

THE RISE OF THE NOVEL

The novel as an independent genre with the same status as drama and poetry emerged in Britain at the beginning of the 18th century.

Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* is considered to be the first novel.



can you
read the
date?

MDCCLXIX
(1719)

WHY IN THIS PERIOD?

- **IMPROVEMENT IN PRINTING TECHNOLOGY**

→ PRINTING BOOKS WAS CHEAPER AND FASTER

- **RISE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS**

→ INCREASE IN THE NUMBER
OF MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE
WHO **COULD READ AND
WRITE**

We can say that the rise of the novel is related to the rise of the middle class: a new class of...readers!