

Seven Secrets For a Successful Novel

Specific requirements of a novel:

1. A novel has overall structure/plot with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

2. Each chapter has a beginning, middle, and end.

3. A novel primarily shows story through action and scene, more like a movie than an essay.

4. The protagonist(s) of a novel must meet certain criteria in whatever conventional or odd ways is true to them. Each must:
 - Be bigger than life in some way, have a special quality
 - Be admirable in some or many ways
 - Be likable and competent
 - Be worthy of the reader's respect and interest
 - Be emotionally engaging for the reader
 - Be committed by necessity and character to achieving his/her goal
 - Have fewer allies than enemies
 - Have a rough row to hoe from beginning to end
 - Create change and be changed by the events of the novel in an emotionally charged and logical way through each plot turn and challenge

5. The protagonist(s) of a novel must have a character arc.

6. A novel must in every chapter and scene, on each page, engage the reader emotionally and keep the reader engaged, give him a reason to turn each page and reasons to laugh and cry, to fear and root for the protagonist.

7. A novel needs to make a point and leave the reader with some emotional response orchestrated by the writer.