

Bildungsroman

In literary criticism, a Bildungsroman is a literary genre that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from youth to adulthood (coming of age), in which character change is important.

The term comes from the German words Bildung ("education") and Roman ("novel") and can thus be translated into English as "a novel of formation, education, culture; coming-of-age story".

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Bildungsroman aka Coming of Age Fiction

June 2020

Modern Coming-of-Age Tales

Oreo by Fran Ross
Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward
Cider House Rules by John Irving
Breaking the Tongue by Vyvyane Loh
Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld
Silver Sparrow by Tayari Jones
Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
White Teeth by Zadie Smith
Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt
Girls Burn Brighter by Shohba Rao
Oksana, Behave! By Maria Kuznetsova
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
The Last Illusion by Porochista Khakpour
Girls in the Moon by Janet McNally
The Residue Years by Mitchell S. Jackson
Juliet Takes a Breath by Gabby Rivera
Every Exquisite Thing by Mathew Quick
Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist
by Sunil Yapa

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow
We the Animals by Justin Torres
Call Me by Your Name by Andre Aciman
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
Geek Love by Katherine Dunn
Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead
My Education by Susan Choi
Autobiography of Red by Anne Carson
Bastard Out of Carolina by Dorothy Allison
The Last Illusion by Porochista Khakpour
On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong
House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez
American Street by Ibi Zoboi

Classic Bildungsroman

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
The Lover by Marguerite Duras
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Cather in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Go Tell it On the Mountain by James Baldwin
The Adventures of Augie March by Saul Bellow