

Genre: Novel

An extended fictional prose narrative

Definition:

- “an extended fictional prose narrative that allows the author to provide fuller character and plot development than in the short story” (from Harris, et al. The Literacy Dictionary, IRA, 1995)
- The novel “...permits authors to develop one or more characters, to establish their motivation, and to construct intricate plots.” (Murfin and Ray, The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms, Bedford, 2003)

Purpose:

- To engage, entertain and evoke emotion
- To cause the reader to reflect on his/her life
- To give the reader the opportunity to live vicariously

Form and Features:

- Although fictional, the author presents the characters, settings, incidents and conflicts as realistically as possible.
- Relationships and their changing nature are usually essential elements.
- Novels have a definite plot structure with character(s) in a setting, conflict, problem or goal.
- Conflict, the tension that exists between a force(s) in the character's life, can be in four forms:
 - Person – against – self
 - Person – against – person
 - Person – against – nature
 - Person – against – society
- There is complexity of character development. The character's words or dialogue show their personalities.
- There is often a point of view or perspective from which the novel is told.

Adapted from Margaret Mooney, *Text, Forms and Features*, 2001, Richard C. Owen.

Novel Bookmark

An extended fictional prose narrative

Name:

Title:

Follow directions and write a brief reminder of the genre characteristics you find as you read.

Identify main characters and setting. How are character and plot developed?

Identify conflicts: person-against-self, person-against-person, person-against-

p.

p.

p.

p.

From what point of view or perspective is the novel told?

p.

p.

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p.

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Story Elements

The elements of a story include:

- ❖ Characters-Who is in the story?

- ❖ Setting-When and where does the story take place?

- ❖ Problem-What problem does the main character have or what does the main character want?

- ❖ Events-What does the main character do to solve his/her problem or get what he/she wants?

- ❖ Resolution-How is the problem solved? or How does the main character learn to deal with the problem?

- ❖ Theme- What is the universal theme or lesson learned?