

GENRES FOR THE INTELLECT
Literary Fiction, Mysteries, Psychological Suspense,
Science Fiction

1. Puzzles and provocative questions challenge the intellect in these novels. Moral, social, ethical, intellectual, and philosophical questions figure prominently, as do mental twists, surprises, and layers of meaning. Endings may be unresolved.
2. Characters generally play an important role, and most, including secondary characters, are multi-dimensional.
3. Background details—the elaborately constructed “otherness” of Science Fiction, the physical setting of some Mysteries or the professions of amateur sleuths, or the interior workings of the mind in Psychological Suspense—frame these novels.
4. Literary style is often important and the structure of novels in these genres may be complex and even experimental.
5. Titles reflect a wide range of tone or mood from dark to comic. Tone is often used to disorient readers and to highlight the issues considered.
6. Pacing is often more leisurely in Psychological Suspense and Literary Fiction, which feature more description than dialog. In Science Fiction and Mysteries pacing is quicker in those with more adventure elements and slower in those that are more philosophical.