

# The Novel in the 18th Century

## Collecting and Connecting

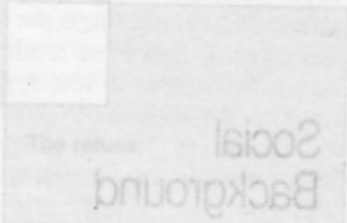
In this section you have read passages from four famous 18th century novels: *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Joseph Andrews*, *Tristram Shandy*. Refer to the background section *The Novel* (pp. 70-74), consider the texts you have analysed, and complete the following table that will help you summarize their main features.

	<b>Robinson Crusoe</b>	<b>Gulliver's Travels</b>
Prevalence of – narrative – commentary – direct dialogue – reported dialogue		
Narrator		<i>first person narrator</i> <i>comments</i> <i>addresses reader</i>
Point of view		
Implied reader		<i>18th century educated people</i>
Story		
Setting	<i>exotic island</i> <i>author's own time</i>	
Characters		
Style	<i>realistic, simple, photographic</i>	
Novelist's aim		<i>instruct</i> <i>attack political corruption</i> <i>give a satire of human folly and vice</i>

You can find further information in the background passage relative to the reading public (pp. 61-65).

Consider what you have gathered so far, and write a few sentences to state your conclusions on the English novel in the 18th century, in terms of

- its relevance as a literary genre
- the reading public (social class, education, interests, etc.)
- the relationship between the novelist and the reader
- how far the novel affected – or reflected – the way of life.



The Structure of Society

Joseph Andrews	Tristram Shandy
	England in 1714 was a land of hamlets and villages. Its towns, such as it had, were on the coast. In West Riding and West Midlands towns of some size and substance were beginning to grow, but the population was still in the south and still in rural villages. The evidence is that in the last decades of the century the population was probably in the neighbourhood of 7.4 million, about five and a half million in 1714, after an initial spurt, there was only a very small increase.
	These changes were due to the growth of towns and industrial villages. [...] London exceeded half a million.
	<i>biography</i>
	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth. The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.
people from all social classes	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.
	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.
	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.
	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.
	The first noticeable thing about these towns was that they were not only a new source of population, but also a new source of wealth.