

Characteristics of Adventure

1. **PACING** – generally brisk; take place within a short time span and the time/date stamps at the head of the chapters often drive the pace.
2. **STORY LINE** – focuses on action, usually a mission, and the obstacles and dangers met along the way. Physical adventure and danger are paramount. Generally a happy ending with the hero safe and order restored.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – always an identifiable hero (readers like and whom they can relate). Hero exhibits ingenuity and skill and accomplishes desperate mission.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Details are important. Stories are set “elsewhere,” and underline a sense of danger and obstacles to be overcome. Maps often accompany these novels. Worlds of art, antiques, antiquities, and books also provide intriguing backgrounds.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – in response to life-threatening situations, many novels are dark, menacing and foreboding. In some humor lightens the tone.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – colorful language and jargon fill these tales and conversational language invites the reader to participate in the hero’s exploits.



Adrenaline Genres

Adventure Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| ADRENALINE: | Ted Bell Matthew Reilly James Rollins |
| FANTASY: | Wilbur Smith (River God series) |
| GENTLE: | Dorothy Gilman Anthony Horowitz Robert Lewis Stevenson |
| HISTORICAL FICTION: | Patrick O'Brian |
| HISTORY: | Barnard Cornwell Mark Frost |
| HORROR: | Gary Jennings |
| HUMOR: | George MacDonald Fraser Arturo Pérez-Reverte (Capitan Alatriste series) |
| INSPIRATIONAL: | Tim F. LaHaye & Greg Dinallo (Babylon Rising series) |
| LITERARY: | Michael Chabon Arturo Pérez-Reverte |
| MYSTERY: | Dan Brown Kate Mosse |
| NATURAL HISTORY: | Jack B. Du Brul |
| ROMANCE: | Dorothy Dunnett |
| SAGA: | Wilbur A. Smith (Courtney family) |
| TRAVEL: | H. Rider Haggard James Rollins |
| TRUE ADVENTURE: | David Poyer Jeff Rovin Robert Lewis Taylor |



Adrenaline Genres

Authors BEYOND the Adventure Genre

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ADRENALINE: | Michael Crichton | |
| | Ridley Pearson | |
| | Patrick Robinson | |
| FANTASY: | Raymond E. Feist | |
| | Robert Jordan | |
| | Scott Lynch | |
| GENTLE: | Dorothy Gilman | |
| HISTORICAL FICTION: | Steven Pressfield | |
| | Henryk Sienkiewicz | |
| | Tim Willecks | |
| HISTORY: | Robert Kurson (<i>Shadow Divers</i>) | |
| LITERARY: | Isabel Allende (<i>Zorro</i>) | |
| ROMANCE: | Elizabeth Lowell | |
| | Mary Jo Putney | |
| ROMANCE SUSPENSE: | Suzanne Brockmann | |
| | Sandra Brown | |
| | Catherine Coulter | |
| SCIENCE FICTION: | Jack McDevitt | Larry Niven |
| | John Ringo | David Weber |
| TRAVEL: | Thor Heyerdahl | |
| | Marco Polo | |
| TRUE ADVENTURE: | Tony Horwitz | Sebastian Junger |
| | John Krakauer | Tom Wolfe (<i>The Right Stuff</i>) |
| WESTERN: | Louis L'Amour | |
| WOMAN'S LIVES: | Isabella L. Bird | |

