

## **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Outstanding historical references (events, people)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.