

## Elements of the Novel

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1. **Plot:** The plot of a novel is the narrative and thematic development of the story—that is, what happens and what these events mean. Plot is a series of events that depend on one another, not a sequence of unrelated episodes.
2. **Characters:** The characters of a book are the fictional figures who move through the plot. They are invented by the author and are made of words rather than of flesh and blood.
3. **Conflict:** The plot of a novel unfolds as the novel's characters deal with conflict. The conflict may be of various types: physical, ethical or emotional. The conflict may be between two characters, an individual or a small group of characters and the rest of society, between social groups, or within a character's own mind
4. **Setting:** The time and place of the novel's action.
5. **Theme:** the main idea in the novel. It can also be defined as the underlying meaning of the story.
6. **Point of View:** The point of view of a literary work is the perspective from which a story is told. The three major types of point of view in novels are *omniscient* (all-knowing narrator outside the story itself), *first-person* (observations of a character who narrates the story), and *third-person-limited* (outside narration focusing on one character's observations).

7. **Symbolism:** the use of objects or ideas as symbols that represent other, more abstract concepts. With symbols, authors can write scenes that deepen the reader's understanding of the theme of the novel. This occurs because the symbols have an unspoken meaning beyond their immediate presence in the story. Symbolism thus allows the author to address controversial matters, such as political or religious issues, without openly discussing these subjects. Many novels have two layers of meaning. The first is in the literal plot, the second in a symbolic layer in which images and objects represent abstract ideas and feelings. Using symbols allows authors to express themselves indirectly on delicate or controversial matters
8. **Style:** A novelist's is the novelist's choice of words and phrases, and how the novelist arranges these words and phrases in sentences and paragraphs. Style can determine the pace at which the story is told and how directly the author relates the story to the reader. Style can be broken down into three types: simple, complex, and mid-style.
9. **Imagery and Irony:** Novelists use many other specific techniques in their works. Two of the most important are imagery, the collection of descriptive details that appeal to the senses and emotions of the reader by creating a sense of real experience, and irony, the reader's recognition that what is expected from a statement, situation, or action is different from what actually happens.