The three issues introduced by the writer and scholar Ian Watt in relation to the rise of the novel in the 18th century:

1. **The growth of economic/possessive individualism**
2. **the rise of materialistic philosophical individualism, with its new emphasis on the individual**
3. **the new demand for education/moral training associated with middle class values**

Link to Ian Watt’s *The Rise of the Novel:*

<http://books.google.com/books?id=PmwfH7X-IKAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=ian+watt+the+rise+of+the+novel&hl=en&sa=X&ei=duu7UYLUFoy60QGB8IGQDA&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=ian%20watt%20the%20rise%20of%20the%20novel&f=false>

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**How did the desire for actuality trigger the birth of the realist novel?**

* This new kind of fiction prioritised the everyday world and experience over the supernatural elements of the older genres of epic and romance.
* The contents of this new kind of fiction included unique portrayals of particular individuals.
* Many novels in this period represented individuals from the middle classes of society.
* The novels published in this period often had the following titles: “romances”, “adventures”, “lives”, “tales”, “memoirs”, “fortunes and misfortune” (as in the case of Defoe’s *Moll Flanders*).

Many eighteenth century novels portray the inner life of the individual while appealing to the moral demands of a middle class readership.

**Some characteristics of the 18th century novel:**

* Individual experience was emphasised (in line with Descartes and Locke’s philosophy prioritising the individual over the universal)
* Plots were taken from everyday life.
* Characters were given contemporary names and surnames, so they looked more realistic.
* There was a detailed precision regarding time and place.
* The narratives displayed a tendency towards a more descriptive form of language, lacking the polished style of the previous literary works.