Historical Fantasy
This subgenre is sometimes called “alternative history” because the authors frequently change the historical accuracy of the time period by inserting magic into the story line. These books can include historical times, places and people. A sampling:
- Tales of Alvin Maker by Orson Scott Card
- The Crown of Stars Series by Kate Elliott
- The Hammer and the Cross Series by Harry Harrison
- Etruscans: Beloved of the Gods by Morgan Llywelyn and Michael Scott
- The Moon and the Sun by Vondra McIntyre
- The Hallowed Isle Series by Diana L. Paxson

Urban Fantasy
Works in this subgenre take place in a contemporary time in urban settings in what is termed the “indeterminate present”. Magic is an essential element and exists in the here and now. A sampling:
- The Dresden Files by Jim Butcher
- Mortal Instruments Series by Cassandra Clare
- Moonheart by Charles de Lint
- Hush, Hush Saga by Becca Fitzpatrick
- Blood Series by Tanya Huff

Websites
- www.ci.northfield.mn.us/library
- Click elibrary then Novelist
- www.goodreads.com
- www.librarything.com

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Characteristics of Fantasy Fiction

- **MAGIC IS KEY**
  - It is an ancient form rooted in myth & legend.
  - It is a world of faerie, magic, sorcery and Enchantment.
  - It appeals more to the emotions than the intellect.
  - It deals with otherness of time or place.
  - Settings may be historical or contemporary, but in a world most people believe could never be.
  - Story lines feature good vs evil as protagonists battle and conquer malevolent forces, Victory does not come easily or cheaply.
  - It starts slowly as the author sets the scene, introduces the cast and presents the challenge.

**Fantasy Fiction Classics**

The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander
The Oz series by L. Frank Baum
The Last Unicorn by Peter Beagle
The Sword of Shannara by Terry Brooks
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carol
The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant by Stephen R. Donaldson

The Worm Ouroboros by E.R. Eddison
The Earthsea Trilogy by Ursula K. Le Guin
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis
The Elric Saga by Michael Moorcock

**Arthurian Legend**
The legend of King Arthur has inspired an enormous body of literature. He is a figure of mythic proportion and tragic history. Historians believe that Arthur did exist and united the tribes of Britain against the Saxons, finally defeating them in 495 A.D. Britain enjoyed 40 years of peace before Arthur fell in the Battle of Camlann in 537 A.D. Arthur is considered one of the English-speaking world’s first heroes. A sampling:
The Forever King by Molly Cochran & Warren Murphy
Firelord by Parke Godwin
The Pendragon Cycle by Stephen R. Lawhead
The Arthurian Saga by Mary Stewart
The Once and Future King series by T.H. White
The Mists of Avalon by Marion Bradley Zimmer

**Epic Fantasy**
Epic fantasy is generally serious in tone and often epic in scope, dealing with themes of grand struggle against supernatural, evil forces. Typical characteristics of epic fantasy include fantastical elements such as elves, fairies, dwarves, magic or sorcery, wizards or magicians, invented languages, quests, coming-of-age themes, and multi-volume narratives. A sampling:
The Belgariad Series by David Eddings
The Riftwar Series by Raymond Feist
The Wheel of Time Series by Robert Jordan
The Mage Wars Series by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon
The Sword of Truth Series by Terry Goodkind

The Farseer Trilogy by Robin Hobb
A Song of Fire and Ice Series by George R.R. Martin
The Recluse Series by L.E. Modesitt Jr.
The Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini
His Dark Materials Series by Phillip Pullman
The Kingkiller Chronicles by Patrick Rothfuss
The Demon Awakens by R.A. Salvatore
The Mistborn Series by Brandon Sanderson
The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien
The Memory, Sorrow and Thorn Series by Tad Williams

**Faeries and Faerie Tales**
The origin of faerie tales may lie in the search for explanations of inexplicable events of everyday life. Faerie tales frequently include the use of magic for good or evil and have always been dark in setting and nature. A sampling:
Enchantment by Orson Scott Card
Faerie Tale by Raymond Feist
Stardust by Neil Gaiman
Firebird by Mercedes Lackey
Once Upon a Winter’s Night by Dennis L. McKiernan
Spindle’s End by Robin McKinley
Daughter of the Forest by Juliet Marillier
Once Upon Series by Dennis L. McKiernan
Crazy Jack by Donna Jo Napoli
Beauty by Sheri Tepper
The Snow Queen by Joan Vinge