BACKGROUND: In general, literary resources are assigned genre/form terms according to the guidelines in J 110, but there are certain aspects of literary resources that require special provisions that are not applicable to other resources. This instruction sheet presents guidelines on those special provisions.

1. Fiction. In addition to terms assigned in accordance with the guidelines in J 110, assign a term that indicates the length of the resource when it is readily apparent (e.g., Novels; Novellas; Short stories; Flash fiction). Examples:

   Title: The secret of the old clock / Carolyn Keene.
   Terms: Detective and mystery fiction.
   Novels.

   Title: The fall of the House of Usher and other tales / Edgar Allan Poe.
   Terms: Horror fiction.
   Short stories.

2. Poetry. The general guideline to assign genre/form terms only as they come readily to mind after a superficial review of the resource being cataloged (see J 110) is particularly important for poetry. For both individual poems and collections of poetry, rely chiefly on the title, introduction, cover information, etc., to determine whether the poetry is of a specific genre or form. If after a superficial review a specific genre or form cannot be determined, assign the term Poetry. Examples:

   Title: Sonnets / William Shakespeare.
   Terms: Sonnets.

   Title: For you with love / compiled by Kay Anne Carson.
   Terms: Love poetry.

   Title: Half of the world in light : new and selected poems / Juan Felipe Herrera.
   Terms: Poetry.
2. Poetry. (Continued)

Title: The hunting of the Snark / Lewis Carroll
Data: “The Hunting of the Snark tells the story of how the Bellman and his eccentric crew, who include a butcher, a baker, a beaver, and a tailor, set off in quest of that most mysterious and elusive of creatures, the Snark.”—Page 4 of cover.
Terms: Narrative poetry.

If the genre or form of a poem or collection of poetry is known to the cataloger due to the cataloger’s academic or cultural background, etc., one or more genre/form terms may be assigned to represent the genre or form. Examples:

Title: The Odyssey / Homer.
Terms: Epic poetry.

Title: The rape of the lock / Alexander Pope.
Terms: Mock-heroic poetry.