

THE NOVEL AND THE ROMANCE: SOME DISTINCTIONS

THE NOVEL

THE ROMANCE

Closely resembles reality

NOT NECESSARILY TIED TO REALITY

Strives to be objective

ENJOYS ITS SUBJECTIVE STANCE

Comprehensive detail

DETAILS CAN BE SKETCHY

Emphasis on character

EMPHASIS ON ACTION

Populated with real people

FILLED WITH STYLIZED PEOPLE/ARCHETYPES

Plot illustrates characters

CHARACTERS ILLUSTRATE PLOT

Complex characters & motives

TWO-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS, SIMPLE MOTIVES

Emotions drive character interactions

EMOTIONS ARE ABSTRACT OR SYMBOLIC

Character origins usually explored

CHARACTER ORIGINS LEFT A MYSTERY

Characters have complex relationships

NOT MUCH INTRICACY OF RELATION

Immediate rendition of reality

MYTHIC, ALLEGORICAL, & SYMBOLISTIC FORMS

Time continuum is measured

VAGUE OR CONFLICTING SENSE OF TIME

Setting is recognizable & realistic

SETTING IS EXOTIC & CHANGEABLE