Alexandre goes south: A novel – and – An essay, 'The modern adventure novel'

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Abstract
When asked what sort of novel I was writing, I always said 'a modern adventure novel'. And then I began to question myself about the meaning of these three words together, the substance and the definition of a modern adventure novel. Does such a thing exist? In my novel 'Alexandre Goes South', Alexandre is a thirty-year-old Parisian from a family that enjoy wealth and privilege, facts that provide a setting but play only incidental roles in the events that unfold. Alexandre goes through a series of crises, which propel the journey that launches him onto the road to manhood. The novel begins at the exact moment of suffering, after a break-

Comments
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James Fenimore Cooper wrote novels of adventure about the frontiersman Natty Bumppo. These novels, called the Leatherstocking Tales (1823–41), depict his experiences in the American wilderness in both realistic and highly romanticized ways. James Baldwin wrote essays, novels, and plays on race and sexuality throughout his life, but his first novel, Go Tell It on the Mountain (1953), was his most accomplished and influential. Lorraine Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun, a play about the effects of racism in Chicago, was first performed in 1959. The American novel took on a dizzying number of forms after World War II.