

UNIT 5 Progress & Conflict
Early Twentieth Century 1910–1929

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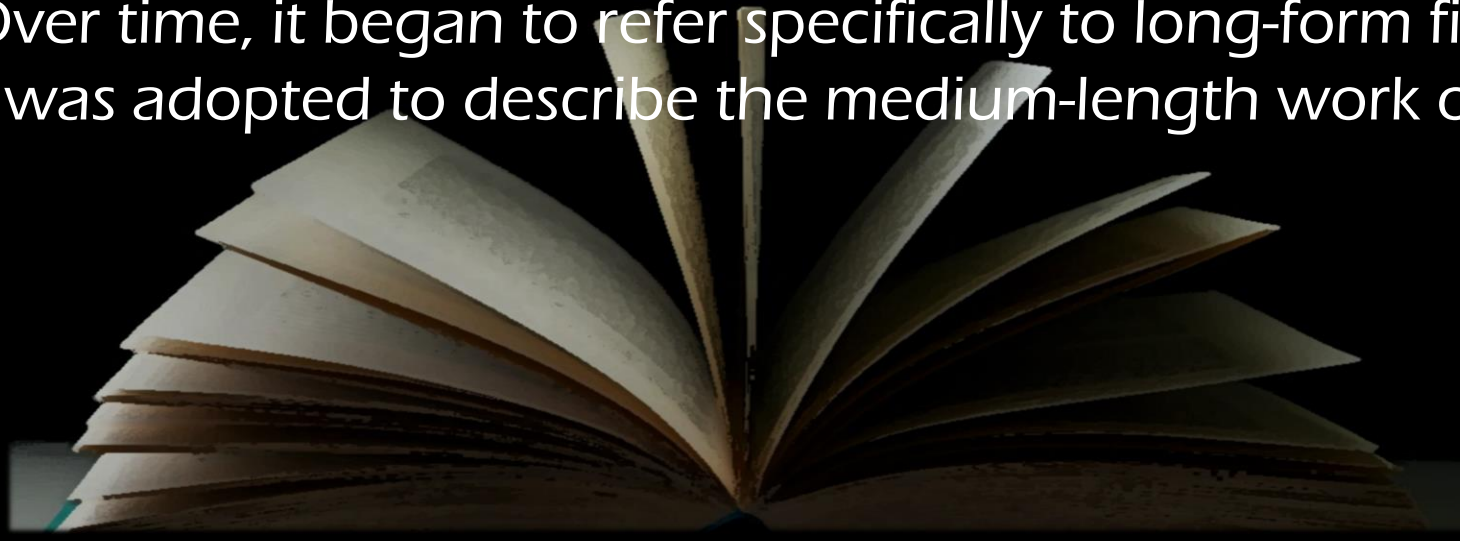
THE NOVEL

with **Jim Soto**

WHAT IS A NOVEL?

A novel may be defined most simply as a long work of fiction with an involved (complex) plot, many characters, and numerous settings. Although the novel shares many features with the short story and the novella, it is a more extended form of narrative.

The term comes from the Italian word *novella*, meaning “a new story.” At first, *novel* referred to a collection of stories in one work or one of these stories. Over time, it began to refer specifically to long-form fiction and *novella* was adopted to describe the medium-length work of fiction.



WHO INVENTED THE FIRST NOVEL?

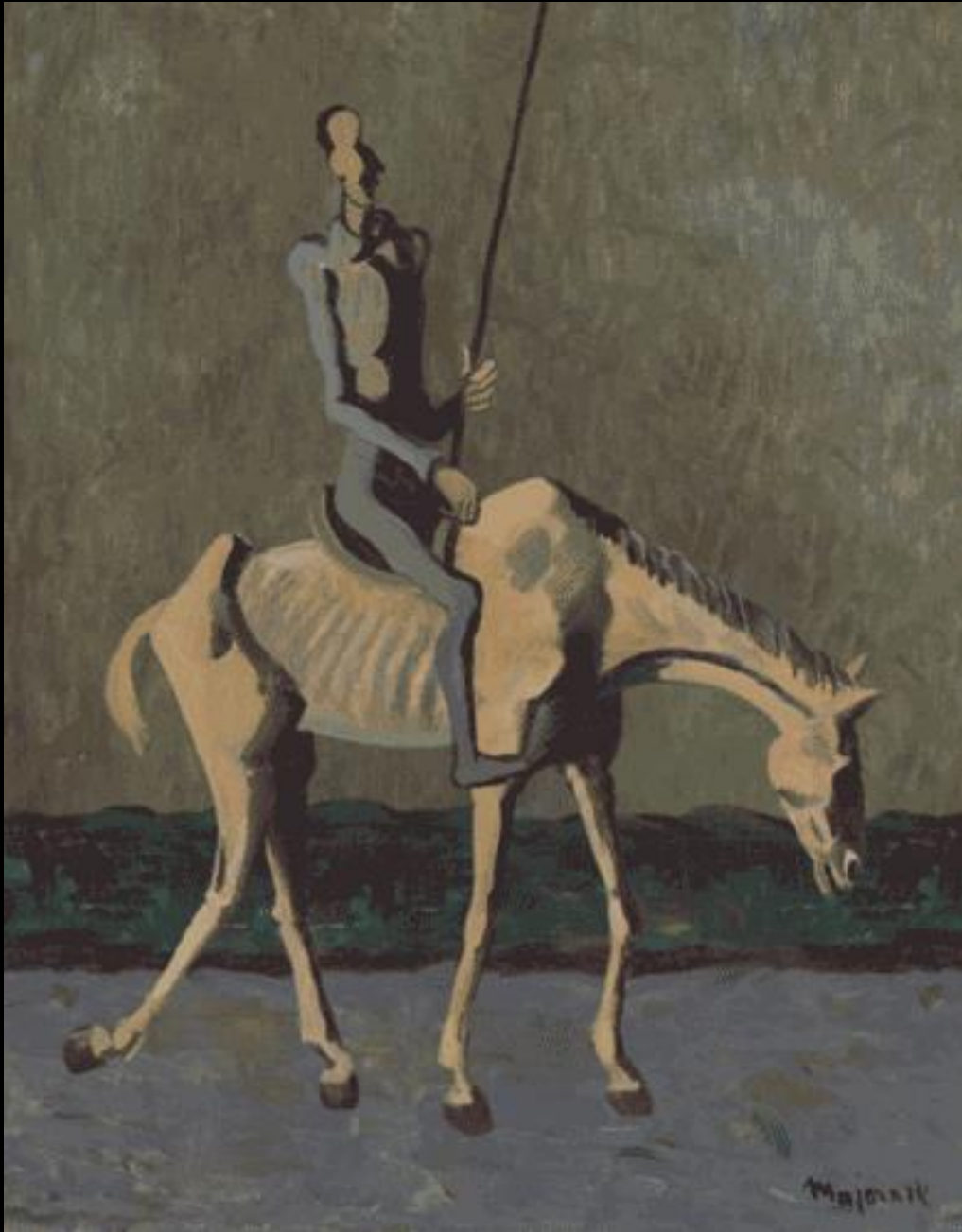


The world's first novel is thought to be **The Tale of Genji**, written in 11th Century Japan by a woman known as Murasaki Shikibu. It followed the life and romances of Hikaru Genji, described as a handsome man and a genius. The second son of a Japanese emperor, he is relegated to civilian life for political reasons and lives as an imperial officer.

THE NOVEL... IN EUROPE

Often considered the first European novel, **La Celestina** (1499); AKA Comedy of Calisto and Melibea, was profoundly influential in the development of European prose fiction and is valued by critics today as much for its greatness as literature as for its historical significance.





Another notable novel was **Don Quijote de la Mancha**, published by Miguel de Cervantes between 1605 and 1615. However, the novel as an acknowledged literary form did not flourish until the 18th century, when it became the focus of literary discussion and formal analysis.

Novels of various kinds began to appear—some intended to teach a moral, others to shock and scandalize. By the 19th century, there was an established canon of fine European and American fiction.

The modern novel resembles its forebears in structure and scope but departs in significant ways. To begin, its author seldom intends to teach a moral or exalt sentiment over intellect. An experimentalist, the modern novelist manipulates form, point of view, and narrative technique, sometimes emulating the modern filmmaker.



ELEMENTS OF THE NOVEL

A long prose work usually is divided into chapters and sometimes into parts. We should notice how the structure of the novel supports the development of plot, characterization, and other elements of fiction. Important elements include the following:

- Plot
- Setting
- Mood
- Characterization
- Point of View
 - Tone
 - Theme



Plot

AKA known as the dramatic structure; plot is the sequence of events which involves the characters in conflict. It includes an introduction, raising action, climax, falling action and a resolution.



Setting

Is the time and place of the unfolding action together with all the details used to create a sense of a particular time and place. F. Scott Fitzgerald sets much of *The Great Gatsby* on the Long Island estate of the millionaire Jay Gatsby. The historical period is also significant. *Gatsby* takes place over the summer of 1922, in the era known as the Jazz Age.



Mood

The details that create the setting also establish a mood, or atmosphere, the emotion created in the reader by part or all of a literary work. In *Gatsby*, the details of the catered foods at the party—the two hundred oranges and masses of hams and turkeys—suggest a mood of opulence and extravagance.



Characterization

A character is an individual who takes part in the action of a literary work. The main character is the most important character in the work and is in a conflict.

Characterization is the act of creating or describing a character. In ***direct characterization***, the writer tells what a character is like. ***Indirect characterization*** involves showing what characters say, do, or think; showing what other characters say or think about them; and describing what they are and look like.



Point of View

A narrator is a character or speaker who tells a story. Point of view is the vantage point, or perspective, from which the story is told—in other words, who is telling the story. Some types include:

- First-person
- Second-person
- Third-person limited
- Third-person unlimited (omniscient)



Tone

Refers to the mood or emotional attitude implied by an author's word choice and the way that the text can make a reader feel. To determine the author's tone, you must notice how these words and details are used within the writing. examples of literary tone include condescending, facetious, funny, heavy, intimate, ironic, light, playful, sad, serious, solemn, somber, and threatening, among many other.



Theme

Refers to a central message or perception about life revealed through a literary work. A stated theme is presented directly, whereas an implied theme must be inferred.

THE SHORT STORY vs. THE NOVEL

You're probably wondering, rightly so, how is a short story different from a novel? The chart below should bring clarity.

SHORT STORIES	NOVELS
Short Stories are shorter than novels.	Novels are longer than short stories.
Short Stories are intended to be read in a single sitting and designed to produce a single effect.	Novels are not intended to be read in a single sitting and not designed to produce a single effect.
Short Story contains one basic plot.	Novel can contain many subplots and a complex main plot.
Short Stories focus on one or more characters.	Novels can focus on multiple characters.
Short Stories generally cover a very short time period.	Novels can cover very long periods.

ASSESSMENT

Read *Understanding Literary Forms: The Novel* on pages 339–340 of your textbook. Then answer the questions below.

1. What is a novel? _____

2. When did novels become an accepted literary form? _____

3. How does the modern novelist differ from early novelists? _____

List the elements of plot in order and define each one:

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

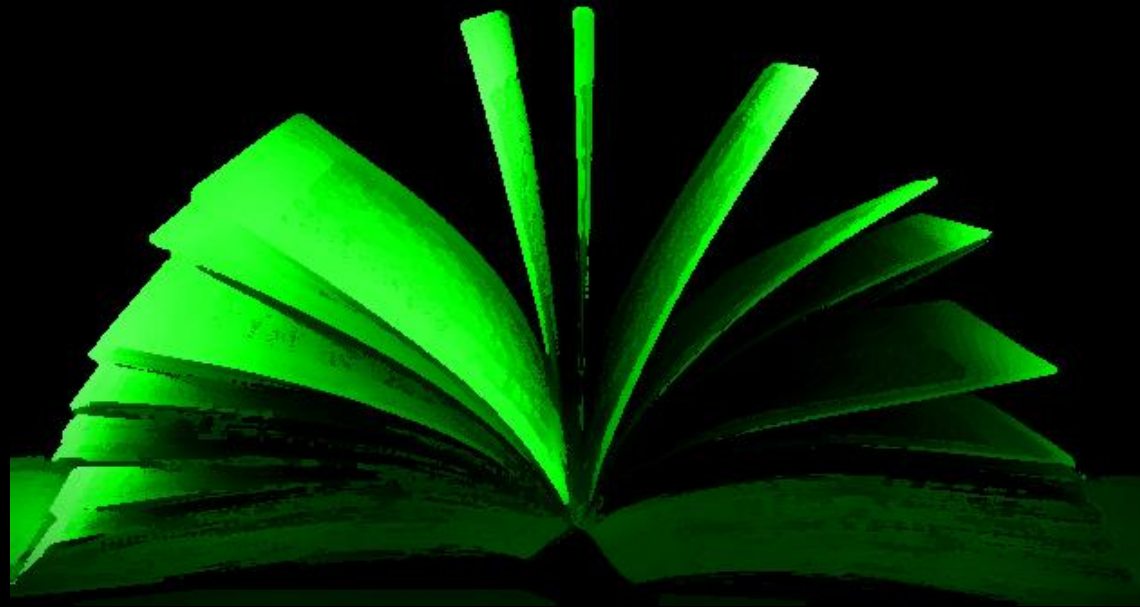
9. What details create setting? How are they related to mood in fiction?

10. Define the following terms as related to a novel:

point of view: _____

tone: _____

theme: _____



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