

# ENM 22013- CLASSICAL ENGLISH FICTION

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CONDUCTED BY

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# What is a novel?

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A novel is a long narrative that is normally in prose, which describes fictional characters and events, usually in the form of a sequential story. Novel is the same as a short story. They both are included in prose narrative fiction (Sumardjo & Saini, 1991:29).

The term **novel** is derived from the Italian word **novella** which means a “new kind of story”.

There are many types of novels.

## Realist novel:

- It is a fiction that gives the effect of real.
- This type of novel narrates everyday incidents and portrays life as it is.
- The aim of the realistic novelists is to create believable stories with which ordinary people can relate to.
- They depict ordinary characters situations and settings.

Sons and Lovers - D.H. Lawrence

Tess of the D'Urbervilles - Thomas Hardy

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

A Passage to India - E.M. Forster

## Bildungsroman:

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- It is a fictional autobiography that captures the development of the protagonist's character, mind and spirit from childhood to adulthood.
- It can also narrate how the protagonist reaches maturity from childhood innocence.

Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

Mill on the Floss - George Eliot

## Gothic novels:

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- It is a novel which includes terror, horror, mystery, supernatural, thriller, doom, decay, and haunted buildings with ghosts and so on.
- The setting of this type of novel is gloomy and unpredictable.

*Wuthering Heights* – Emily Bronte

## Social Fiction or political novel:

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- This type of novel conveys a strong social or political message expecting to develop societies which are often dominated by Totalitarian government.

*Animal Farm - George Orwell*

# Elements of novels

## Character:

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- People in a novel are characters.
- In addition characters can also be gods, aliens, machines or objects.
- Among many characters present in the story, there are major characters and minor characters.
- One or two characters will play a leading role and this person is the 'protagonist' of the story.
- Protagonist is a person who is at the clear centre of the story and all the major events are woven around him or her directly or indirectly.
- Antagonist is the enemy of the main character or protagonist.
- Other characters support to keep the story going.

## **Plot:**

- Plot is a sequencing of events which has a beginning, middle and end.
- Unlike a short story, novel has multiple plots where many sub plots are connected to one main plot.
- The arrangement/sequencing of plot includes beginning, middle and end. However it is to be noted that not all the novels follow this structure of the plot.

## **Setting:**

- Setting refers to location / time/ environment/ social condition in which the story takes place.
- In addition the feeling or mood created in the novel is also a part of the setting



## Theme:

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- It is the main idea or central message of the story.
- Theme is the underlying message of the story.
- A story might have major themes and minor themes.
- Major theme is the idea or message that the author keeps on repeating all throughout the novel whereas a minor theme appears in a work briefly and pave way to other minor themes.

E.g. The major theme of Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* is marriage, which is kept on repeating from the beginning till the end of the novel.

# How to analyse a novel?

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1. Read the complete unabridged version of the novel to get a comprehensive understanding of the novel. ( If not sparknotes summary)
2. Know about the socio-political context in which the novel was written and the biography of the author (this will make you understand why the novel was written and its message / key ideas-themes).
3. Understand the development of the plot
4. Identify the protagonist / main characters and analyse their character traits because the story is woven around the protagonist and what happens to him / her.

# Pride & Prejudice

## - Jane Austen

### Biography of the author

- Jane Austen was born on 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1775 in Hampshire, England.
- Like the protagonists in many of her novels, she was one of the eight Children born to a large family of respectable lineage but no fortune.
- She started writing as a teenage, however she kept her Manuscripts hidden from people as it was not a proper behaviour for a woman to write and there were many restrictions on women during VICTORIAN ERA.
- She never married.
- Her first novel was 'Sense & Sensibility' published in 1811.
- The novel named 'First Impressions' later became 'Pride and Prejudice' was published in 1813 and received with positive reviews.

