

## NOVELS 101

*by:*

**Ma. Roxan B. Tabamo**

*Teacher II, Lamao National High School*

The growing interest in Wattpad stories these days is intriguing. As an English teacher, it is a good sign because it means students are becoming readers. Anyone can be a writer in Wattpad, too. Given the knowledge on how to write a story, any student can write in it. If the story is good, the student can profit from it and, who knows, can become a famous writer. It may be easier for creative students to write since the readers of these stories are mostly students too. They can relate to the events and place if not to all of what is going on in the story. This article then aims to give light on some prominent factors that will make a story, a noteworthy work of art.

Just like any other creative write-ups, the appeal of stories varies from one reader to another. However, there are common factors as to how a story appeal to most readers. One of these factors is a strong opening. The writer must hook the attention of the readers so the reader will continue their journey beyond. It should leave the reader intrigued and wondering what will happen next or what the story will be about.

Another factor is the emotional connection between the reader and the story content. The story must invoke emotions from the readers. Some readers may cry or even laugh while reading it. Some may get angry but that is not bad at all. When readers are swayed by the characters and the story's emotions, the story is a good one. They care about what happens to the story and its characters and it leaves a mark on the readers.

It must also engage the reader in such a way that he or she will feel as if she is in the story, like entering a fantasy world. Some readers will even imagine they are the heroine or the villain in the story. Some readers will likely adapt or apply some of the

characters' traits and values to real life, too. Therefore, the elements of the story should be something that the readers can relate to and understand.

The use of powerful adjectives is important as these liven up the readers' power of imagination. The writer should be able to create a picture of the character's world in the mind of the reader. The reader should feel as if she or he was in the story. That is why the writer should have a good command of descriptive words. The use of adverbs is not advised if a more suitable adjective is available. Besides, with the vast number of adjectives, writers won't run short of it.

Writing a good story requires good characterization. The character should not be perfect as it tends to be unconvincing. Each character must have a backstory to make their actions and decisions justifiable and realistic. There should be differences in the characters like in their interests or ideas to make the story colorful and eventful. Besides, nothing will happen if the story doesn't have a conflict. There should be uniqueness in each character so the readers will remember them by heart. Most importantly, each character should undergo a change, ideally from bad or good to better.

Striking dialogues are a must, too. Lines from books and movies are often quoted and immortalized because they linger in the minds of those who read and heard them. The influence of these lines leaves an immemorial place in the hearts of the readers.

There should also be a good balance of tension and resolution. A story with constant conflict can be frustrating and disappointing. Mini-resolution along the way can help in having the readers invested in the piece. A story, despite the many problems it may present, can only be considered good if there is hope, that eventually it can be resolved. Have the readers hope but do not make them keep on hoping for a very long time as they can let go out of boredom and disappointment.

In addition, the writer must come up with an original story. It may be likened to another story since there are a lot of stories already written but the story still has to offer

something new and interesting. It should have something that will make it stand out despite the other stories it can be compared and related with.

It is also important that the story has a lesson to learn, a moral value that will conclude the story. The characters can undergo a positive discovery of themselves or they can learn a lesson after overcoming problems in the story. This is significant as the reader not only gets entertained by the story but also, stories with moral lessons inspire the readers. There is no better way to describe a good story than that it inspired a reader to become a better version of who he or she is.

Furthermore, what wraps up a good story is a good ending as well. Each conflict should have a fair resolution. Each character should have undergone a meaningful transformation. Endings can be good or sad. Although sad endings are the new norm, it is very crucial to make. If the writer is not careful, the ending can become disappointing rather than sad. Stories that promise a sequel are also popular these days, however, there still should be a conclusion to the characters in the original story. Otherwise, it renders the whole story meaningless and a waste of time.

Knowing all these factors can help in creating a good story however, these should not limit the writers. There is a great world out there waiting for student writers to conquer and share with all humanity.

### *References:*

Jordan (2021a, October 20). Writing a good book: 10 ingredients of great novels. Now Novel. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from <https://www.nownovel.com/blog/writing-a-good-book-10-ingredients/>

Carmody, A. (2020, February 26). 11 Factors That Make For a Good Fantasy Novel – Fantasy Book Fanatic. Fantasybookfanatic.Com. Retrieved November 12, 2021, from

<https://fantasybookfanatic.com/11-factors-that-make-for-a-good-fantasy-novel/#:%7E:text=The%20most%20prominent%20factors%20that%20make%20a%20good,the%20factors%20that%20make%20a%20good%20fantasy%20novel.>