

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21W.758 Genre Fiction Workshop
Spring 2013

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.