

Bildungsroman

1. Growing up, boy to man or girl to woman.
2. Sensitive person who is looking for answers to life's big questions and experiences in the adult world.
3. Usually there is an emotional loss in the beginning of the story.
4. The protagonist often leaves and goes on a journey.
5. The goal is to reach maturity (The state or quality of being fully grown or developed). The protagonist usually reaches this gradually and struggles.
6. Conflict in the novel is often between the protagonist and society.
7. Typically the values of society are gradually accepted by the protagonist and he/she ultimately is accepted in society. However, the protagonist must find his/her own way and become an individual.

Examples of Coming of Age or Bildungsroman:

18th Century

- *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*, by Henry Fielding (1749)

- *Candide*, by Voltaire (1759)
- *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, by Laurence Sterne (1759)

19th Century

- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë (1847)
- *David Copperfield*, by Charles Dickens (1850)
- *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens (1861)

20th Century

- *Sons and Lovers*, by D. H. Lawrence (1913)
- *Of Human Bondage*, by W. Somerset Maugham (1915)
- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce (1916)
- *This Side of Paradise* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1920)^l
- *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright (1945),
- *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger (1951)
- *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C. S. Lewis (1952)
- *Goodbye, Columbus*, by Philip Roth (1959)
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee (1960)
- *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton (1967)
- *A Wizard of Earthsea*, by Ursula K. Le Guin (1968)
- *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya (1972)
- *The Princess Bride*, by William Goldman (1973)
- *Bright Lights, Big City*, by Jay McInerney (1984)
- *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, by Jeanette Winterson (1985)
- *The Harry Potter series*, by J. K. Rowling (1997-2007)

21st Century

- *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd (2002)
- *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini (2003)
- *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro (2005)
- *Indecision*, by Benjamin Kunkel (2005)
- *Black Swan Green*, by David Mitchell (2006)