

LITERARY FORMS & TERMS

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Novel

- A novel is a long narrative that is normally in prose describes fictional characters and events in sequence
- While Ian Watt in *The Rise of the Novel* (1957) suggests that the novel came into being in the early 18th century

Novel

- The present English (and Spanish) word for a long work of prose fiction derives from the Italian novella for "new", "news", or "short story of something new", itself from the Latin novella.
- A novel is a long, fictional narrative which describes intimate human experiences.
- The novel in the modern era usually makes use of a literary prose style, and the development of the prose novel at this time was encouraged by innovations in printing, and the introduction of cheap paper, in the 15th century.

Novella

- A novella is a written, fictional, prose narrative normally longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.
- The English word "novella" derives from the Italian "novella", feminine of "novello", which means "new".
- The novella is a common literary genre in several European languages.

Novella

- A novella generally features fewer conflicts than a novel, yet more complicated ones than a short story.
- Unlike novels, they are usually not divided into chapters, and are often intended to be read at a single sitting, as the short story, although white space is often used to divide the sections.
- Warren Cariou wrote:

“The novella is generally not as formally experimental as the long story and the novel can be, and it usually lacks the subplots, the multiple points of view, and the generic adaptability that are common in the novel. It is most often concerned with personal and emotional development rather than with the larger social sphere. The novella generally retains something of the unity of impression that is a hallmark of the short story, but it also contains more highly developed characterization and more luxuriant description”.

The Picaresque Novel

- (Spanish: "picaresca," from "pícaro," for "rogue" or "rascal") is a popular subgenre of prose fiction which might sometimes be satirical and depicts, in realistic and often humorous detail, the adventures of a roguish hero of low social class who lives by his wits in a corrupt society.
- This style of novel originated in 16th-century Spain with the novel *Lazarillo de Tormes* and flourished throughout Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. It continues to influence modern literature.
- The outstanding French example is Alain-René Lesage's *Gil Blas* (1715–35), which preserves a Spanish setting and borrows incidents from forgotten Spanish novels but portrays a gentler, more humanized picaro.

Picaresque Novel

- A picaresque narrative is usually written in first person as an autobiographical account.
- The main character is often of low character or social class. He or she gets by with wit and rarely deigns to hold a job.
- There is no plot. The story is told in a series of loosely connected adventures or episodes.
- The picaro's story is told with a plainness of language or realism.
- Satire might sometimes be a prominent element.
- The behavior of a picaresque hero or heroine stops just short of criminality. Carefree or immoral rascality positions the picaresque hero as a sympathetic outsider, untouched by the false rules of society.

Picaresque Novel

- The first picaresque novel in England was Thomas Nashe's *Unfortunate Traveller, or, the Life of Jacke Wilton* (1594).
- In England the female picaro was revived in Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* (1722),
- Many picaresque elements can be found in Henry Fielding's *Jonathan Wild* (1725), *Joseph Andrews* (1742), and *Tom Jones* (1749),
- The full title of *Moll Flanders* gives an apt summary of the plot: "The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders, Etc.
- She was born in Newgate, and during a life of continu'd Variety for Threescore Years, besides her Childhood, was Twelve Year a Whore, five times a Wife (whereof once to her own brother), Twelve Year a Thief, Eight Year a Transported Felon in Virginia, at last grew Rich, liv'd Honest and died a Penitent. Written from her own Memorandums."

Epistolary Novel

- A novel written in the form of a series of letters exchanged among the characters of the story, with extracts from their journals sometimes included. (Concise Oxford Dict. Of Lit Terms)
- The word epistolary is derived from Latin from the Greek word *epistolē*, meaning a letter
- The first novel to expose the complex play that the genre allows was Aphra Behn's *Love-Letters Between a Nobleman and His Sister*, which appeared in three volumes in 1684, 1685, and 1687.
- The form becomes popular with Samuel Richardson's *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* (1740). It is the story of a servant girl's victorious struggle against her master's attempts to seduce her, it was one of the earliest forms of novel to be developed and remained one of the most popular up to the 19th century.

Epistolary Novel

- The epistolary form can add greater realism to a story, because it mimics the workings of real life.
- Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa* (1749), John Cleland's early erotic novel *Fanny Hill* (1748), Henry Fielding's *Shamela* (1741), Henry Fielding's *Shamela* (1741), Oliver Goldsmith used the form to satirical effect in *The Citizen of the World*, etc.
- Fyodor Dostoevsky used the epistolary format for his first novel, *Poor Folk* (1846)

Gothic Novel

- Gothic novel, European Romantic, pseudomedieval fiction having a prevailing atmosphere of mystery and terror.
- Its heyday was the 1790s, but it underwent frequent revivals in subsequent centuries.
- Called Gothic because its imaginative impulse was drawn from medieval buildings and ruins, such novels commonly used such settings as castles or monasteries equipped with subterranean passages, dark battlements, hidden panels, and trapdoors.
- The vogue was initiated in England by Horace Walpole's immensely successful *Castle of Otranto* (1765).
- His most respectable follower was Ann Radcliffe, whose *Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) and *Italian* (1797) are among the best examples of the genre.

Gothic Novel

- A more sensational type of Gothic romance exploiting horror and violence flourished in Germany and was introduced to England by Matthew Gregory Lewis with *The Monk* (1796).
- Other landmarks of Gothic fiction are William Beckford's Oriental romance *Vathek* (1786) and Charles Robert Maturin's story of an Irish Faust, *Melmoth the Wanderer* (1820).
- The classic horror stories *Frankenstein* (1818), by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and *Dracula* (1897), by Bram Stoker, are in the Gothic tradition but introduce the existential nature of humankind as its definitive mystery and terror.

Gothic Novel

- Easy targets for satire, the early Gothic romances died of their own extravagances of plot, but Gothic atmospheric machinery continued to haunt the fiction of such major writers as the Brontë sisters, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and even Dickens in *Bleak House* and *Great Expectations*.
- In the second half of the 20th century, the term was applied to paperback romances having the same kind of themes and trappings similar to the originals.

Sentimental Novel

- The sentimental novel or the novel of sensibility is an 18th-century literary genre which celebrates the emotional and intellectual concepts of sentiment, sentimentalism, and sensibility.
- Sentimental novels relied on emotional response, both from their readers and characters. They feature scenes of distress and tenderness, and the plot is arranged to advance emotions rather than action. The result is a valorization of "fine feeling," displaying the characters as a model for refined, sensitive emotional effect.

Sentimental Novel

- Among the most famous sentimental novels in English are Samuel Richardson's *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740), Oliver Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield* (1766), Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* (1759-67),
- Sentimental novels also gave rise to the subgenre of domestic fiction in the early nineteenth century, commonly called conduct novels.
- The story's hero in domestic fiction is generally set in a domestic world and centers on a woman going through various types of hardship, and who is juxtaposed with either a foolish and passive or a woefully undereducated woman.
- The contrast between the heroic woman's actions and her foils is meant to draw sympathy to the character's plight and to instruct them about expected conduct of women.
- The domestic novel uses sentimentalism as a tool to convince readers of the importance of its message.[9]

Historical Novel

- historical novel, a novel that has as its setting a period of history and that attempts to convey the spirit, manners, and social conditions of a past age with realistic detail and fidelity (which is in some cases only apparent fidelity) to historical fact. (Britannica)
- The historical Novel is definitely not history, it is primary a work of art, in which historical materials or matters are used sometime as a background.
- The pioneers of this GENRE were Walter Scott and James Fenimore Cooper
- Scott's historical novels, starting with Waverley (1814),

Historical Novel

- outstanding 19th-century examples include Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris* (1831), Dumas pere's *Les Trois Mousquetaires* (1844), Flaubert's *Salammbô* (1862), and Tolstoy's *War and Peace* (1863-9)
- Historical fiction sometimes encouraged movements of romantic nationalism. Walter Scott's *Waverley* novels created interest in Scottish history
- Many early historical novels played an important role in the rise of European popular interest in the history of the Middle Ages. Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* often receives credit for fueling the movement to preserve the Gothic architecture of France,

Domestic Novel

- "Domestic fiction" is a term used to describe a body of popular narrative literature written by, for, and about women that flourished during the mid-nineteenth century.
- The genre began with Catharine Sedgwick's *New-England Tale* (1822) and remained a dominant fictional type until after 1870. It derives in part from the eighteenth-century "sentimental novel" or "novel of sensibility"
- Henry Mackenzie's *The Man of Feeling* (1771), Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766), and one of the earliest American novels, *The Power of Sympathy* (1789), written by William Hill Brown

Domestic Novel (Characteristics)

- Plot focuses on a heroine who embodies one of two types of exemplar: the angel and the practical woman (Reynolds) who sometimes exist in the same work.
- The heroine struggles for self-mastery, learning the pain of conquering her own passions
- The heroine learns to balance society's demands for self-denial with her own desire for autonomy, a struggle often addressed in terms of religion
- She suffers at the hands of abusers of power before establishing a network of surrogate kin.
- The plots "repeatedly identify immersion in feeling as one of the great temptations and dangers for a developing woman.
- The tales generally end with marriage
- The novels may use a "language of tears" that evokes sympathy from the readers

Regency Novel

- The Regency period in the United Kingdom is the period between 1811 and 1820, when King George III was deemed unfit to rule and his son, later George IV, was instated to be his proxy as Prince Regent. It was a decade of particular manners and fashions, and overlaps with the Napoleonic period in Europe.
- Regency novels are of two main types:
 1. Classic Regency fiction, or fiction actually written during the Regency era - The works of Jane Austen, Sir Walter Scott, Susan Ferrier, and Maria Edgeworth would fall into this category.
 2. Modern Regency fiction, or later fiction set within the Regency era. - These include romance novels (called "Regency romances"), historical fiction, detective fiction, and military fiction.

Regency Novel

- The Prince Regent spent lavishly on the arts, from architecture to music, and lived an extremely comfortable and privileged life while he did little to help run the country. While the outward appearance of the Regency was manners and decorum, extramarital affairs and scandals were often gossiped about by members of the ton (Upper Class Society)
- During the Regency era, which is well known for romantic fiction, including the works of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Sir Walter Scott, Susan Ferrier, Maria Edgeworth, E. T. A. Hoffmann, and Jane Austen
- Many of these classic Regency writers are also associated with Romanticism
- A marriage based on love was rarely an option for most women in the British Regency, as securing a steady and sufficient income was the first consideration for both the woman and her family. This is most likely why this period yielded so many examples of literary romance
- Exa: Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1816)

Black Comedy (Humour)

- Black humor is a literary device used in novels and plays to discuss taboo subjects while adding an element of comedy.
- It is a style of comedy that makes light of subject matters that are normally considered serious or painful to discuss.
- The term black comedy can also refer to a genre in which dark humor is a core component. Popular themes of the genre include death, crime, poverty, suicide, war, violence, discrimination, disease, racism, sexism, and human sexuality.

Black Comedy (Humour)

- In literature, this term is often associated with tragedies and is sometimes equated with tragic farce. In this sense, it makes the serious incident or event bit lighter in intensity. Although it is often inserted to induce laughter, it plays a significant role in advancing the action of the play or novel.
- Black humor is a type of hiatus or pause for the audience after a heavy dose of tragic or serious incidents and similar to comic relief. It also gives them a chance to experience laughter and discomfort at the same time.
- For example, it could be the discussion about the death as in Catch-22, or silliness of the very serious situation in which the fate of people is in someone's hand but it is made a common absurd situation such as in Waiting for Godot.

Maxim

- Maxim is a simple and memorable line, quote, or rule for taking action and leading a good life
- It is a thought with moralistic values that intends to motivate individuals
- A type of saying, or a brief statement of a great thought about life (Aphoristic)
- These maxims bring a pinch of wit, making statements more appealing to the audience.
- Maxims are different types of aphoristic sayings that become relevant to many people and situations, turning into everyday sayings with the passage of time.

Maxim (Example)


- George Orwell's Animal Farm



(The phrases express the pin points of the the novel, in how the elite class uses language against the lower class. It also connotes a totalitarian mindset and points toward the corruption on Animal Farm, because the pigs see themselves as privileged, under their totalitarian command, and working animals only exist to serve their leadership.)

Maxim (Example)

- Shakespeare's Hamlet

A portrait of William Shakespeare, showing his face and shoulders. Overlaid on the image is a quote in white text.

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

William Shakespeare

(Polonius gives a life lesson to Laertes by using maxim. He teaches how to be true to himself and to others. The purpose of making this statement is for his own benefit, in order to sound intelligent to his son.)

Memoir

- A written factual account of somebody's life
- Etymology: French word *mémoire* means "memory," or "reminiscence."
- A literary memoir is usually about a specific theme, or about a part of someone's life.
- It is a story with a proper narrative shape, focus, and subject matter, involving reflection on some particular event or place.

Memoir Contd...

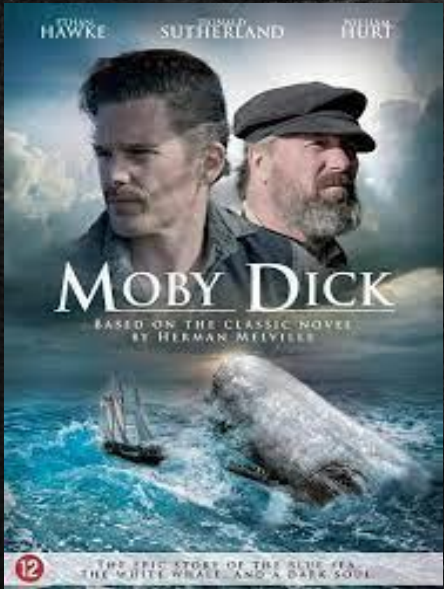
- Memoir falls under the category of autobiography, but is used as its sub-genre.
- A memoir is a centralized and more specific storytelling, while an autobiography spans the entire life
- Julius Caesar, who wrote and depicted his personal experiences about epic battles, was the first memoirist.
- Memoir serves to preserve history through a person's eyes.
- Popular figures tell their fans about tough days spent in distress, drug addicts reveal their struggle in seeking normal life, soldiers write war experiences, people who are mentally ill describe ups and downs to achieve clarity, and authors tell particular events that happened before their eyes.
- Example: Saint Augustine's Confessions
- Tom Burgenthal, a Holocaust survivor who went on to become a judge on the International Court of Justice, wrote a memoir about his time in Auschwitz.

Metonymy

- Metonymy is a figure of speech in which an object or idea is referred to by the name of something closely associated with it, as opposed to by its own name.
- Metonymy comes from the Greek word “metōnymía,” which translates to “change of name.”
- Referring to the American technology industry as “Silicon Valley”
- Referring to the American advertising industry as “Madison Avenue”
- Referring to the American film industry or celebrity culture as “Hollywood”
- Referring to the New York Stock Exchange as “Wall Street”
- Referring to a member of the British royal family as “the Crown”

Metonymy (Example in Literature)

- Herman Melville's Moby Dick:



You must know that in a settled and civilized ocean like our Atlantic, for example, some skippers think little of pumping their whole way across it; though of a still, sleepy night, should the officer of the deck happen to forget his duty in that respect, the probability would be that he and his shipmates would never again remember it, on account of all hands gently subsiding to the bottom.

In this example, “our Atlantic” is a shortened and personalized form of “the Atlantic Ocean.” “All hands” refer to all of the men working on the ship’s crew.

Mimesis

- The Greek term 'mimesis' is imitation
- The concept of imitation is central to Aristotelian logic even as it is the Platonic
- The Platonic view is that the world is an imperfect reflection of an ideal archetypal order. The world is a lower order of reality, and poetry, being an imitation of an imitation, is thrice removed from reality.
- Aristotle rejects the Plato mimesis
- It is creative and dynamic for Aristotle

Mimesis contd...

- Aristotle, speaking of tragedy, stressed the point that it was an “imitation of an action”—that of a man falling from a higher to a lower estate. Shakespeare, in Hamlet’s speech to the actors, referred to the purpose of playing as being “...to hold, as ‘twere, the mirror up to nature.” Thus, an artist, by skillfully selecting and presenting his material, may purposefully seek to “imitate” the action of life.
- Walter Benjamin and Theodore Adorno described mimesis as fundamental to human experience, a practice that precedes language but is suppressed or distorted by society.
- Jacques Derrida also claimed mimesis for deconstruction, focusing on texts as “doubled” objects, which can never refer to an original source.

Mythology

- Myth is a legendary or a traditional story that usually concerns an event or a hero, with or without using factual or real explanations.
- Myth usually features ruling gods, goddesses, deities, and heroes having god-like-qualities, but status lower than gods
- A culture's collective myths make up its mythology, a term that predates the word "myth" by centuries.
- The most important mythologies in western culture are those of Rome and Greece
- Myths exist in every society, as they are basic elements of human culture. The main function of myths is to teach moral lessons and explain historical events.
- Authors of great literary works have often taken their stories and themes from myths. Myths and their mythical symbols lead to creativity in literary works.

Mythology Contd...

- The Greek myths also have a pantheon of gods and goddesses who rule and order the universe, the most notable being the Olympians, the gods and goddesses who reside under Zeus on Mount Olympus.
- The most important representations of mythology in literature are found in Homer's The Iliad
- Shakespeare, in his play Romeo and Juliet, uses Greek mythology when Juliet cries out saying that

“Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,
Towards Phoebus' lodging.”

In Greek mythology, Phoebus was god of the sun, and here Juliet urges that god to bring him home quickly, so that night could come, and she may meet her lover Romeo.

Mythology Contd...

- Paradise Lost (By John Milton)
- John Milton, in his poem Paradise Lost, plays out the Genesis story about the Fall of Man, and subsequent eviction, from the Garden of Eden.

Onomatopoeia

- The naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (such as buzz, hiss) (Meriam-Webster)
- The term stems from the Greek onoma, meaning “name,” and poiein, meaning “to make”
- Any word that is used to describe and mimic a sound is an example of the types of words you would want to use in your writing.

- Examples:

Animal sounds: hiss, caw, moo

Mechanical sounds: click, clang, buzz

Impact sounds: smack, boom, thump

Natural sounds: splash, drip, rustle

Vocal sounds: murmur, growl, whine

Onomatopoeia Contd...

- For instance, saying, "The gushing stream flows in the forest" is a more meaningful description than just saying, "The stream flows in the forest." The reader is drawn to hear the sound of a "gushing stream," which makes the expression more effective.
- Come Down, O Maid (By Alfred Lord Tennyson)
"The moan of doves in immemorial elms,
And murmuring of innumerable bees..."

Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy," the rhythm of the words suggests the movement of a locomotive:

An engine, an engine
Chuffing me off like a Jew.
A Jew to Dachau, Auschwitz, Belsen.

Oxymoron

- A combination of words that have opposite or very different meanings
- The phrase "cruel kindness" is an oxymoron.
- As with other rhetorical devices, oxymorons are used for a variety of purposes. Sometimes they're used to create a little bit of drama for the reader; sometimes they're used to make a person stop and think, whether that's to laugh or to wonder.

Oxymoron Contd...

- Oxymoron Examples in Literature :

"A terrible beauty is born," - from Easter 1916 by William Butler Yeats

"And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true." - from Lancelot and Elaine by Alfred Lord Tennyson

"I like a smuggler. He is the only honest thief." - from Essays of Elia by Charles Lamb

"O loving hate." - from Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

"Parting is such sweet sorrow." - from Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

"We're busy doin' nothin' - from Busy Doing Nothing by Bing Crosby