Realistic fiction is a story written about events that did not actually happen but could have happened; the people, events and places may be real. It is a classification of literature containing stories that could actually happen, in a time and setting that is plausible and contains realistic characters.

**Characteristics of Realistic Fiction**

* Setting is an accurate portrayal of the world as we know it. The setting could exist; it is a vivid and accurate depiction.
* It contains believable stories as the writer uses everyday occurrences and/or extreme realism; the story is not true but it could be.
* Everyday language is present. The author uses a dialogue that makes the characters seem genuine.
* The plot contains conflict or tension as well as a resolution.
* The problems are realistic, e.g., problems of self, family or nature.
* The solution is believable as a result of the characters actions.
* The themes depict realistic experiences that the author wants the reader to understand, e.g., a message about people, life, nature or the world.
* The characters are human beings who behave in realistic ways.
* The characters use realistic dialogue that makes them appear real.
* The narrative structure and elements are presented in a time ordered sequence.