

Elements of the Novel

There are certain elements which should be available to make a literary work called a novel. This includes:

Plot is the plan or the main story of a literary work (such as a novel, play, short story, or poem); also known as narrative structure. Some novels may include more than one plot (or subplot(s)). Any PLOT must include these divisions:

Conflict: the opposition of persons or forces upon which the dramatic action depends.

Theme: the dominant idea of a work of literature.

Character : is the mental, emotional, and social qualities to distinguish one entity from another (people, animals, spirits, automatons, pieces of furniture, and other animated objects). Characters can be *primary*, *secondary*, *minor*, or *main*. Characters can also be **flat** (remain the same without major development), and **round** or developing (change throughout the course of the novel).

Setting: The location and time frame in which the action of a narrative takes place.