

Postcolonial Literature

American Writers

Toni Morrison

1931-2019

- One of the most celebrated authors in the world
- In addition to writing plays, and children's books, her novels have earned her countless prestigious awards including the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.
- First African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Although she grew up in a semi-integrated area, racial discrimination was a constant threat for her family
- When she was two years old, the owner of her family's apartment building set their home on fire while they were inside because they were unable to afford the rent
- When she was twelve years old, converted to Catholicism and was baptized under the name Anthony after Saint Anthony of Padua. She later went by the nickname "Toni" after this saint.
- At the Harvard University, Morrison taught the young civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael, and met her husband Harold Morrison.
- Morrison moved to Syracuse, New York to become an editor for the textbook division of Random House publishing. Within two years, she transferred to the New York City branch of the company and began to edit fiction and books by African-American authors.
- Morrison did not publish her first novel called *The Bluest Eye* until she was 39 years old.
- Second novel called *Sula*, that was nominated for the National Book Award.
- *Song of Solomon* earned critical acclaim as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award.
- In 1987, novel called *Beloved*, based on the true story of an African-American enslaved woman.
- the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Beloved*

- 1993- Morrison became the first Black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Morrison's books were featured four times as selections for Oprah's Book Club.
- Morrison was also a professor in the Creative Writing Program at Princeton University.
- Her work earned her an honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Oxford
- In 2000, she was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress. Morrison also wrote children's books with her son until his death at 45 years old.
- In June of 2019, director Timothy Greenfield-Sanders released a documentary of her life called *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*.

Zora Neale Hurston,

- born January 7, 1891, Notasulga, Alabama, U.S.—died January 28, 1960, Fort Pierce, Florida
- American folklorist and writer associated with the Harlem Renaissance who celebrated the African American culture of the rural South.
- After the death of her mother, Hurston's home life became increasingly difficult, and at 16 she joined a traveling theatrical company, ending up in New York City during the Harlem Renaissance.
- She attended Howard University from 1921 to 1924
- She also conducted field studies in folklore among African Americans in the South.
- Her trips were funded by folklorist Charlotte Mason, who was a patron to both Hurston and Langston Hughes
- In 1930 Hurston collaborated with Hughes on a play (never finished) titled *Mule Bone: A Comedy of Negro Life in Three Acts* (published posthumously 1991).
- In 1934 she published her first novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*, which was well received by critics for its portrayal of African American life uncluttered by stock figures or sentimentality.,
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
- *Tell My Horse* (1938), a blend of travel writing and anthropology based on her investigations of voodoo in Haiti.
- *Moses, Man of the Mountain* (1939), a novel, firmly established her as a major author.

- Hurston was on the faculty of North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University) in Durham.
- *Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942), an autobiography, is highly regarded.
- Her last book, *Seraph on the Suwanee*, a novel, appeared in 1948.
- By the time of her death Hurston was little remembered by the general reading public, but there was a resurgence of interest in her work in the late 20th century.

Posthumously published works

- *Mule Bone*
- *Spunk: The Selected Stories* (1985)
- *The Complete Stories* (1995)
- *Every Tongue Got to Confess* (2001), a collection of folktales from the South
- In 1995 the Library of America published a two-volume set of her work in its series.
- *Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”* was released in 2018.

Alice Walker (Alice Malsenior Walker)

- Born on February 9, 1944, Eatonton, Georgia, U.S.
- the eighth child of African American sharecroppers.
- American writer whose novels, short stories, and poems are noted for their insightful treatment of African American culture.
- Her novels, most notably *The Color Purple* (1982), centre on women
- Attended Spelman College, where she studied for two years before transferring to Sarah Lawrence College.
- After graduating in 1965, Walker moved to Mississippi and became involved in the civil rights movement.
- Walker’s first book of poetry, *Once*, appeared in 1968
- First novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* (1970), a narrative that spans 60 years and three generations.
- A second volume of poetry, *Revolutionary Petunias and Other Poems*,

- First collection of short stories, *In Love and Trouble: Stories of Black Woman*, both appeared in 1973. It bears witness to sexist violence and abuse in the African American community.
- Completed *Meridian* (1976), a novel describing the coming of age of several civil rights workers in the 1960s.
- Moved to California, where she wrote her most popular novel, *The Color Purple* (1982).
- It is an epistolary novel, it depicts the growing up and self-realization of an African American woman between 1909 and 1947 in a town in Georgia.
- *The Color Purple* won a Pulitzer Prize and was adapted into a film by Steven Spielberg in 1985.

Later Fiction

- *The Temple of My Familiar*, an ambitious examination of racial and sexual tensions (1989)
- *Possessing the Secret of Joy* (1992), a narrative centered on female genital mutilation
- *By the Light of My Father's Smile* (1998), the story of a family of anthropologists posing as missionaries in order to gain access to a Mexican tribe
- *Now Is the Time to Open Your Heart* (2005), about an older woman's quest for identity.
- Collection of Short Stories - *The Way Forward Is with a Broken Heart* (2000)
- volumes of poetry-

Absolute Trust in the Goodness of the Earth (2003),

A Poem Traveled Down My Arm (2003),

Hard Times Require Furious Dancing (2010),

Taking the Arrow Out of the Heart (2018)

Her Blue Body Everything We Know: Earthling Poems (1991)

- Walker's essays were compiled

In Search of Our Mother's Gardens: Womanist Prose (1983)

Sent by Earth: A Message from the Grandmother Spirit After the Bombing of the World Trade Center and Pentagon (2001)

We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For (2006), and *The Cushion in the Road: Meditation and Wandering as the Whole World Awakens to Being in Harm's Way* (2013).

- Wrote juvenile fiction and critical essays on such female writers as Flannery O'Connor and Zora Neale Hurston.
- She cofounded a short-lived press in 1984.
- In the unconventional memoir *The Chicken Chronicles* (2011), Walker discussed caring for a flock of chickens while also musing on her life.
- The documentary *Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth* was released in 2013.

Richard Wright

- Wright was born in Mississippi, the son of an illiterate sharecropper and a schoolteacher
- His father left the family when Wright was five, and he spent time in an orphanage before moving with his mother to Jackson
- He dropped out of high school to work odd jobs before moving to Chicago in 1927.
- novelists and essayists
- He is most famous for writings depicting the harsh realities of life for Black Americans in the Jim Crow–era South: the short story collection *Uncle Tom's Children* (1938)
- the novel *Native Son* (1940), was a bestseller
- his autobiography, *Black Boy* (1945)
- In Chicago, Wright became involved with the Communist Party and worked for the Federal Writers' Project
- He moved to New York City in 1937 and became editor of the *Daily Worker* and coeditor of *Left Front*. Wright published numerous poems in *Left Front*, the *Partisan Review*, and *New Masses*

- He exerted a major influence on younger Black writers, such as James Baldwin, and was an important precursor to the Black Arts Movement
- Wright wrote a sociological account of the Great Migration, *12 Million Black Voices* (1941), with photographs collected by Edwin Rosskam.
- In the 1950s, he spent time in Ghana working on African liberation movements.

His later works

- *The Outsider* (1953), the socio-political narratives
- *Black Power* (1954)
- *The Color Curtain* (1956)
- the collected lectures *White Man, Listen!* (1957)
- *The Long Dream* (1958)
- *Haiku: This Other World* (1998), republished as *Haiku: The Last Poems of Richard Wright* in 2012)
- Wright died in Paris.

Posthumous Works:

- short story collection *Eight Men* (1961),

Novels:

- *Lawd Today* (1963)
- *American Hunger* (1977),
- the unfinished novel Wright was working on at the time of his death, *A Father's Law* (2008)

Ralph Ellison

- born March 1, 1914, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
- He began playing the trumpet at age eight and, at age eighteen, attended Tuskegee Institute in Montgomery, Alabama,
- he worked at a variety of jobs including janitor, shoeshine boy, jazz musician, and freelance photographer. He also became a game
- Moving to New York in 1936, Ellison met writers Richard Wright and Langston Hughes, which led to his first attempts at fiction and prompted his move to Harlem
- In 1982, he was named professor emeritus at NYU, teaching for several years while continuing to write.
- Ellison died of cancer on April 16, 1994, at his home in New York City.

Career Highlights

- *Invisible Man*, published in 1952 won the Russwurm Award and the National Book Award and established him as one of the most important American authors of the twentieth century.

Other Major Works

- In 1960, published his first Hickman stories
- In these stories, he introduced Senator Adam "Bliss" Sunraider, a light-skinned black man, passing for white most of his adult life, and Reverend "Daddy" Hickman, the Negro preacher who takes him in and raises him as his own son.
- two important volumes of nonfiction, *Shadow and Act* (1964) and *Going to the Territory* (1986).
- These two works, together with numerous unpublished speeches and writings, were published in 1995 as *The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison*.
- He also wrote short stories — including "King of the Bingo Game," "That I Had the Wings," and "Flying Home" — published posthumously in 1996 as *Flying Home and Other Stories*.

- The Hickman characters later appeared in his posthumously published novel, *Juneteenth*.
- Ellison credits T.S. Eliot's poem,
- Believed in the philosophy of transcendentalism, asserting that individuals create their own reality and that reality is essentially mental or spiritual in nature.
- admired the American transcendentalists, particularly Emerson, Whitman, and Thoreau

James Baldwin

- Born August 2, 1924, New York, New York—died December 1, 1987, Saint-Paul, France
- American essayist, novelist, and playwright whose eloquence and passion on the subject of race in America made him an important voice
- The eldest of nine children, he grew up in poverty in the Black ghetto of Harlem in New York City.
- first and finest novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953)
- his play about a woman evangelist *The Amen Corner* (performed in New York City, 1965)
- His second novel, *Giovanni's Room* (1956), deals with the white world and concerns an American in Paris torn between his love for a man and his love for a woman
- Between the two novels came a collection of essays, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955).
- His book of essays, *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961), explores Black-white relations in the United States
- This theme also was central to his novel *Another Country* (1962), which examines sexual as well as racial issues.
- *The Fire Next Time* (1963)
- His bitter play about racist oppression, *Blues for Mister Charlie* (“Mister Charlie” being a Black term for a white man), played on Broadway to mixed reviews in 1964.

Other works

- *Meet the Man* (1965), a collection of short stories
- The novels *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* (1968)
- *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974)
- *Just Above My Head* (1979)
- *The Price of the Ticket* (1985), a collection of autobiographical writings—none of his later works achieved the popular and critical success of his early work

Amiri Baraka

1934–2014

- Amiri Baraka was born Everett LeRoi Jones in Newark, New Jersey, on October 7, 1934
- Moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan- joined a loose circle of Greenwich Village artists, musicians, and writers
- Founded Totem Press, which first published works by Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and others
- Published his first volume of poetry, *Preface to a Twenty-Volume Suicide Note*, in 1961
- From 1961 to 1963 he was co-editor, with Diane Di Prima, of *The Floating Bear*, a literary newsletter.
- His mistrust of white society was reflected in two plays, *The Slave* and *The Toilet*, both written in 1962.
- *Blues People: Negro Music in White America*, which he wrote, and *The Moderns: An Anthology of New Writing in America*, which he edited and introduced, were both published in 1963.
- His reputation as a playwright was established with the production of *Dutchman* at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York on March 24, 1964.
- In 1965, following the assassination of Malcolm X, Jones repudiated his former life and ended his marriage
- Moved to Harlem, where he founded the Black Arts Repertory Theatre/School.
- Two of Baraka's plays against police brutality: *Police* and *Arm Yrself or Harm Yrself*.
- In 1968, Baraka co-edited *Black Fire: An Anthology of Afro-American Writing* with Larry Neal

- His play *Home on the Range* was performed as a benefit for the Black Panther Party.
- That same year he became a Muslim, changing his name to Imamu Amiri Baraka.
- In 1969, his *Great Goodness of Life* became part of the successful “Black Quartet” off-Broadway
- His play, *Slave Ship*, was widely reviewed.
- Baraka was a founder and chairman of the Congress of African People, a national Pan-Africanist organization with chapters in fifteen cities
- In 1974, Baraka adopted a Marxist Leninist philosophy and dropped the spiritual title “Imamu.”
- In 1983, he and Amina Baraka edited *Confirmation: An Anthology of African-American Women*,
- in 1987, they published *The Music: Reflections on Jazz and Blues*.
- *The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka* was published in 1984

Numerous Literary Prizes and Honors:

- the National Endowment for the Arts,
- the PEN/Faulkner Award
- the Rockefeller Foundation Award for Drama
- the Langston Hughes Award from the City College of New York
- lifetime achievement award from the Before Columbus Foundation.

Solomon Northup

- born July 10, 1807, Schroon [now Minerva], New York, U.S.—died after 1857
- American farmer, labourer, and musician whose experience of being kidnapped and sold into slavery was the basis for his book *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup, a Citizen of New York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853, from a Cotton Plantation near the Red River in Louisiana* (1853).

- Northup was born a free person of colour in what is now Minerva, New York.
- His father, Mintus, had been born into slavery but was freed following the death of his master
- In March 1841 he was recruited by two men who claimed to be circus performers and offered him money to join their act as a fiddler, traveling south from New York. Upon their arrival in Washington, D.C., in early April, Northup was drugged, lost consciousness, and awoke to find himself in shackles in an underground cell. He was conveyed to Richmond, Virginia, and then delivered by ship to New Orleans, where in June he was sold at a slave market under the name Platt Hamilton. He spent the ensuing 12 years in slavery in the Bayou Boeuf plantation region of central Louisiana's Red River valley.
- Freed, with local writer David Wilson, Northup penned his memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*. The book sold some 30,000 copies in the ensuing three years, and Northup used the proceeds to purchase property in upstate New York, where he lived with his family.
- Memoir also provided the basis for director Gordon Parks's television docudrama *Solomon Northup's Odyssey* (1984) and director Steve McQueen's film *12 Years a Slave* (2013).

Langston Hughes

(1902-1967)

- Langston Hughes was an African American writer whose poems, columns, novels and plays made him a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.
- Harlem Renaissance**
- Hughes graduated from high school in 1920 and spent the following year in Mexico with his father. Around this time, Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" was published in *The Crisis* magazine and was highly praised.
 - In 1921 Hughes returned to the United States and became a part of Harlem's burgeoning cultural movement, what is commonly known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Poems and Other Works

- First book of poetry, *The Weary Blues*, published by Knopf in 1926. The book had popular appeal and established both his poetic style and his commitment to Black themes and heritage. It won first prize in the *Opportunity* magazine literary competition, and Hughes also received a scholarship to attend Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania.
- Hughes was also among the first to use jazz rhythms and dialect to depict the life of urban Black people in his work.
- second volume of poetry, *Fine Clothes to the Jew*, in 1927.
- 1929, published first novel, *Not Without Laughter*.
- 1934 he published his first collection of short stories, *The Ways of White Folks*.
- In 1936 he published one of his most celebrated poems, "Let America Be America Again" in *Esquire*, which examined the unrealized hopes and dreams of the country's lower class and disadvantaged, expressing a sense of hope that the American Dream would one day arrive.
- Later revised and republished "Let America Be America Again" in a small anthology of poems called *A New Song*.
- In 1937, he served as a war correspondent for several American newspapers during the Spanish Civil War.
- In 1940, Hughes' autobiography up to age 28, *The Big Sea*, was published.

Maya Angelou

1928–2014

- Maya Angelou was born in Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928.
- an author, poet, historian, songwriter, playwright, dancer, stage and screen producer, director, performer, singer, and civil rights activist.
- She was best known for her seven autobiographical books: *Mom & Me & Mom* (Random House, 2013); *Letter to My Daughter* (Random House, 2008); *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (Random House, 1986); *The Heart of a Woman* (Random House, 1981); *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas* (Random House, 1976); *Gather Together in My Name* (Random

House, 1974); and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Random House, 1969), which was nominated for the National Book Award.

- volumes of poetry are *A Brave and Startling Truth* (Random House, 1995); *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (Random House, 1994); *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now* (Random House, 1993); *I Shall Not Be Moved* (Random House, 1990); *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?* (Random House, 1983); *Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well* (Random House, 1975); and *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie* (Random House, 1971), which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.
- From 1961 to 1962 she was associate editor of *The Arab Observer* in Cairo, Egypt, the only English-language news weekly in the Middle East, and from 1964 to 1966 she was feature editor of the *African Review* in Accra, Ghana.
- In 1993, Angelou wrote and delivered a poem, "On The Pulse of the Morning," at the inauguration for President Bill Clinton at his request.
- In 2000, she received the National Medal of Arts, and in 2010 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.
- The first black woman director in Hollywood, Angelou wrote, produced, directed, and starred in productions for stage, film, and television.
- In 1971, she wrote the original screenplay and musical score for the film *Georgia, Georgia*,
- wrote and produced several prize-winning documentaries, including "Afro-Americans in the Arts"
- Twice nominated for a Tony award for acting: once for her Broadway debut in *Look Away* (1973), and again for her performance in *Roots* (1977).
- Angelou died on May 28, 2014,

Canadian Writers

Michael Ondaatje

- Although he is best known as a novelist, Ondaatje's work also encompasses poetry, memoir, and film, and reveals a passion for defying conventional form.
- His transcendent novel *The English Patient*, explores the stories of people history fails to reveal by intersecting four diverse lives at the end of World War II. In 2018 *The English Patient* was named the best winner of the Booker prize of the last 50 years, by public vote.
- Ondaatje himself is an interesting intersection of cultures. Born in Sri Lanka, the former Ceylon, of Indian/Dutch ancestry, he went to school in England, and then moved to Canada.
- From the memoir of his childhood, *Running in the Family*, to his Governor-General's Award-winning book of poetry, *There's a Trick With a Knife I'm Learning To Do*, to his classic novel, *The English Patient*
- Collections of poetry including *The Cinnamon Peeler* and most recently, *Handwriting*. Ondaatje's work of non-fiction is *The Conversations: Walter Murch and the Art of Editing Film*,
- Fiction include *In the Skin of a Lion*, *The English Patient*, *Anil's Ghost*, *Divisadero*, and *The Cat's Table*.
- His novel *Warlight* is a *New York Times* bestseller.
- Creator of 3 documentary films in the 1970s. *The Clinton Special: A Film about the Farm Show* (1974)
- *Sons of Captain Poetry* (1970) is about the poet bpNichol.
- *Carry On Crime and Punishment* (1970) is a whimsical docu-drama about crooked poets trying to kidnap a dog.

- Prizes including The Booker Prize for Fiction, The *Irish Times* International Prize for Fiction, the Kiriyaama Pacific Rim Book Prize, the Prix Medicis, the Governor-General's Award, and the Giller Prize.

Margaret Atwood

- Margaret Atwood was born on November 18, 1939, in Ottawa, Ontario, to parents of Nova Scotian origin
- published her first collection of poetry, *The Circle Game* (1966)
- In 1969, published her first novel, *The Edible Woman*, an edgy satire about a young woman working at a marketing firm.
- In 1972, she published a critical work called *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature*, which greatly influenced the ways Canadians understand their literary traditions.
- That same year, published her second novel, *Surfacing*, in which the protagonist must escape to the northern wilderness before rejoining society.
- In 1976, she published her third novel, *Lady Oracle*
- Over the next few years, she dabbled in television screenwriting; produced a history book, *Days of the Rebels: 1815–1840* (1977)
- published a collection of short stories, *Dancing Girls* (1977)
- Atwood explored the theme of Canadian identity, with varying levels of explicitness, in many of her works.
- Committed to forging a “Canadian literature,” Atwood has cited fellow Canadian poets of her generation, including Michael Ondaatje and Al Purdy, as the strongest influences on her poetry.
- Atwood expanded on this subject in *Strange Things: The Malevolent North in Canadian Literature* (1995).
- dystopian masterpiece, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) *The Handmaid's Tale*, which Atwood refuses to label as “science fiction,” depicts a society in which women are shorn of all rights except the rights to marry, keep house, and reproduce.
- she wrote a series of novels dealing with women's relationships with one another, including *Cat's Eye* (1988) and *The Robber Bride* (1993)

- In 1992, she published *Good Bones*, short, witty pieces about female body parts and the constraints that have been placed on them throughout history.
- explores women's historical roles in other works, including her renowned poetry collection, *The Journals of Susanna Moodie* (1970) and her novel *Alias Grace* (1996).
- she has received a number of prestigious awards for her writing, including the Booker Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Molson Award, and a Canada Short Fiction Award.

Yann Martel

- born -June 25, 1963, Salamanca, Spain
- Canadian author best known for *Life of Pi* (2001), the story of the eponymous Indian teenager adrift at sea, after a shipwreck, in a lifeboat shared with a Bengal tiger.
- Martel established himself as a writer with the publication of *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios, and Other Stories* (1993),
- Followed by his first novel, *Self* (1996), both of which introduced consistent thematic concerns in his fiction, including the complexities of illness, sexuality and identity, death and dying, and the burden of grief and loss.
- In 2001 Martel received international acclaim for *Life of Pi*, which features elements of fable, fantasy, and magic realism.
- The book was awarded the prestigious Booker Prize and was published in more than 30 languages.
- It later was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film (2012) directed by Ang Lee. Propelled by the success of *Life of Pi*,
- in 2010 Martel published *Beatrice and Virgil*, an allegorical adventure meant as a literary representation of the Holocaust in which animals—a donkey and a monkey, albeit stuffed and on display in a taxidermist's shop—converse and interact with human characters.
- Martel effectively utilized animals as vehicles for telling the story, projecting them with human qualities
- He repeated that approach—this time featuring a chimpanzee—in *The High Mountains of Portugal* (2016)

Alice Munro

- **Alice Ann Laidlaw**, (born July 10, 1931, Wingham, Ontario, Canada),
- Canadian short-story writer
- The Swedish Academy dubbed her a “master of the contemporary short story”
- Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013.

- work was noted for its precise imagery and narrative style, which is at once lyrical, compelling, economical, and intense, revealing the depth and complexities in the emotional lives of everyday people.
- Munro had begun writing stories as a teenager, and she persevered in her attempt to establish herself as a writer despite years of rejection from publishers
- Her first collection of stories was published as *Dance of the Happy Shades* (1968). It is one of three of her collections—the other two being *Who Do You Think You Are?* (1978; also published as *The Beggar Maid: Stories of Flo and Rose*) and *The Progress of Love* (1986)—awarded the annual Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction. *Lives of Girls and Women* (1971) was conceived as a novel but developed into a series of interrelated coming-of-age stories.
- Her later volumes included *Something I’ve Been Meaning to Tell You* (1974), *The Moons of Jupiter* (1982), *Friend of My Youth* (1990), *A Wilderness Station* (1994), and *The Love of a Good Woman* (1998). The latter volume received both Canada’s esteemed Giller Prize (later the Scotiabank Giller Prize) and the National Book Critics Circle Award in the U.S. Her book *Open Secrets* (1994) contains stories that range in setting from the semicivilized hills of southern Ontario to the mountains of Albania. In *Runaway* (2004) Munro explores the depths of ordinary lives through the use of temporal shifts and realistically rendered reminiscences; it also was awarded the Giller Prize. *The View from Castle Rock* (2007) combines history, family memoir, and fiction into narratives of questionable inquiries and obscure replies. In 2009 Munro won the Man Booker International Prize; that same year she published the short-story collection *Too Much Happiness*.
- stories in *Dear Life* (2012) were unified by examinations of sex, love, and death. Four of the stories in the collection were explicitly framed as fictionalized autobiography meant to encapsulate the aging Munro’s feelings about her life.

- *Stories* (1996) and *Family Furnishings: Selected Stories, 1995–2014* (2014).
- Munro’s short story about the domestic erosions of Alzheimer’s disease, “The Bear Came over the Mountain,” originally published in *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* (2001)- made into the critically acclaimed film *Away from Her* (2006)
- Other film adaptations of Munro’s work included *Hateship Loveship* (2013), which was based on the title story of her 2001 collection,
- With the exception of Canadian-born American author Saul Bellow (who won the prize in 1976), Munro was the first Canadian—as well as the 13th woman—to be named the Nobel literature laureate.

Lawrence Hill

- Born- January 24, 1957
- Canadian novelist, essayist, and memoirist
- He is known for his 2007 novel *The Book of Negroes*, inspired by the Black Loyalists given freedom and resettled in Nova Scotia by the British after the American Revolutionary War
- his 2001 memoir *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada*.^[2]
- in 2013 for the Massey Lectures: he drew from his non-fiction book *Blood: The Stuff of Life*, published that year
- Hill’s first passion was running, but he was unable to realize his dreams of becoming an elite athlete and winning an Olympic gold medal in the 5,000 meters.
- worked for four years as a full-time newspaper reporter for *The Globe and Mail*, and later for *The Winnipeg Free Press*.
- The work of his parents in the human rights movement and Black history greatly influenced Hill’s work related to identity and belonging as a writer
- Hill’s nonfiction books include *Trials and Triumphs: The Story of African-Canadians* (1993), *Women of Vision: The Story of the Canadian Negro Women’s Association* (1996), his memoir *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada* (2001), *The Deserter’s Tale: The Story of An Ordinary Soldier Who Walked Away*

from the War in Iraq (2007), *Dear Sir, I Intend to Burn Your Book: An Anatomy of a Book Burning* (2013), and *Blood: The Stuff of Life* (2013).

- Hill's fictional works include *Some Great Thing* (1992), *Any Known Blood* (1997), *The Book of Negroes* (2007), and *The Illegal* (2015), which brought his work to broad public attention and won numerous awards.[12]
- *The Book of Negroes* won several awards, including the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, both CBC Radio's Canada Reads and Radio-Canada's Le Combat des livres, and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize - Although Hill's novel *The Book of Negroes* was first released in 2007 by W. W. Norton & Company under the title *Someone Knows My Name*; the American publisher re-issued a new edition of the novel with the original title in January 2015 to build on the mini-series
- *The Walrus* published Hill's award-winning essay "Is Africa's Pain Black America's Burden", and a short story entitled "Meet You at the Door".
- his non-fiction book *Blood: the Stuff of Life* (2013).
- *Blood: The Stuff of Life* is a personal consideration of the physical, social, cultural and psychological aspects of blood, how it defines, unites and divides us.
- In 2015, *Blood: The Stuff of Life* won the Hamilton Literary Award for Non Fiction.
- He was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2015.
- His newest novel, *The Illegal*, was published in fall 2015.
- *The Illegal* won the 2016 edition of *Canada Reads*, making Hill the first writer ever to win the competition twice.

Rohinton Mistry

- Rohinton Mistry is a famous Canadian writer with roots in India
- has a rare achievement to his credit - he is the only author, all of whose novels have been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize'
 - born to a Parsi
 - migrated to Canada after marrying Freny Elavia who worked as a teacher and settled in Toronto.

- Penguin Books Canada published his collection of eleven short stories, *Tales from Firozsha Baag*. It was later published in the United States of America as "Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag". The book consists of eleven short stories, all set within one apartment complex in modern-day Mumbai.
- His short-story collection "Tales from Firozsha Baag" was published in Canada in the year 1987 and then in UK as "Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag" in the year 1992.
- His novel "Such a Long Journey" is written with Mumbai as the background. The novel depicts the story of a bank clerk who, though unwillingly, becomes a part of a fraud committed by the government.
- Rohinton Mistry bagged the Commonwealth Writers Prize for this book. "A Fine Balance", another novel published in the year 1996 depicts the State of Emergency in India and "Family Matters" which was published in 2002, again has Mumbai as its background.
- The novel narrates the story of an elderly Parsi widower who lives in Mumbai with his step-children His latest work is a story called "The Scream"

Margaret Laurence

- The Canadian writer Margaret Laurence (1926-1987) was the author of many novels and stories about Africa and Canada.
- Margaret Laurence (Jean Margaret Wemyss) was born in 1926 in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada.
- Her first novel, called *Pillars of the Nation*, was written at the age of 12 for a contest sponsored by the *Manitoba Free Press*. A story about pioneer settlers of the West, its town was already called Manawaka. It won honorable mention.
- Intrigued by the extensive oral literature of the Somali people, she searched out and translated examples of the folk tales, love poems, and formal, highly-developed *gabei*, gathering them together in a book called *A Tree for Poverty*, published in 1954.

- short stories later collected and published as *The Tomorrow-Tamer* (London, 1963; New York, 1964). Her first novel, *This Side Jordan* (1960), is set in Ghana, and *The Prophet's Camel Bell* (1963), published in the United States as *New Wind in a Dry Land* (1964), is a retrospective account of her experiences in Somaliland.
- She wrote of African people with tact and empathy, so much so that she was repeatedly praised by Chinua Achebe, the senior Nigerian novelist, for her portrayals of Africans and their dilemmas.
- **The Manawaka Cycle**
- Five works set in the Canadian prairie town of Manawaka constitute the major body of Laurence's fiction: *The Stone Angel* (1964), *A Jest of God* (1966), *The Fire-Dwellers* (1969), *A Bird in the House* (1970), and *The Diviners* (1974). In them, through the voices of five memorable women, she created a multi-faceted Canadian experience through four generations
- **Other Works and Awards**
- In 1968 Margaret Laurence published *Long Drums and Cannons*, a study of contemporary Nigerian novelists and playwrights, and in 1976, *Heart of a Stranger*, a collection of personal, often autobiographical essays. She also wrote four children's books: *Jason's Quest* (1970), *The Olden Days Coat* (1979), *Six Darn Cows* (1979), and *A Christmas Story* (1980).

- Gabrielle Roy
- Canadian novelist
- married name **Gabrielle Carbotte**, (born March 25, 1909, St. Boniface, Man., Can.—died July 13, 1983, Quebec), French Canadian novelist praised for her skill in depicting the hopes and frustrations of the poor.
- she worked as a journalist. Her studies of poverty-stricken working-class people in the cities include *Bonheur d'occasion* (1945; *The Tin Flute*) and *Alexandre Chenevert, caissier* (1954; *The Cashier*). Some of her novels, such as *La Petite Poule d'eau* (1950; *Where Nests the Waterhen*) and *Rue Deschambault* (1955; *Street of Riches*),

deal with isolated rural life in Manitoba. She also wrote a book of semiautobiographical stories, *La Route d'Altamont* (1966; *The Road Past Altamont*),

- a novel based on her experiences as a schoolteacher, *Ces enfants de ma vie* (1977; *Children of My Heart*). An autobiography, *La Détresse et l'enchantement* (*Enchantment and Sorrow*), was published posthumously in 1984.

Shyam Selvadurai

- (born 12 February 1965)
 - Sri Lankan Canadian novelist.^[1]
 - He is most noted for his 1994 novel *Funny Boy*, which won the Books in Canada First Novel Award^[2] and the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction.^[3]
 - Ethnic riots in 1983 drove the family to emigrate to Canada when Selvadurai was nineteen.
 - recounted an account of the discomfort he and his partner experienced during a period spent in Sri Lanka in 1997 in his essay "Coming Out" in *Time Asia's* special issue on the Asian diaspora in 2003.
 - Selvadurai published *Funny Boy* in 1994, and followed up in 1998 with the novel *Cinnamon Gardens*.
 - In 2004, Selvadurai edited a collection of short stories: *Story-Wallah: Short Fiction from South Asian Writers*, which includes works by Salman Rushdie, Monica Ali, and Hanif Kureishi,
 - He published a young adult novel, *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*, in 2005. *Swimming* won the Lambda Literary Award in the Children's and Youth Literature category in 2006.
 - In 2013, he released a fourth novel, *The Hungry Ghosts*. In 2013 Selvadurai's *Funny*
 - In 2016, a species of spider was named after Selvadurai called *Brignolia Shyami*, a small goblin spider which is a pale yellow colour .
 - *Funny Boy*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1994.
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- *Cinnamon Gardens*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1998. *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. Toronto: Tundra, 2005.
 - Literary Award in the Children's and Youth Literature category in 2006
 - *Story-Wallah: Short Fiction from South Asian Writers*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
 - *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2005. *The Hungry Ghosts*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2013.
 - *Many Roads Through Paradise: An Anthology Of Sri Lankan Literature*. London: Penguin Books Limited, 2014
 - *Mansions of the Moon*. 2022.
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Maria Campbell

- Cree-Métis writer, playwright, filmmaker, scholar, teacher and elder (born 26 April 1940 in Park Valley, SK).
- Campbell's memoir *Halfbreed* (1973) is regarded as a foundational piece of Indigenous literature in Canada for its attention to the discrimination, oppression and poverty that some Métis women (and Indigenous people, in general) experience in Canada.
- As an artist, Campbell has worked with Indigenous youth in community theatre and advocated for the hiring and recognition of Indigenous people in the arts. She has mentored many Indigenous artists during her career.

Writing Career

- Having worked in cities as a community organizer, Campbell co-wrote *Many Laws* (1969), a handbook that illuminated many of the challenges that Indigenous people face when they move to urban spaces.
- Campbell's first full-length book was *Halfbreed* (1973). It chronicles the first 33 years of her life, covering her experiences of poverty, alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide attempts, violence and sex work.

- *Halfbreed* also recounts many of Campbell's experiences being subjected to discrimination from both settler Canadians and Indigenous people.
- Campbell is also the author of books for children, including *People of the Buffalo: How the Plains Indians Lived* (1975), *Little Badger and the Fire Spirit* (1977) and *Riel's People: How the Métis Lived* (1978). All three offer teachings about Métis spirituality and heritage.
- In 1995, she wrote *Stories of the Road Allowance People*, in which she translated Cree-Michif narratives into English.
- She co-authored a book about Indigenous cultural practices called *Give Back* in 1992 and was an editor of *Keetsahnak*, a book about murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, published in 2017.

Radio, Plays and Films

- In 1989, she co-wrote *The Book of Jessica: A Theatrical Transformation* with Linda Griffiths, loosely based on *Halfbreed*.
- Campbell's first professionally produced play, *Flight*, was the first all-Indigenous theatre production in Canada.
- Campbell wrote the film *The Red Dress* (1978)

Activism

- In 1963, she founded the first Women's Halfway House and the first Women and Children's Emergency Crisis Centre in Edmonton.
- Campbell is also the national grandmother for *Walking With Our Sisters*, an art installation about murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls touring Canada since 2013.

Academic Career

Sinclair Ross

- born at Shellbrook, Sask 22 Jan 1908; d at Vancouver, BC 29 Feb 1996.
- Ross was one of Canada's most respected writers, in particular for his acclaimed novel, *As for me and my House*.

- Banking became his lifelong career. He wrote in his spare time, and in 1934 his first story, "No Other Way," was published in London, England. Like most of Ross's fiction, it is set on the Canadian prairies
- The best-known stories, "The Painted Door," "A Field of Wheat" and "The Lamp at Noon," have been much anthologized. Several were later collected as *The Lamp at Noon and Other Stories* (1968).
- Ross was little known to the Canadian or international public until his first novel, *As For Me and My House*, was published in New York in 1941..
- Ross's next 2 novels, *The Well* (1958) and *Whir of Gold* (1970), failed to make much critical impact.
- His novella called *Sawbones Memorial* (1974), however, is a technical tour de force, relying more on dramatic than narrative technique.
- Upon retirement from the Royal Bank in 1968, Ross moved to Greece and then to Spain. Ill health prompted his return to Canada in 1980.

Thomas King

- Thomas King, CM, novelist, short-story writer, essayist, screenwriter, photographer (born 24 April 1943 in Roseville, California).
- Canadian novelist and broadcaster
- The son of a Greek mother and a Cherokee father
- King emigrated to Canada in 1980,
- His first novel, *Medicine River* (1990), received considerable critical praise, and was made into a CBC film.
- The novel was runner up for the 1991 Commonwealth Writer's Prize.
- Two of King's works — *A Coyote Columbus Story* (1992), a children's book, and the novel *Green Grass, Running Water* (1993) — were nominated for the Governor General's Award,

- *One Good Story, That One* (1993) is a collection of ten short stories, including King's often anthologized "The One about Coyote Going West." A second children's book, *Coyote Sings to the Moon*, appeared in 1998, and the novel *Truth and Bright Water* was published in 1999.
- In 2002, King published a detective novel, *Dreadful Water Shows Up* under the
- pseudonym Hartley GoodWeather.
- His characters are strong in the face of oppression and prejudice, but they are also fallible in endearingly humorous ways.
- In 2004, he published a follow-up to his award-winning *Coyote Sings to the Moon*, titled *Coyote's New Suit*, in which Raven, an iconic figure in many Aboriginal cultures, questions the quality of Coyote's snazzy brown suit.
- The short story collection *A Short History of Indians in Canada* appeared in 2005 and won the 2006 McNally Robinson Aboriginal Book of the Year Award.
- In 2006, he published another book as Hartley GoodWeather, *The Red Power Murders: A DreadfulWater Mystery*.
- The DreadfulWater Mystery series continued, although no longer under the name Hartley GoodWeather, with *Cold Skies* (2018), *A Matter of Malice* (2019) and *Obsidian* (2020)
- Two of King's novels, *The Back of Turtle* (2014) and *Indians on Vacation* (2020), won the best English-language fiction award at the Governor General's Awards.

Non-fiction and Other Activities

- King spent 1993–94 as story editor for *Four Directions*, a CBC Television dramatic series by and about Aboriginal people.
- King has edited Canadian Aboriginal fiction anthologies, such as *All My Relations* (1990) and *First Voices, First Words* (2001), and collections of critical essays such as *The Native in Literature* (1987).
- In 2003 King, was the first Aboriginal in Canada to deliver the Massey Lectures. His presentation, titled *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*, was later published by House of Anansi press. In 2012, King was awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

- *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* (2012) won the 2014 B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction as well as the prestigious RBC Taylor Prize.
- King has worked on and written multiple films including *Medicine River* (1993), *I'm Not the Indian You Had in Mind* (2007) and the animated short *A Short History of Indians in Canada* (2017).

Australian Writers

A.D. Hope

- **Alec Derwent Hope**, (born July 21, 1907, Cooma, New South Wales, Australia—died July 13, 2000, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory),
- **Christian father and English-Jewish mother**
- Australian poet who is best known for his elegies and satires.
- began publishing poems when he was 14 years old, was educated in Australia and at the University of Oxford
- Though traditional in form, his poetry is thoroughly modern, two outstanding examples being “Conquistador” (1947) and “The Return from the Freudian Isles” (1944).
- also wrote religious and metaphysical poems, as well as erotic verse, which often attracted controversy, as did his attacks on the cultural establishment, which he considered pretentious and empty.
- His first book of poems, *The Wandering Islands*, appeared in 1955 and was followed by several volumes of new poems and of collected poems. He also wrote essays and criticism, including *A Midsummer Eve’s Dream* (1970), *The Cave and the Spring* (1965), and *Native Companions* (197
- His first two published books were both collections of poetry: *Bicycle and Other Poems* (1970) and *Neighbours in a Thicket: Poems* (1974)
- His first novel, *Johnno* (1975), is the semi-autobiographical tale of a young man growing up in Brisbane during the Second World War, a period in Malouf’s life that he later wrote about in his memoir *12 Edmondstone Street* (1985).
- His second novel, *An Imaginary Life* (1978), is a fictional life of the poet Ovid, exiled from Rome by the Emperor Augustus in 8 A.D. and sent to live in exile among the Scythians on the Black Sea.
- *Child’s Play with Eustace & The Prowler* (1982) consists of a novel about terrorism and two short narratives, while *Fly Away Peter* (1982) contrasts the idyllic setting of a bird sanctuary on the Queensland coast with the horrors of the First World War.

Later novels:

- *Harland's Half Acre* (1985), the story of an artist living in a remote area and his attempt to recover his family's past through the land.
- *The Great World* (1990), which won the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best Book) and the Prix Fémina Etranger (France) and tells the story of two Australians imprisoned by the Japanese during the Second World War.
- *Remembering Babylon* (1993), which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction and won the first International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 1996, as well as the Commonwealth Writers Prize (South East Asia and South Pacific Region, Best Book)?
- *Curlow Creek* (1996), set in New South Wales in 1827, centres on the relationship between an illiterate Irish convict and the police officer sent to hang him.

His collections of short stories

- *Antipodes* (1985);
- *Dream Stuff* (2000)
- *Every Move You Make* (2006).
- His short stories were collected and published in one volume, *The Complete Stories*, in 2007
- He wrote the libretti for *Voss*, an adaptation of the novel by Patrick White and first produced in Sydney in 1986
- *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, an opera with music by Michael Berkeley, and delivered the Boyer lectures in 1998 for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.
- Play- *Blood Relations* (1988)
- His latest collaboration with Michael Berkeley is the opera, *Jane Eyre*.
- His latest books are *Ransom* (2009), a novel inspired by a part of Homer's *Iliad*, and *Earth Hour* (2014), a poetry collection. He was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize in 2011.

Patrick White

- **Patrick Victor Martindale White,**
- (born May 28, 1912, London, England—died September 30, 1990, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia),
- Australian novelist and playwright who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1973.
- served in the Royal Air Force during World War II, he had already published some early work, traveled extensively, and been involved with the theatre.
- first novel, *Happy Valley* (1939), was set in New South Wales and showed the influence of D.H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy.
- The material of White's later novels is distinctly Australian, but his treatment of it has a largeness of vision not limited to any one country or period.
- His conception of Australia reflected in *The Tree of Man* (1955), *Voss* (1957), *Riders in the Chariot* (1961), *The Solid Mandala* (1966), and *The Twyborn Affair* (1979) is the product of an individual, critical, poetic imagination. His style is dense with myth, symbol, and allegory. His deepest concern is for man's sense of isolation and his search for meaning.
- White wrote plays, including *The Season at Sarsaparilla* (produced 1962; published in *Four Plays*, 1965), *Night on Bald Mountain* (produced 1964), and *Signal Driver* (1982); short stories; the autobiographical *Flaws in the Glass* (1981); a screenplay; and a book of poems. Though White had stipulated that material unfinished at the time of his death be destroyed, his literary executor nonetheless published the incomplete novel *The Hanging Garden* (2012), which White had handwritten in 1981. The novel centres on the friendship between a boy and girl in Sydney during World War II.

Peter Carey

- born in Bacchus Marsh in Victoria, Australia, in 1943.
- Australian identity and historical context play a part in several of his literary works.

- He began by writing surreal short stories, and published two collections, *War Crimes* (1979), and *The Fat Man in History* (1980). These stories, along with three previously uncollected works, are all included in his *Collected Stories* (1995).
- 3 novels: *Bliss* (1981), about an advertising executive who has an out-of-body experience; *Illywhacker* (1985), a huge vision of Australian history told through the memoirs of a 100-year old confidence man or "illywhacker"; and *Oscar and Lucinda* (1988), a complex symbolic tale of the arrival of Christianity in Australia. While writing his next novel, *The Tax Inspector* (1991), Peter Carey moved to New Other works:
- *The Unusual Life of Tristran Smith* (1994); *Jack Maggs* (1997), billed as a re-imagining of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*; *True History of the Kelly Gang* (2001), told in fictional letters from the Australian outlaw and folk hero Ned Kelly to his estranged daughter; and *My Life as a Fake* (2003), a story centred around a literary hoax which gripped Australia in the 1940s. *Jack Maggs* and *True History of the Kelly Gang* both won the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best Book) and with *True History of the Kelly Gang*, Peter Carey won the Booker Prize for Fiction for the second time, in 2001.
- He has also written a children's book, *The Big Bazoohley* (1995) and a non-fiction book, *30 Days in Sydney: A Wildly Distorted Account* (2001).
- *Wrong about Japan* (2005), is a memoir/travelogue of the author's journey through Japan with his son Charley and their attempts to understand the Japanese culture and heritage.
- His later novels are *Theft: A Love Story* (2006); and *His Illegal Self* (2008).
- His novel, *Parrot and Olivier in America*, was published in 2010 and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (South East Asia and South Pacific region, Best Book) and the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. His latest novel is *The Chemistry of Tears* (2012), which tells the story of a clock expert who is restoring an automaton while grieving for her lost lover.
- Peter Carey was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished services to literature, in 2012.

Judith Wright

- Judith Arundell Wright

- (born May 31, 1915, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia—died June 25, 2000, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory)
- Australian poet whose verse, thoroughly modern in idiom, is noted for skillful technique.
- In 1945 Wright's poetry began to appear in magazines. The first of her several books of poetry, *The Moving Image* (1946), was followed by *Woman to Man* (1949), *The Gateway* (1953), *The Two Fires* (1955), *The Other Half* (1966), and *Alive* (1973).
- A collection of short stories, *The Nature of Love*, was published in 1966, and her *Collected Poems 1942–1970* in 1971.
- A further volume of poetry, *Phantom Dwelling*, was published in 1985. A noted activist-campaigned for such causes as conservation, peace, and Aboriginal land rights.

AFRICAN WRITERS

➤ **Chinua Achebe**

- Full name - Albert Chinualumogu Achebe
- Born- November 16, 1930, Ogidi, Nigeria—died March 21, 2013, Boston, U.S.
- Nigerian novelist
- Important theme - social and psychological disorientation accompanying the imposition of Western customs and values upon traditional African society
- First novel – *Things Fall Apart* (1958) - traditional Igbo life at the time of the advent of missionaries and colonial government in his homeland – sequel *No More at Ease* (1960)
- *Arrow of God* (1964)
- *A Man of the People* (1966) and *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987) -corruption and other aspects of postcolonial African life
- published several collections of short stories and children’s books - *How the Leopard Got His Claws* (1973; with John Iroaganachi)
- Poetry - *Beware, Soul-Brother* (1971) and *Christmas in Biafra* (1973)
- “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*“(1975) - Landmark essay in post colonial studies
- Books of essays - *Morning Yet on Creation Day* (1975), *Hopes and impediments* (1988), *Home and Exile* (2000), *The Education of a British-Protected Child* (2009), the autobiographical *There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra* (2012).
- Ardent supporter of Biafra
- In 2007 he won the Man Booker International Prize.

• **Nadine Gordimer**

- South African writer and political activist
- Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991
- Major concern – exile and alienation -apartheid in Africa -

Burger's Daughter and *July's People* were banned – part of anti apartheid movement – African National Congress

- Also active against censorship, for HIV AIDS causes
- *The Conservationist* (1974) was a joint winner of the Booker Prize
- resistance to discrimination extended to her even refusing to accept "short listing" in 1998 for the Orange Prize, because the award recognizes only women writers
- gave Nelson Mandela advice on his famous 1964 defense speech at the trial which led to his conviction for life
- first novel - *The Lying Days* was published in 1953 – Bildungsroman
- Later novels - *Burger's Daughter* (1979), *July's People* (1981), *A Sport of Nature* (1987), *My Son's Story* (1990), *The House Gun* (1998), *The Pickup* (2001), *Get a Life* (2005), *No Time like the Present* (2012)
- Short-story collections - *A Soldier's Embrace* (1980), *Crimes of Conscience* (1991), and *Loot, and Other Stories* (2003).
- *Living in Hope and History: Notes from Our Century* (1999) -collection of essays.

➤ **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

- Nigerian writer
- Born on 15 September 1977 at Enugu, Nigeria
- a feminist

- Novels - *Purple Hibiscus* (2003),
Half of a Yellow Sun (2006) – on Biafran War, and *Americanah*(2013),
- the short story collection *The Thing Around Your Neck*(2009)
- Essay *We Should All Be Feminists* (2014)
- Her most recent books are *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*(2017), *Zikora* (2020 and *Notes on Grief* (2021).
- In 2008, she was awarded a MacArthur Genius Grant
- She was the recipient of the PEN Pinter Prize in 2018.

➤ **J M Coetzee**

- John Maxwell Coetzee was born on 9 February 1940
- South African–Australian novelist, essayist, linguist, translator
- Nobel Prize in Literature in 2003
- first writer to be awarded the Booker Prize twice for *Life & Times of Michael K* in 1983, and for *Disgrace* in 1999
- three-time winner of South Africa's CNA Prize
- Major works : *Dusklands* (1974), *In the Heart of the Country* (1977), *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980) , *Life & Times of Michael K* (1983), *Foe* (1986), *Age of Iron* (1990), *The Master of Petersburg* (1994), and *Disgrace* (1999)
- Two fictionalized memoirs - *Boyhood* (1997) and *Youth* (2002)
- *White Writing* (1988) is a set of essays on South African literature and culture

➤ **Wole Soyinka**

- Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka known as Wole Soyinka

- Born on July 13, 1934
- Nigerian playwright and political activist
- Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986.
- member of the Yoruba people
- his first important play, *A Dance of the Forests* (1963) – Nigerian Independence - satirizes the fledgling nation by showing that the present is no more a golden age than was the past.
- *The Lion and the Jewel* (1959)-making fun of pompous, Westernized schoolteachers ; *The Trials of Brother Jero* (1960) and *Jero's Metamorphosis* (1973) – lighter plays
- *The Strong Breed* (1963), *Kongi's Harvest* (1966), *The Road* (1965), *From Zia, with Love* (1992), *King Baabu*(2001) – serious plays – his disillusionment with Nigerian society
- *Madmen and Specialists* (1971), *Death and the King's Horseman* (1975), and *The Beatification of Area Boy* (1995)

➤ **Ben Okri**

- a Nigerian poet and novelist – born 15 March 1959 - Urhobo
- the Booker Prize - novel *The Famished Road* – 1991 - youngest ever winner of the prize at the age of 32 – along with *Songs of Enchantment* (1993) & *Infinite Riches* (1998) - trilogy - life of Azaro, a spirit-child - war-torn Nigeria.
- first novels - *Flowers and Shadows* (1982)
The Landscapes Within (1981) surrealistic images - corruption
- short-story collections - *Incidents at the Shrine* (1986) and *Stars of the New Curfew* (1988) - link in Nigerian culture between the physical world and the world of the spirits

- Other novels - *Astonishing the Gods* (1995); *Dangerous Love* (1996), *In Arcadia* (2002); *Starbook* (2007); *The Age of Magic* (2014), *The Freedom Artist* (2019).
- Poetry collections: *An African Elegy* (1992), *Wild* (2012), *Rise Like Lions: Poetry for the Many* (2018), *A Fire in My Head: Poems for the Dawn* (2021)
- *A Way of Being Free* (1997) and *A Time for New Dreams* (2011) - collections of essays – on need to assert African identities

➤ **Ngugi Wa Thiong'o**

- James Thiong'o Ngugi - born January 5, 1938 - Kenyan writer - East Africa's leading novelist
 - *Weep Not, Child* (1964) was the first major novel in English by an East African - story of a Kikuyu family drawn into the struggle for Kenyan independence during the state of emergency and the Mau Mau rebellion
 - *A Grain of Wheat* (1967)- artistically more mature- social, moral, and racial issues of the struggle for independence
 - *The River Between* (1965) - lovers kept apart by the conflict between Christianity traditional beliefs ; reunite a culturally divided community by Western education are doomed to failure.
 - *Petals of Blood* (1977) deals with social and economic problems in East Africa after independence
 - *Caitani Mutharaba-ini* (1980; *Devil on the Cross*), -allegorical - traditional ballad singers - meeting between the Devil and various villains who exploit the poor.
 - *Mũrogi wa Kagogo* (2004; *Wizard of the Crow*) - fantasy & satire on the legacy of colonialism
 - *The Black Hermit* (1968) - first play. Other plays : *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* (1976) cowritten with Micere Githae Mugo - his best, *Ngaahika Ndeenda* (1977; *I Will Marry When I Want*) - detention for a year without trial by the

Kenyan government - describes his ordeal in *Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary*(1981) - attacks capitalism, religious hypocrisy, corruption among the new economic elite of Kenya. *Matigari ma Njiruungi* (1986; *Matigari*) is a novel in the same vein.

- Essay Collections - *Homecoming* (1972), *Writers in Politics* (1981), *Barrel of a Pen* (1983), *Moving the Centre* (1993), *Penpoints, Gunpoints, and Dreams* (1998), *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature* (1986) - argued for African-language literature as the only authentic voice for Africans
- Memoirs - *Dreams in a Time of War* (2010) - childhood; *In the House of the Interpreter* (2012) - Mau Mau rebellion , *Birth of a Dream Weaver: A Writer's Awakening* (2016)

➤ **Nuruddin Farah**

- Somali writer
- First novel - *From a Crooked Rib* (1970) – feminist
- *A Naked Needle* (1976) - interracial and cross-cultural love - Somali life in the mid-1970s
- trilogy—*Sweet and Sour Milk* (1979), *Sardines* (1981), and *Close Sesame* (1983) - portrayal of life under the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre - forced into exile
- second trilogy - *Maps* (1986), *Gifts* (1992), *Secrets*(1998)
- *Links* (2003), *Knots* (2006), and *Crossbones* (2011) – third trilogy
- Major themes – exile, women, betrayal, guilt, injustice etc

BRITISH DIASPORA

➤ Jean Rhys

- Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams - 24 August 1890 – 14 May 1979
- British novelist born and grew up in the Caribbean island of Dominica
- *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966), written as a prequel to Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*
- 1924 – met Ford Madox Ford – under his patronage started writing short stories - *The Left Bank and Other Stories* (1927) – first collection
- *Quartet* (1928) – novel – her affair with Ford
- *After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie* (1931), *Voyage in the Dark* (1934), *Good Morning, Midnight* (1939) – mistreated rootless women
- *Tigers Are Better-Looking* (1968) - Short stories
- *Smile Please: An Unfinished Autobiography* - incomplete
- Known for her depiction creole life and the Caribbean culture, early feminist

➤ Kazuo Ishiguro

- Japanese-born British novelist, screenwriter, musician, and short-story writer - born November 8, 1954, Nagasaki
 - Nobel Prize for Literature – 2017
 - First novel, *A Pale View of Hills* (1982), details the postwar memories of Etsuko, a Japanese woman trying to deal with the suicide of her daughter Keiko
 - *An Artist of the Floating World* (1986) - life of elderly Masuji Ono, who reviews his past career as a political artist of imperialist propaganda
 - *The Remains of the Day* (1989) - Booker Prize reminiscences of Stevens, an elderly English butler

- *The Unconsoled* (1995)- focuses on lack of communication and absence of emotion as a concert pianist arrives in a European city to give a performance.
- *When We Were Orphans* (2000) – Crime fiction – Sino Japanese war- British man’s search for his parents
- *Never Let Me Go* (2005) - ethical quandaries raised by genetic engineering
- *The Buried Giant* (2015) – Arthurian legend
- *Klara and the Sun* (2021) - Centres on a droid who serves as an “Artificial Friend” to a lonely child.
- short-story collection - *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall*(2009)

➤ **Hanif Kureshi**

- British novelist, playwright, screenwriter – mother

British, father South Asian, born in 1954 in London

- *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985) – screen play – Oscar nomination. Other important screenplays –

Sammy and Rosie Get Laid (1987), *The Mother* (2003) and *Venus* (2006).

- *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990) won the Whitbread Award for a first novel - a bisexual British Asian character called Karim Amir as he explores class, ethnicity, sexuality and culture in late 20 C London
- , *The Black Album* (1995) deals with Islamic fundamentalism and freedom of speech
- *Intimacy* (1998), concerns a man contemplating leaving his wife and children
- Other novels - *Gabriel’s Gift* (2001), *The Body* (2003), *Something to Tell You* (2008) and *The Last Word* (2014).
- *A Theft: My Con Man* (2014) – pamphlet – victim of a suspected fraud

- Influenced by E P Thomson, P G Wodehouse and American novelist Philip Roth

➤ **Salman Rushdie**

- born on June 19, 1947, Bombay - Indian-born British writer
- allegorical novels - examine historical and philosophical issues - surreal characters, brooding humour & an effusive, melodramatic prose style
- treatment of sensitive religious and political subjects - controversial figure.
- first published novel – *Grimus* (1975)
- *Midnight's Children*(1981) – magnum opus – initiated postmodernist writing in India – allegory of independent India – magical realism - Booker Prize in 1981, Booker of Bookers (1993) and the Best of the Booker (2008)
- *Shame* (1983) - contemporary politics in Pakistan
- *The Satanic Verses* (1988) - character modeled on the Prophet Muhammad – blasphemous - a fatwa – cancelled in 1998
- *Other novels* - *The Moor's Last Sigh* (1995), *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* (1999), *Fury* (2001), *Shalimar the Clown* (2005) – terrorism, *The Enchantress of Florence* (2008), *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights* (2015), *The Golden House* (2017), *Quichotte* (2019)
- *Imaginary Homelands* (1991) - a collection of essays and criticism
- Joseph Anton – his alias in seclusion
- *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1990), *Luka and the Fire of Life* (2010) – Children's novels
- short-story collection *East, West* (1994)

➤ **V S Naipaul**

- Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul - Trinidad and Tobago–born British writer - 17 August 1932 – 11 August 2018 - fiction & nonfiction

- Nobel Prize in Literature in 2001 for revelation of “suppressed histories”
- Early works -*The Mystic Masseur*, 1957; *The Suffrage of Elvira*, 1958; and *Miguel Street*, 1959 – ironical works on life in Caribbean
- *A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961) – imp work – assertion of personal identity
- *In a Free State* (1971) – Booker prize
- *Guerrillas* (1975) - uprising on a Caribbean island; *A Bend in the River*(1979) -uncertain future of a newly independent state in Central Africa. *A Way in the World* (1994) - essay like novel - how history forms individuals’ characters; *The Mimic Men* (1967) and *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987).
- nonfiction works - three studies of India - *An Area of Darkness* (1965), *India: A Wounded Civilization* (1977), and *India: A Million Mutinies Now* (1990); *The Five Societies—British, French, and Dutch—in the West Indies* (1963); and *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey* (1981).
- *Beyond Belief: Islamic Excursions Among the Converted Peoples*(1998) - a portrayal of the Islamic faith in the lives of ordinary people in Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Malaysia.
- *Half a Life* (2001) is a novel about an Indian immigrant to England and then Africa - “half a person,” “living a borrowed life.” *Magic Seeds* (2004) - sequel
- *The Writer and the World* (2002) and *Literary Occasions* (2003) - collections of essays.
- In *The Masque of Africa* (2010)—exploration of African beliefs.

➤ **Timothy Mo**

- a British Asian novelist - born 30 December 1950 - British mother and a Hong Kong father
- novels explore the intersection of English and Cantonese cultures

- first novel -*The Monkey King* (1978)- Comic, ironic story of Wallace Nolasco- a naive young Portuguese-Chinese in Hong Kong
- Sour Sweet* (1982) -Hawthornden Prize in 1982- immigrant experience in England
- *An Insular Possession* (1986) – opium war
- *The Redundancy of Courage* (1991), *Brownout on Breadfruit Boulevard* (1994), *Renegade or Halo2* (1999), *Pure* (2002)

➤ **Sam Selvon**

- Samuel Selvon - 20 May 1923 – 16 April 1994
- Trinidad-born writer
- novel *The Lonely Londoners* (1956) -use of creolised English, or "nation language“ – West Indian immigration to London
- Other important novels - *Moses Ascending* (1975), *A Brighter Sun* (1952)
- collection of stories - *Ways of Sunlight* (1957), *Turn Again Tiger* (1958) and *Those Who Eat the Cascadura* (1972)

COLUMBIAN WRITERS

➤ **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

- Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez - known affectionately as **Gabo** or **Gabito** throughout Latin America
- 6 March 1927 – 17 April 2014
- Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter, and journalist – wrote in Spanish
- Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1972 and Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982

- Best known for *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967) – based on the life of his grand parents – set in Macondo – history of Buendio family, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*(1981), and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985)
- Best known for use of magical realism and the fictional town he created – Macondo
- Major theme – solitude
- Juan Manuel Santos, the president of Colombia, called him "the greatest Colombian who ever lived" on his death
- First novella - *Leaf Storm*(1955)
- Other works: *Autumn of the Patriarch* - dictator novel based on the flight of Venezuelan dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez, *News of a Kidnapping*, *Living to Tell the Tale*, *No One Writes to the Colonel* and *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*

CARRIBEAN WRITERS

➤ **Derek Walcott**

- 23 January 1930 – 17 March 2017
- Saint Lucian poet and playwright
- 1992 - Nobel Prize in Literature
- Homeric epic poem *Omeros* (1990) – Walcott's major achievement.
- Explore Carribean culture
- Most important play *Dream on a Monkey Mountain*(1967) – a West Indian's quest for identity
- *His Brothers* (1958) - based on a West Indian folktale about brothers who seek to overpower the Devil; *Pantomime* (1978)- an exploration of colonial relationships through the Robinson Crusoe story.

➤ **Jamaica Kincaid**

- an Antiguan-American novelist, essayist, gardener, and gardening writer
- born May 25, 1949
- themes as colonialism and colonial legacy, postcolonialism and neocolonialism, gender and sexuality, renaming, mother-daughter relationships, British and American imperialism, colonial education, writing, racism, class, power, death, and adolescence.
- Novels* - *Annie John* (1985), *Lucy* (1990), *The Autobiography of My Mother* (1996), *Mr Potter* (2002), *See Now Then* (2013)
- Short Stories* - *At the Bottom of the River*(1983)
- Children's books* - *Annie, Gwen, Lilly, Pam, and Tulip* (1986)

➤ **Edward Kamau Brathwaite**

- Barbadian poet and academic
- 11 May 1930 – 4 February 2020
- 2006 International Winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize
- noted for his studies of Black cultural life both in Africa and throughout the African diasporas of the world in works such as *Folk Culture of the Slaves in Jamaica* (1970); *The Development of Creole Society in Jamaica, 1770–1820* (1971); *Contradictory Omens* (1974); *Afternoon of the Status Crow* (1982); and *History of the Voice* (1984)
- made use of a combination of customized typefaces and spelling, referred to as Sycorax video style
- Rights of Passage* (1967), *Masks* (1968), and *Islands* (1969) brought him international recognition
- Mother Poem* (1977), *Sun Poem* (1982), and *X/Self* (1987)—also examines the issues of identity; *Barabajan Poems*.