

## **FORMAT FOR TAKING NOTES ON A NOVEL.**

### Author

### Title (and subtitle)

### The edition you read

Date you first publication and date of this edition (editions can vary if an author revises the text)

Other publishing history (alternate title, serial publication, etc.)

### 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Outstanding historical references (events, people)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, conflicts among or between characters, etc.

### Summary of Plot

Overall summary of what happens

Main conflicts and how these are resolved or treated

### Major Themes

Not subject matter; a theme is an underlying idea.

### Method of Narration and Narrative Point of View

Who is telling the story, how, with what degree of knowledge, interest, passion, motivation for telling the tale, etc. (See the narrator as a filter through which readers learn what they do of this story.)

### Divisions or Structural Devices (# of chapters, parts, books, etc.)

### Stylistic Features

The grab bag category: humor, satire, parody, irony, symbols, pet phrases, dialogue, scene descriptions, sensory perceptions, quirks, vivid language, illustrations or maps, etc. In short, anything that seems, striking, original, or somehow interesting or distinct.

### Critical Reactions

If you've been reading the works of scholars, summarize those that seems most important, controversial, intriguing, etc.

### Personal Evaluation

Indicate whether this is your first or 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,