

# FICTION OR NON-FICTION?

This may seem obvious, but you need to know if what you are writing is fiction or non-fiction.

So, what is the difference?

## Fiction

- Fiction is a story that is made up – it's something that is not true. It's a product of your imagination.
- In fiction; places, setting, and events can still be real.
- Characters are completely fictitious.
  - For example: The movie Dunkirk – The places and settings were real (it was set on the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk). The events were real (boats did come to the rescue of Allied soldiers), but the characters were fictitious. Yes, Kenneth Branagh's Commander Bolton was fake. Although, he is assumed to be inspired by the real Captain William Tennent).
  - Same goes for the movie Titanic. The ship was real, the events and settings were based on true events (the band really is supposed to have played on while the ship sank). But DiCaprio and Winslet's 'Jack and Rose' characters were fictitious.
- Fiction books are usually written as either novels, novella's, short stories, or flash fiction.



## Non-Fiction

- Non-Fiction means that what you write MUST be truthful. It's accurate. It's factual. These could be:
  - DIY Books (plumbing, decorating, car mechanics, etc.).
  - Autobiographies
  - Gardening Books
  - Self-Help and Self-Improvement Books
  - Educational Books
  - Historical Books
- For example, a cooking book would be full of real recipes. An autobiography (or biography) about Tina Turner would be an accurate account of her life.
- Non-fiction books can be written in the format of a book, a memoir, a diary, a textbook, a poem, or a newspaper, to mention a few.