

Key features of a youth novel

What you know already

You have learnt about features of a literary text: the plot (the story line), the characters (the people in the story), the setting (where the story takes place) and the theme(s) (the main ideas in the story). You will now apply this to a youth novel.

Check myself

Give yourself a mark out of ten according to how much you agree with the paragraph below:

I like reading novels. I can pick out all the main story elements when I am reading a novel. I know about the plot, characters, setting and theme of a story. I like to compare different stories and think about their good points and their bad points. I can learn a great deal about life from reading novels.

Do you know about the main features of a short story? Match the numbers in Column A with the letters in Column B.

Classwork

Column A	Column B
1. character <i>c)</i>	a) the place where the story happens
2. characterisation <i>g)</i>	b) the person who tells the story
3. plot <i>h)</i>	c) a person in a novel, play or movie
4. conflict <i>e)</i>	d) the main idea/ideas in the story; the message of the story
5. background <i>f)</i>	e) a difference or disagreement between characters in a play, novel or film, which makes the story interesting
6. setting <i>a)</i>	f) important past events that are important for the story
7. narrator <i>b)</i>	g) a description of the character in a novel, play or movie
8. theme <i>d)</i>	h) main sequence of events in a play, novel or movie

Word bank

A B C ✓

futile	useless
fascinated	very interested indeed
Khoisan	San and Khoikhoi people of Southern Africa
yelled	shouted in a loud or piercing way
hypothermia	when your body temperature drops dangerously low
pitiful	causing pity