



Selected Author Biographies

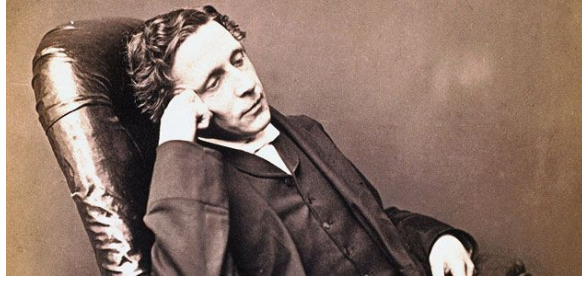


Ambrose Bierce was born on June 24, 1842 in Meigs County, Ohio. He worked as a printer's apprentice and enlisted to fight in the Civil War. After the war, he worked as an editor, journalist, and short story writer. He was recognized for such works as *The Devil's Dictionary*, *Fantastic Fables*, and *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*. In December 1913, Bierce traveled to Chihuahua, Mexico, to gain first-hand experience of the Mexican Revolution. He disappeared, and was never seen again.

J.M. Barrie (Sir James Matthew Barrie) was born on May 9, 1860 in Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland. Beginning his writing career as a journalist, he published novels and produced a number of successful plays throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But he is best known as the creator of *Peter Pan, or the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* (1904). Barrie was made a baronet by King George V in 1913. Prior to his death in 1937, he gave all rights to his Peter Pan works to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.



William Blake was born in 1757 in London, England. At an early age, Blake began experiencing visions, and these would have a lasting effect on his art and writings. He completed an apprenticeship as an engraver in 1779, and was soon known for his artistic etchings and engravings. Although considered "mad" by some of his contemporaries, his writings and artwork were recognized for their quality and impact. Significant publications by Blake include *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (1794), *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1793), *America a Prophecy* and *the Song of Los* (1795). William Blake died on August 12, 1827 in London, England.



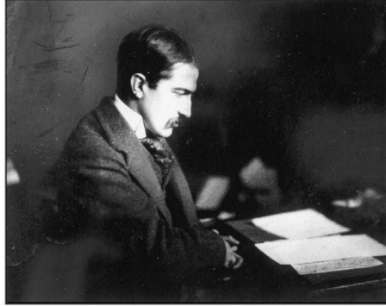
Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson) was born on January 27, 1832 in Daresbury, Cheshire, England. During an afternoon picnic with Alice and her two sisters, daughters of family friend Henry George Liddell, Dodgson told the first iteration of what would later become *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The children's book was published in 1865 under the pen name, "Lewis Carroll." Its sequel, *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* was published in 1871. At the time of Dodgson's death in 1898, *Alice* had become the most popular children's book in England, and it remains one of the most popular in the world.



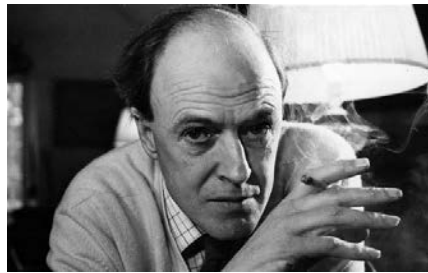
John Cheever was born May 27, 1912, in Quincy, Massachusetts. His stories about suburban America appeared notably in *The New Yorker*. His collections include *The Enormous Radio* (1953), and *The Brigadier and the Golf Widow* (1964). Among his novels are *The Wapshot Chronicle* (1957), *The Wapshot Scandal* (1964), and *Falconer* (1977). Cheever won a Pulitzer Prize for *The Stories of John Cheever* (1978). He was awarded the National Medal for Literature by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1982. Cheever died on June 18, 1982.



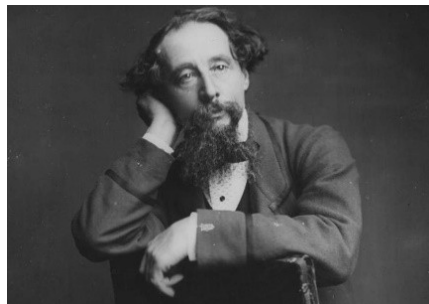
Anton Chekhov was born on January 29, 1860, in Taganrog, Russia. Chekhov completed medical school in Moscow and kept a medical practice throughout his life, but is best known for his writing. Through stories such as *The Steppe* and *The Lady with the Dog*, and plays such as *The Seagull* and *Uncle Vanya*, the prolific writer emphasized the depths of human nature, the hidden significance of everyday events and the fine line between comedy and tragedy. Chekhov died of tuberculosis on July 15, 1904, in Badenweiler, Germany.



Stephen Crane was born in New Jersey on November 1, 1871. Credited with establishing the foundations of modern American naturalism, his works include the Civil War novel, *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895), and *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* (1893). He died at the age of 28 on June 5, 1900 in Germany.



Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, South Wales, on September 13, 1916. Dahl wrote 19 children's books and numerous short stories. His most popular works include *James and the Giant Peach* (1961), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), *The BFG* (1982), *The Witches* (1983) and *Matilda* (1988). Several were made into movies, both animated and live action. Roald Dahl died on November 23, 1990 in Oxford, England.



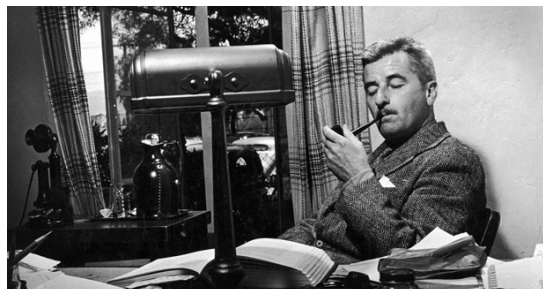
Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. His large family was poor, and his father was sent to debtor's prison when Dickens was a child. Dickens began his writing career as a journalist in the 1830's. But he is best known for his novels including *Oliver Twist* (1838), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *David Copperfield* (1850), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) and *Great Expectations* (1861). He also published numerous short stories and essays. Dickens died on June 9, 1870 in Kent, England



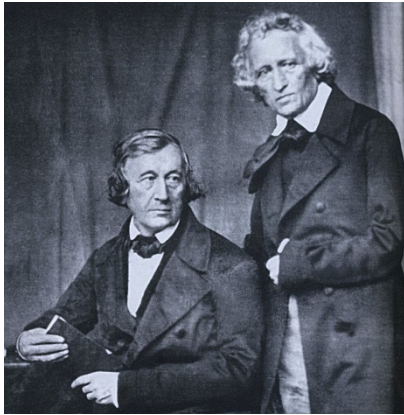
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh on May 22, 1859. He attended medical school where he met Dr. Joseph Bell, famous for his keen observational skills, and then practiced medicine until he became a professional writer. His most famous literary creation, Sherlock Holmes, was introduced in the novel, *A Study in Scarlet* (1880). Doyle would continue publishing Sherlock Holmes stories (many published in the Strand Magazine) and novels throughout the 1890s and early 1900s. He also wrote science fiction and adventure stories, as well as essays on Spiritualism. Doyle died on July 7, 1930 in Crowborough, England.



Alexandre Dumas was born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie on July 24, 1802, in Villers-Cotterêts, France. The Dumas family name was adopted from Alexandre's grandmother, an enslaved Haitian woman named Marie-Céssette Dumas. Alexandre Dumas established himself as one of the most popular and prolific authors in France, known for plays and historical adventure novels such as *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. His works have been translated into more than 100 languages and adapted for numerous films. He died on December 5, 1870, in Puys, France.



William Faulkner was born in New Albany, Mississippi in 1897. Much of his early work was poetry, but he became famous for his novels set in the American South, frequently in his fabricated Yoknapatawpha County, including *The Sound and the Fury*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Absalom, Absalom!* and *Sanctuary*. Faulkner won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954, a Pulitzer Prize in 1955 and two National Book Awards. He died On July 6, 1962 and was posthumously awarded his second Pulitzer in 1963 for *The Reivers*.

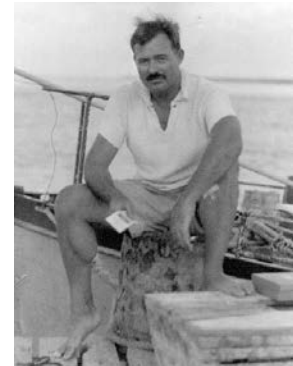


Die Gebrüder Grimm, or **The Brothers Grimm**, were cultural researchers and collectors of European folk tales. Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm and Wilhelm Carl Grimm were born on January 4, 1785 and February 24, 1786, respectively, in the Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel. In 1812, they published *Kinder und Hausmärchen*, or *Children's and Household Tales*, which popularized folk tales such as *Rapunzel*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cinderella* and *Little Red Cap* (*Little Red Riding Hood*). This multi-volume work would later be known as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Along with other collections of folk and fairy tales, the Grimm Brothers also published various works on the German language. Wilhelm died in 1859, and Jacob died in 1863.



Patrick **Lafcadio Hearn**, also known by the Japanese name, Koizumi Yakumo, was born in Lefkada, Greece on June 27, 1850. The writer is known best for his books about Japan, especially for his collections of Japanese legends and ghost stories, such as *Kwaidan: Stories and Studies of Strange Things*. Hearn died on September 26, 1904 in Tokyo, Japan.

Ernest Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899, in Cicero (now in Oak Park), Illinois. He served as an ambulance driver in World War I and worked in journalism before publishing his story collection *In Our Time* in 1925. He was renowned for novels like *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won the 1953 Pulitzer. In 1954, Hemingway won the Nobel Prize. He committed suicide on July 2, 1961, in Ketchum, Idaho.



Shirley Jackson was born in 1916 in San Francisco, California. She was best known as a writer of horror and mystery. Her stories and essays were published in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Redbook* and *The New Yorker*. In 1948, *The New Yorker* published the controversial story, *The Lottery*, generating the most mail ever in the magazine's history. Jackson wrote such novels as *The Haunting of Hill House*, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* and *Life Among the Savages*. The author died of heart failure in 1965 in North Bennington, Vermont.



Franz Kafka was born on July 3, 1883, in Prague, Bohemia (Austria-Hungary). After studying law at the University of Prague, he worked in insurance and wrote in the evenings. In 1923, he moved to Berlin to focus on writing, but died of tuberculosis shortly after. His friend, Max Brod, published most of his work posthumously, such as *The Metamorphosis*, *Amerika* and *The Castle*.

John Keats was born in London, England, on October 31, 1795. The English lyric poet was a member of the 2nd wave of Romanticism, which also included Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley. His first poem, *O Solitude*, was published in *The Examiner* in 1816. Other noted poems include *To Autumn*, *Ode to a Nightingale*, *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, and *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*. Keats died from tuberculosis on February 23, 1821, at the age of 25.



Daniel Keyes was born on August 9, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York. After writing and editing for comic book companies Atlas and EC Comics in the 1950s, Keyes began writing science fiction. He has received honors for *Flowers for Algernon* (1959) and *The Minds of Billy Milligan* (1981) including a Hugo Award and a Nebula Award. Keyes died in June 15, 2014.



Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30, 1865, in Bombay, India. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1882. Kipling wrote in a variety of genres, including short fiction, poetry and children's books. Short story collections include *Plain Tales from the Hills* (1888) and *The Phantom Rickshaw and Other Tales* (1888) featuring *The Man Who Would Be King*. Notable poems are *Gunga Din* (1890), *The White Man's Burden* (1899), and *If—* (1910). His very successful children's fiction includes *The Jungle Book* (1894), *Kim* (1901) and *Just So Stories for Little Children* (1902). Kipling was the recipient of the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in 1936.



Jack London was born on January 12, 1876, in San Francisco, California. In his early life, he spent time as a millworker, a sailor and a hobo. After goldmining in the Alaskan Klondike Gold Rush in the late 1890s, London returned home and began publishing stories. His successful novels included *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang* and *The Sea Wolf*. He wrote many short stories of life in the northern tundra and the Pacific Islands including *To Build a Fire*, *The Law of Life* and *A Piece of Steak*. London died in 1916.



H.P. Lovecraft was born in 1890, in Providence, Rhode Island. In the early 1920's, his work began to appear in *Weird Magazine* and other pulp publications, including stories and novellas such as *The Call of Cthulhu*, *The Haunter of the Dark*, *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*, *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*, and *Pickman's Model*. Lovecraft died of cancer on March 15, 1937. After his death, his friends August Derleth and Donald Wandrei formed a publishing company, *Arkham House*, to promote and preserve Lovecraft's work. Lovecraft's related stories came to be described as the "Cthulhu Mythos" and heavily influence both horror and science fiction.

Bernard Malamud was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 26, 1914. His popular novels include *The Natural* (1952) and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Fixer* (1966). His short stories were published in magazines such as Harper's Bazaar, Partisan Review, and Commentary, and in collections such as *The Magic Barrel* (1958). Malamud died on March 18, 1986, in New York City.

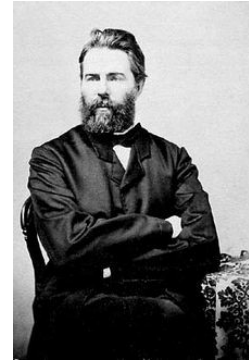


Gabriel García Márquez was born in Aracataca, Colombia in 1927. He began writing as a journalist in Colombia and then in Europe. His fiction work introduced readers to magical realism, which combines more conventional storytelling with vivid fantasy. His novels, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967), *The Autumn of the Patriarch* (1975) and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985), have drawn worldwide audiences, as have his short story collections, such as *The Incredible and Sad Tale of Innocent Eréndira and Her Heartless Grandmother* (1972). The author won a Nobel Prize in 1982. García Márquez died on April 17, 2014.



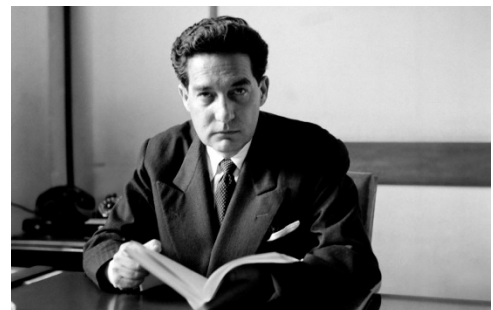
Guy de Maupassant (Henri René Albert Guy de Maupassant) was born on August 5, 1850 in Tourville-sur-Arques, France. The author was recognized as a master storyteller with published short stories such as *Boule de Suif*, *A Piece of String*, *The Necklace*, and *The Horla, or Modern Ghosts* as well as novels and poetry. Maupassant was a protégé of Gustave Flaubert, knew Ivan Turgenev, and in 1868, saved the life of poet Algernon Charles Swinburne. Maupassant suffered from syphilis, depression and paranoia throughout his life. After a suicide attempt, he was committed to an asylum where he died on July 6, 1893.

Herman Melville was born in New York City in 1819. He went to sea in 1839, working on several whaling and merchant ships. His experiences inspired his successful early novels, *Typee* (1846) and *Omoo* (1847). Subsequent books, including his masterpiece, *Moby-Dick* (1851), sold poorly, although Melville had notable short stories published including *Bartleby, the Scrivener* (1853), *The Encantadas* (1854) and *Benito Cereno* (1855). The author primarily wrote poetry after this time. Melville died in New York City in 1891.

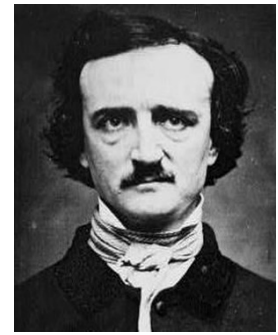


O. Henry (William Sydney Porter) was born on September 11, 1862 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Porter worked as a ranch hand, reporter and bank teller. Porter was indicted for embezzling bank funds in 1896. While serving out his sentence in prison, he wrote a collection of stories that were published as *Cabbages and Kings* (1904) under the pen-name "O. Henry". On release, O. Henry published weekly stories in newspapers and magazines, which were later published in collections such as *The Four Million* (which includes the story *The Gift of the Magi*), *The Gentle Grafter*, *Heart of the West* and *Whirligigs*. O. Henry died on June 5, 1910.

Octavio Paz was a Mexican diplomat, essayist and poet. He was born on March 31, 1914 in Mexico City. His major works include *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, *Eagle or Sun?*, *the Double Flame*, and *the Monkey Grammarian*. Paz was awarded the 1977 Jerusalem Prize, the 1981 Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the 1982 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and the 1990 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died on April 19, 1998.



Edgar Allan Poe was born on January 19, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. Poe began publishing his macabre stories and poems with *Tamerlane and Other Poems* (1827). Along with his reputation for horror and fantasy writing, Poe is credited with creating the new genre of detective fiction with *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1841) and *The Gold Bug* (1843). Other notable stories include *The Black Cat*, *Masque of the Red Death* and *The Cask of Amontillado*. His most famous poem, *The Raven*, was published in 1845 in the *New York Evening Mirror*. In October of 1849, Poe was found wandering the streets of Baltimore, Maryland, hospitalized, and died a few days later of mysterious causes.



Born in Burma on December 18, 1870, H.H. Munro worked as a journalist before gaining fame as a short story writer under the pen name "**Saki**." His works, which include the stories *Tobermory*, *Sredni Vashtar*, and *The Open Window*, offer a satirical commentary on Edwardian society and culture. The author also penned several plays and a scholarly history of the Russian empire. In 1916, Munro was killed serving in the Royal Fusiliers in WWI in France.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was born in Broadbridge Heath, England, on August 4, 1792. He is best known for his Romantic verse works such as *Ode to the West Wind*, *Ozymandias*, and *The Masque of Anarchy*, as well as his long-form poetry, including *Queen Mab* and *Alastor*. His closest friends included Lord Byron, John Keats, and his second wife, Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*. Percy Shelley drowned in a sudden storm while sailing in Italy in 1822.

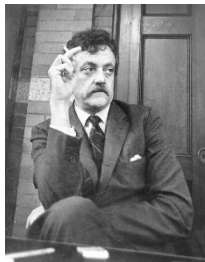
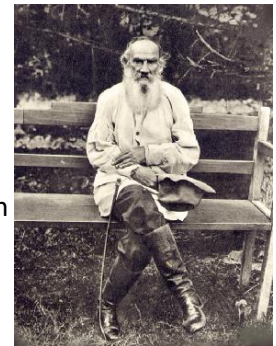


John Steinbeck was born on February 27, 1902, in Salinas, California. Steinbeck dropped out of college and worked as a manual laborer before achieving success as a writer. His 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, about the migration of a family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California, won a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. Other novels by the author include *Tortilla Flat*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Cannery Row* and *East of Eden*. Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. He died in New York City on December 20, 1968.



James Thurber was born on December 8, 1894 in Columbus, Ohio. A childhood injury severely damaged his sight and may have caused chronic visual hallucinations. As a young man, he worked as a government clerk and then journalist. He was on *The New Yorker* staff as a cartoonist and writer from 1927 to 1933 and remained a consistent contributor thereafter. His *New Yorker* cartoons became some of the most popular in America. By 1952, Thurber's failing eyesight had developed into full blindness. His notable fiction and essays include *The Thurber Carnival* (1945), *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1947), *Thurber Country* (1954) and *The Wonderful O* (1957). James Thurber died on November 2, 1961.

Leo Tolstoy (Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy) was born on September 9, 1828 in the Tula Governate of the Russian Empire. His works include the novels, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, and novellas such as *After the Ball* and *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. His non-fiction work, *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, influenced both Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. Tolstoy received nominations for the Nobel Prize in Literature each year between 1902 and 1906, and for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, 1902, and 1909, but was never awarded either prize. The author died on November 20, 1910.



Kurt Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 11, 1922. After his experiences as a P.O.W. in WWII, he became a writer of satire and dark humor, and a major figure in the anti-war movement of the 1960s. His works include novels such as *Sirens of Titan*, *Cat's Cradle*, and *Slaughterhouse-Five*, as well as short story collections like *Welcome to the Monkey House*. Vonnegut died on April 11, 2007.

William Carlos Williams was born on September 17, 1883 in Rutherford, New Jersey. After graduating from medical school in 1906, Williams practiced in pediatric medicine throughout his life while also writing poetry and prose. His noted poetry includes *Spring and All* (1923) and *Paterson* (1946–58). In 1963, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in poetry for *Pictures from Brueghel* (1962). He also wrote short stories, essays (including *In the American Grain*, 1925), plays, and novels (including *The Great American Novel*, 1923). Williams died in his home town on March 4, 1963.



