FORMAT FOR TAKING NOTES ON A NOVEL

AUTHOR

TITLE (and subtitle)

EDITION
The edition you read
Date of first publication and date of this edition
Other publishing history (alternate title, serial publication)

SETTING
Locale
Time period
Time span (duration of time in the novel)
Outstanding historical references (events, people)

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS
Names, main characteristics, relationships to one another

SUMMARY OF PLOT
Overall summary of what happens
Main conflicts and how these are resolved

MAJOR THEMES
Not subject matter. A theme is an underlying idea.

METHOD OF NARRATION and NARRATIVE POINT OF VIEW
who is telling the story; is the narrator identified; is it a first person narrator (with how much knowledge about characters and events?) or a third person narrator (again, with how much knowledge); is the narrative method a mixed one; does the method of narration stand out or is it subtle and seemingly hidden

DIVISIONS or STRUCTURAL DEVICES
number of chapters, parts, books, divisions, etc.

STYLISTIC FEATURES
humor, satire, irony, symbols, pet phrases, dialogue, scene description, sensory perception, quirks, vivid language, illustrations or maps, etc.

PERSONAL EVALUATION AS OF THIS DATE
Indicate whether this is your first or a subsequent reading, and write a paragraph explaining frankly what you thought of the book. Ask yourself if you would recommend this work and what would be your reasons for your decision.