What genre is this?

How can I tell?
Look for the *elements* that make up each genre:

- Fairy Tale
- Fable
- Myth
- Legend
- Fantasy
Fairy Tale

A fictional story, usually written for children, that often include fairies or other magical creatures.
Fairy Tale

- The story begins with phrases like “Once upon a time” or “Once there was”
- The setting is a faraway or imaginary land
- The characters are often royal, like a king, queen, prince or princess
- Things often happen or appear in threes
- Magical powers are used...maybe to grant wishes
- The story has a happy ending, where good wins over evil
Some **examples** of Fairy Tales are:

- Cinderella
- The Three Little Pigs
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Beauty and the Beast
- Hansel and Gretel
Fable

- A narration, demonstrating a useful truth, in which animals often speak as humans.
Elements often included in a...

**Fable**

- The story is very short
- The story has only two or three characters
- The characters in the story may be animals or things that act like people
- The author’s purpose in writing the story is to teach the reader a “lesson” or moral
Some examples of Fables are:

- The Tortoise and the Hare
- The Fox and the Grapes
- The Ant and the Grasshopper
- The Goose with the Golden Eggs
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
Myth

- A traditional narrative, often based in part on historical events, that reveals human behavior and natural events by its symbolism, often relating to the actions of the gods.
Myth

• The story offers an explanation of how something in nature looks, happens or comes about
• The story tries to explain why people act as they do
• The characters may be human, or they may be super-human, like a god or goddess
Some examples of Myths are:

- Greek Myths
- Native American Myths
Legend

A story, sometimes about a national or folk hero, that has a basis in fact but also includes imaginative materials.
Elements often included in a...

**Legend**

- The story is about a hero or heroine
- The story may be based on facts, but the hero or heroine’s actions probably didn’t really happen the way they are told in the story
- The main characters and their actions are exaggerated or “bigger than life”
- The story is often told and retold from one generation to the next.
Some **examples** of Legends are:

- Robin Hood
- King Arthur
- The Legend of the Indian Paint Brush
- Pirates of the Caribbean
Fantasy

Fiction with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction involves magic, and the supernatural.
Fantasy

- The characters in the story can be people, animals, or objects
- The characters do things that cannot be done in real life and the characters are often “make believe”
- The story takes place in make-believe setting
- The plot often contains a battle of Good vs. Evil
Some examples of a Fantasy are:

- Harry Potter
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Alice and Wonderland
- James and the Giant Peach
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Remember...

You can unlock the secret of any genre by knowing the specific elements of each genre.

Good Luck!