In libraries and bookstores, books are arranged according to their type or genre. Fiction and Non-Fiction are the main categories. Children’s literature is also classified in this way and within these two main categories; you will find folktales, concept books, poetry, realistic fiction, and wordless picture books. Each genre has its own appeal and benefits.

1. **Folktales and Fairy Tales** allow children to identify with their own culture and to learn about others. With slight variations in telling, many of these stories can be identified in cultures around the world, for example Cinderella, and Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters.

Conversational Reading Technique: *Predicting*  
**Prompts**  
• What do you think will happen next?  
• Why do you think so?

2. **Non-Fiction Books** are books that contain information and include Concept books. This genre promotes the development of background information. The language and information that come from these books help develop academic interests and increase attention span.

Conversational Reading Technique: *Learning New Information*  
**Prompts**  
• What do you already know about the topic?  
• Read to learn more (Read and discuss text and pictures)  
• Now what do you know?

3. **Poetry** can be appealing for its rhyme, content and images. Some children’s poems are short and easy to memorize; children like to recite what they have learned when they have a receptive audience.

Conversational Reading Technique: *Rereading*  
**Prompts**  
• What additional thoughts, feelings, and reactions came from rereading?  
• How did your reading become more expressive?

4. **Realistic Fiction** or books about issues and problems can promote communication about difficult topics. They are also a vehicle for developing empathy when children see themselves in the character’s situation.
Conversational Reading Technique: *Developing Empathy*

**Prompts**
- How do you think ________(the character) feels?
- How do you feel?

5. *Wordless Picture Books* have no words except for the title. Reading wordless picture books promotes language development. You use your imagination and your own vocabulary to tell the story by reading the pictures. It is not easy to connect each picture to create a continuous story, but that is the challenge and fun of a wordless picture book.

Conversational Reading Technique: *Creating a Story from Pictures*

**Prompts**
- Create Dialogue: Tell what the characters are saying/thinking/feeling
- Describe what you see in the picture