



AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD LITERATURE

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Annotation: *This article illustrates very basic information about novel genre, and the impact of Afro-american women writers on world literature, additionally, some of their works are presented.*

Key Words: *revolutionary genre, marginalized communities, writers, literary works.*

A novel is the most common literary genre today. However, the term is broad and can be difficult to define. A novel is a fictional story usually over fifty thousand words. It focuses on unique and complex characters and explores the human experience. The modern novel began in the 17th century and was considered a revolutionary genre. It focuses on ordinary people and their everyday experiences. By comparison, earlier popular literary genres were mostly aimed at members of the upper class. For example, medieval chivalry rarely features characters who lead ordinary lives.

The main task of the novel is to tell a story. Think of any novel you've ever read: you probably read it for the story! However, there is more to the novel as a genre. Many novels try to express something, often a specific aspect of the human experience. For example, a novel like *A Christmas Carol* (1843) by Charles Dickens shows the reality of poverty in Victorian England. Dickens here refers to a specific kind of presence. We may take the novel and its function for granted now, but this was not always the case. When the genre was relatively new, many authors saw its role as representing ordinary people and their lives. Due to high poverty and low literacy rates, this has often not been a priority in the literature in the past. Most of the texts are aimed at upper grades. In the seventeenth century, the novel gained popularity because people read texts that they felt they could really relate to. Following are the important features present in the novel:

✓ **Fiction:** The main characteristic of a novel is that it is fiction. The stories told are created by the author.

✓ **Setting:** The novels have a recognizable and clear setting. This may change over the course of the story. Settings can also tell readers a lot about how characters live their lives. The events do not have to be completely realistic, but in a novel it is fully developed and therefore believable.

✓ **Plot:** Because novels are fiction, plot is central. It creates a story. Plot refers to the various actions and events that the author creates to move the story forward. There is no story without a plot!



✓ Characters: Characters are also essential to a novel. They are complex and advanced in this genre. Readers can relate to them and the characters are often given meaning by the author. If there were no characters, there would be no one to "be" in the plot.

✓ Dialogue: Dialogue is the way characters in a story communicate with each other, just like people do in real life. Some novels rely heavily on dialogue, while others do not. Important tip: when analyzing novels, remember that what a character says does not always mean what they mean![1]

Profoundly black writers like Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Lucille Clifton, Sonia Sanchez, Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, June Jordan, and more have led us through generations of revolutions by sharpening their pens. Black women writers have given us a way to not only record time, but to stay and channel through it. Novels, poems, essays and articles have traveled through time to transform humanity with the heavy energy of language. Black women writers have taught us that we no longer need permission to exist within the world we live in and the world we create. They allowed us to discover the magnificence of blackness, regardless of complexity, while learning to control and liberate our inner world. Many black women writers have broken the boundaries of writing clichés, allowing those who came after them to write with courage and truth. This is a revolution. This is freedom earned [2].

African-American women writers made significant contributions to world literature, challenging the dominant narratives of their time and empowering the voices of marginalized communities. Through their works, these writers explored themes of race, gender, identity, and social justice, paving the way for the next generation of writers. African-American women writers have a long and rich history dating back to the early 19th century. One of the earliest African-American writers was Phyllis Wheatley, who was born in West Africa and brought to America as a slave. Published in 1773, Wheatley's poetry challenged prevailing beliefs about black intellectual abilities and helped pave the way for future generations of black writers. Another famous early African-American woman writer was Harriet Jacobs, who wrote *Incidents in the Life of a Handmaiden* in 1861. Jacobs' work was one of the first stories by a black woman to detail the sexual abuse and exploitation of enslaved women. Her work helped illuminate the experiences of enslaved women and challenged dominant narratives about slavery in America.

The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s was a cultural and artistic flourishing period for African Americans, and African American writers played an important role in the movement. Writers such as Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, and Langston Hughes helped create a new literary aesthetic that celebrated black culture and identity. Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Upon God* is considered a classic of African-American literature. The novel explores themes of love, identity, and self-discovery through the story of Janie Crawford, a young black woman living in Florida in the early 20th century. Hurston's use of black vernacular and celebration of black



culture and traditions helped challenge dominant narratives about blackness in America. Larsen's novel "Passing" explores the theme of racial identity through the story of two black women who were white to escape the racial discrimination of the time. The novel challenges the idea of racial purity and reveals the complexity of racial identity in America. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was an important event in American history, and African-American women writers played an important role in the movement. Writers such as Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker have used their works to explore themes of race, gender, and social justice. Angelou's memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a powerful exploration of her experiences growing up as a black girl in the South. The book challenges dominant narratives about black women and celebrates the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Morrison's novel *The Beloved* is a riveting study of the legacy of slavery and its impact on African American identity. The novel won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and cemented Morrison's place as one of the most important writers of his generation. Walker's novel *The Color Purple* explores the theme of sisterhood and the struggle for self-discovery through the story of Celie, a young black woman living in rural Georgia in the early 20th century. The novel challenges dominant narratives about black women and celebrates their resilience and strength.

In conclusion, African American women writers have made significant contributions to world literature by challenging the dominant narratives of their time and empowering the voices of marginalized communities. Through their works, these writers explored themes of race, gender, identity, and social justice, paving the way for the next generation of writers. From Phyllis Wheatley to Maya Angelou, these writers have left an indelible mark on world literature and continue to inspire readers around the world.

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