Novel

Some quotes about the topic "novel"

"...an imaginary work in prose of a considerable length, which presents as real certain characters living in a given environment and describes their attitudes, fate, and adventures."

(Percy Lubbock)

"a fiction in prose of a certain extent"

(Abel Chevally cited by E.M. Forster in **Aspects of the Novel** , he adds that he defines "extent" as over 50,000 words.)

"an extended narrative covering a wide range of characters and experience"

(M.H. Adams)

"a book-length story in prose about either imaginary or historical characters"

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary of Current English)

Origin of the word "novel"

The word "novel" (which wasn't even used until the end of the 18th century) is an English transliteration[1] of the Italian word "novella" - used to describe a short, compact, broadly realistic tale popular during the medieval period (e.g. The Decameron).

Characteristics of a "novel":

The novel deals with a **human character** in a **social situation**, man as a social being.

The novel places more emphasis on character, especially one well-rounded character, than on plot.

Another initial major characteristic of the novel is realism - a full and authentic report of human life.

The traditional novel has:

- a unified and plausible plot structure
- sharply individualized and believable characters
- a pervasive[2] illusion of reality

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1   transliteration – Umschreibung, Umschlüsselung
2   pervasive – durchdringend, tiefgreifend

Compare: http://www.nvcc.edu/home/ataormina/novels/history/define.htm

Contrasting different types of prose fiction:

There are three possible points of emphasis in prose fiction. Each point can be emphasized in either a long or a short narrative.

Point of Emphasis	Short Form	Long Form
abstract theme	fable	allegory
plot	anecdote	Romance
character	**short story**	**novel**

As you can see from the above table, the novel is one form of an extended fictional prose narrative. It differs from allegory (which functions to teach some sort of moral lesson) and romance (with its emphasis on spectacular and exciting events designed to entertain) in its emphasis on character development.

The novel, however, arises from the desire to depict[3] and interpret human character. The reader of a novel is both entertained and aided in a deeper perception[4] of life's problems.

Different types of novels

The Gothic Novel (Bram Stroker: Dracula)

The Castaway Novel (Daniel Defoe: Robinson Crusoe)

The Utopian Novel (Ray Bradbury: Fahrenheit 451)

The Picaresque Novel (Henry Fielding: Joseph Andrews)

The Historical Novel (Thornton Wilder: The Ides of March)

The War Novel (Ernest Hemingway: A Farewell to Arms)

The Crime Novel (Ian Fleming: The Man with the Golden Gun)

The Satirical Novel (Evelyn Waugh: The Loved One)

The Science Fiction Novel (Douglas Adams: The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy)

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3   depict – abbilden, schildern, zeigen
4   perception – Auffassung, Sichtweise, Erkenntnis

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