

## Characteristics of Adventure Fiction

### Further Reading

#### Overview:

Adventure stories feature physical action and courageous heroes who save others from danger or impending doom. The adventure genre of fiction is fast-paced and usually centres on a **protagonist** (main character) in a dangerous or risky situation. Adventure fiction overlaps other genres, such as romance, thrillers, and science fiction.

#### Action and Excitement:

Adventure novels typically have fast-paced, action-packed plot lines. Stories about epic journeys or epic tales - often involving a mixture of adventure and fantasy - culminate with a thrilling climax or a series of climactic events. Examples include *The Odyssey* by Homer and *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien. The setting of an adventure story often takes place in other worlds, places not yet discovered, or treacherous terrains (e.g. rainforests or Antarctica).

#### Courageous Protagonists:

Adventure-genre protagonists (main characters) are usually brave and logical. Examples include Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins and Beatrice Prior in the *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth. Heroes in adventure stories often face life or death scenarios that test their willingness to sacrifice their own lives for the sake of the greater good. Adventure stories contain a sense of urgency, so protagonists must accomplish their goals or missions in a short period of time.

#### Evil Adversaries:

Antagonists (the main character's enemy or rival) in adventure novels tend to be extremely evil, so readers desperately want the hero or heroine to defeat them. Villains in superhero adventure stories show little regard for human life and have self-serving interests, such as the unquenchable desire for power, fame, or wealth. Even though heroes in adventure fiction have character flaws and often evolve during the story, the genre contains clearly defined 'good' and 'bad' characters.