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| **ADVENTURE****DEFINITION:** Adventure novels typically have fast-moving plots, exotic settings, and larger-than-life heroes. The hero is involved in death-defying activities: gun battles, car chases, sneak attacks, etc. The stories can be set at any time during the last several centuries. Corsairs may be replaced by submarines, but the formula remains the same. |

**APPEAL:** Many are military in setting, and appeal to anyone who has served in the military, or did not and but enjoys the vicarious experience of reading about people who did.  They have a larger-than-life cartoon quality that makes them entertaining.  Some exhibit a high level of violence which may or may not be appealing, and since they are fast-paced, they are often quick, satisfying reads that don’t involve a tremendous investment in time and emotion. Since they are often set in exotic locales, they also appeal to readers who like to ‘visit’ unusual places.

**READERS:** It would be wrong to assume that only men read adventure stories, although, traditionally, the adventure genre has been viewed as men’s fiction.  Anyone who enjoys a good story with a somewhat predictable and unambiguous ending may enjoy an adventure story.

**TRENDS:** The thriller genre is overtaking and absorbing the classic adventure genre.  Younger readers and a world influenced by the events of 9/11 and the *Da Vinci Code* have made the adventure genre seem dated and quaint for some.  Perhaps the most obvious example of this is the retreat of the Western as a viable subgenre of adventure.  Some analysts believe that the thriller *is* the new adventure.  Authors such as Preston Douglas, Lincoln Child and John J. Nance who are often described as adventure writers may, in fact, be writing thrillers, by definition, not adventure fiction.  [See the Thriller handout for possible insight into overlap and genre blending]

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| Classic authors | Max Brand, C.S. Forester, Zane Grey, H. Rider Haggard, Louis L’Amour, Jack London, Alistair MacLean |
| Exotic Adventure | Michael Crichton, Clive Cussler, Douglas J. Preston/Lincoln Child, Matthew Reilly, James Rollins, Wilbur Smith |
| Military Adventure | Dale Brown, Bernard Cornwell (19th century), Harold Coyle, Michael DiMercurio, W.E.B. Griffin, Alexander Kent (19th century) |
| Technothrillers/Political Adventure | Tom Clancy, Stephen Coonts, David Poyer |
| Westerns | Johnny D. Boggs, Loren D. Estleman, Elmer Kelton, Richard S. Wheeler |