

Types of Novels

Bildungsroman	presents the development of the protagonist's mind and character, passing from childhood through varied experiences (usually including a spiritual crisis) into maturity and recognition of an identity and a role in the world. The development of an artist to maturity and mastery of artistic craft is a <i>kunstlerroman</i> .
Epistolary Novel	The narrative is conveyed entirely by an exchange of letters.
Gothic Novel	magic, mystery, and the supernatural are the chief characteristics. The term is applied today to novels which discard the setting but maintain the atmosphere of brooding and unknown terror.
Historical Novel	takes its setting and some of its characters and events from history; the term is usually applied only if the historical milieu and events are fairly elaborately developed, and important to the central narrative.
Novel of Manners	The social mores of a social class at a particular time and place are defined and described in detail and with great accuracy, and these mores become powerful controls over characters.
Picaresque Novel	(from <i>pícaro</i> , Spanish for 'rogue') the typical story is of the escapades of a rascal who lives by his wits, and shows little if any alteration of character through the long succession of his adventures. Picaresque fiction is realistic in manner, episodic in structure, and usually satiric in aim.
Psychological Novel	places major emphasis on interior characterization, not content to state just what happens, but going on to explain the "why" behind the action. Presenting the uninterrupted, uneven, and endless flow of thought of one or more characters. Stream-of-consciousness is a favored technique.
Regional Novel	emphasizes the setting, speech, and customs of a particular locality, not merely as local color, but as important conditions affecting the temperament of the characters and their ways of thinking, feeling, and acting.
Romance Novel	has simplified characters, larger than life, sharply discriminated as heroes and villains. The protagonist is often solitary and isolated from the social context. The adventurous plot may be a quest for an ideal or the pursuit of an enemy. Nonrealistic and melodramatic events are sometimes symbolize the primal desires, hopes, and terrors of the human mind.
Sociological Novel	emphasizes the influences of social and economic conditions on characters and events. If it also embodies an implicit or explicit thesis recommending social reform, it is a propaganda novel.

Another way to classify types of novels with the emphasis on particular subjects, such as

Campus (or academic) novel	one whose main action is set in and around the campus of a university.
Comic (or graphic) novel	a graphic medium in which images convey a sequential narrative
Crime fiction	deals with crimes, their detection, criminals and their motives. Subgenres include detective fiction (including the whodunit), legal thriller, courtroom drama, hard-boiled fiction, and spy novel
Fantasy	uses magic and other supernatural forms as a primary element of plot, theme and/or setting
Science fiction	differs from fantasy in that, within the context of the story, its imaginary elements are largely possible within scientifically established or scientifically postulated laws of nature (though some elements in a story might still be pure imaginative speculation)
Horror	intended to scare its readers, inducing feelings of horror and terror, whether natural or supernatural
Romance	focused on the relationship and romantic love between two people
Gothic	combines elements of both horror and romance
Westerns	comprise the history, geography, people, lore, and cultural expression of life in the Western United States, between the American Civil War and the end of the 19th century.
Magical realism	an aesthetic style in which magical elements or illogical scenarios appear in an otherwise realistic or even “normal” setting.