

NOVEL TYPES TO KNOW

Bildungsroman

- coming of age novel, or novel of initiation
- ex: *Huck Finn*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Great Expectations*

Metaphysical Novels

- novels that treat themes of creation, judgment, and redemption.
- ex: *The Castle* (Franz Kafka)

Epistolary

- made up of letters or journals from various protagonists
- ex: *Frankenstein*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (Chbosky)

Gothic

- combines a desolate setting and mysterious events to create an atmosphere of terror
- ex: *Frankenstein* (Shelley), *The Sorrows of Young Werther* (Goethe)

Gothic Romance

- presents a stormy love relationship within a violent, brooding atmosphere
- ex: *Jane Eyre* (C. Brontë), *Wuthering Heights* (E. Brontë), *Rebecca* (duMaurier)

Historical

- centers on individuals, society, or events from the past, combined with fictional characters
- ex: *Tale of Two Cities* (Dickens)

Naturalistic

- pessimistically portrays sordidness, squalor, and violence through characters who have no control over their destinies; naturalistic novel studies effect of heredity and environment on human beings
- ex: *Tess of the D'urbervilles* (Hardy)

Novel of Manners

- defines social mores of a specific group, often the upper-middle class, which control the actions of the characters
- ex: *Pride and Prejudice* (Austen), *The Age of Innocence* (Wharton)

Picaresque

- early & prevalent novel type in which the protagonist, a social underdog, has a series of episodic adventures in which he sees much of the world around him and comments satirically upon it
- ex: *Don Quixote* (Cervantes), *Pirates of the Caribbean* (film)

Psychological

- emphasizes internal motives, conflicts, opinions of main characters, which then develop the external action

- ex: *The Stranger* (Camus), *Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger)

Realistic

- can be characterized by its complex characters with mixed motives that are rooted in social class & operate according to a highly developed social structure; characters interact with other characters and undergo plausible and everyday experiences
- ex: *Jude the Obscure*, *Red Badge of Courage*

Regional Novel

- derivative of the social novel is the regional novel; delineates the life of people in a particular place--focusing on customs and speech--to demonstrate how environment influences its inhabitants
- ex: *Huckleberry Finn* (Twain)

Satirical

- reveals human folly and vices through wit, scorn, ridicule, and exaggeration, with hope for reform.
- ex: *Animal Farm* (Orwell), *Confederacy of Dunces*, (Toole) *Catch 22* (Heller)

Science Fiction

- imagines the impact of real or hypothetical scientific developments on individuals or society. (* More and more people are starting to call this **Speculative Fiction**.)
- ex: *Fahrenheit 451* (Bradbury), *A Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood)

Sociological

- depicts the problems and injustices of society, making moral judgments and offering resolution; related to historical is social novel, which presents a panoramic picture of an entire age.
- ex: *The Grapes of Wrath* (Steinbeck), *Lord of the Flies* (Golding), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Lee)

Stream of Consciousness

- presents the total range of thoughts, memories and associations of a character in uninterrupted, endless flow; plot is not necessarily linear or chronological.
- ex: *As I Lay Dying* (Faulkner), *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Joyce)