English 9

The Novel – S.E. Hinton’s:

**THE OUTSIDERS**

**What exactly is a novel?**

The novel is a work of fiction which tells a fictional story. The title “novel” was used to separate works of **fiction** from works of **history.** The novel has several unique features:

* **A fictional narrative**
* **Distinct “literary” prose – versus “history” writing**
* **A certain length – short novels, or long short stories are called “novellas”**
* **Focus on character, plot and setting**
* **Intimacy – the novel is not meant to be “performed”**

**What is a Y.A. novel?**

Y.A. stands for “young adult”. In the 1920’s it became clear to critics that young readers were a “separate” generation and certain books appealed to them – Alice in Wonderland (1865), Swiss Family Robinson (1812), Huckleberry Finn (1884), The Hobbit (1938) are a few examples.

It was not until the publishing of S.E. Hinton’s, “The Outsiders” in 1967 that the genre of Young Adult novel was truly established.

**Why is “the Outsiders” Y. A. fiction?**

The Outsiders adheres to the definition of a novel, but also has unique attributes:

* **The plot revolves around young adults**
* **The tone is young – written from the point of view of a young adult**
* **The author herself was a young adult**
* **Shows the unique character of young people – the need to be independent contrasting with the need to be loved**