

# Western

## What's it all about...

The genre label Western is usually applied to novels that are associated with a specific time and place in American history that depict the desolate, difficult life encountered by American frontier families.

Specific settings include isolated forts, ranches and homesteads, Native American villages, or the small frontier town with its saloon, general store, livery stable and jailhouse. Heroes of these stories are usually cowboys or gunfighters bound to no social structures but their own code of honour, who roam from place to place on horseback, fighting villains.

## The classic works:

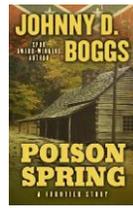
- *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1912) by Zane Grey
- *Shane* (1949) Jack Schaefer
- *Hondo* (1952) by Louis L'Amour
- *Lonesome Dove* (1985) by Larry McMurtry
- *The Good Old Boys* (1999) by Elmer Kelton

## Resources to find the best in Western:

- **Read the High Country: a Guide to Western Books and Films:** John Mort authored title in the Genreflecting Advisory Series spans the entire spectrum of the genre
- **What Western Do I Read Next:** Wayne Barton's guide to 1900 western titles is designed to connect aficionados with their next read
- **Westernfictionreview.blogspot.ca:** regularly updated blog with news and reviews
- **Westernwriters.org:** the website of Western Writers of America with industry news and links to Spur winners of past and present

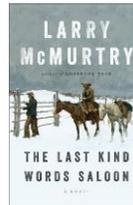
## Your list of recent titles:

- *Poison Spring* (2014) by Johnny D. Boggs



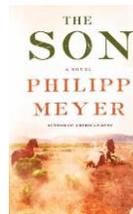
Travis Ford lives on an Arkansas farm while his father is away in the Civil War, and becomes a witness to the massacre of the First Kansas Colored Volunteers unit by Confederate soldiers at the Battle of Poison Spring in 1864.

- *The Last Kind Words Saloon* (2013) by Larry McMurtry



Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday move across the frontier from Long Grass, Texas, to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Denver in the latest novel by the acclaimed author of *The Last Picture Show* and *Lonesome Dove*.

- *The Son* (2014) by Philipp Meyer



Captured in a Comanche raid when he was 13, Eli McCullough must re-adapt to the world of frontier Texas when he is eventually released. This title will appeal to fans of family sagas and Texas history.

- *Silent we Stood* (2013) by Henry Chappell



Winner of a 2014 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America, this novel transports the reader to July 8, 1860, when Dallas, Texas burned. Three slaves were accused of arson and hanged without a trial. Chappell investigates complex relationship between slave-holders, slaves and the white abolitionists

# Enjoy!