

## Young Adult Authors

**Sherman Alexie** – Native American, writes on race and politics, lives on an Indian reservation.

**Laurie Halse Anderson** – dramas for older teens such as *Speak* (about rape); from Pennsylvania

**Jay Asher** – Best known for *Thirteen Reasons Why*, a novel about teen suicide

**Francesca Lia Block** - fantasy fiction set amid the teen culture of postpunk Los Angeles.

**Coe Booth** – books about inner-city teens

**Joseph Bruchac** – Native American storyteller

**Orson Scott Card** - Writer of science fiction, fantasy, and historical novels; *Ender* series

**P.C. Cast** - A writer of romantic fantasy and paranormal literature

**Stephen Chbosky** - Best known for *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*; from Pennsylvania

**Cassandra Clare** – Fantasy series, *The Mortal Instruments*

**Suzanne Collins** – Author of *The Hunger Games* trilogy and other fantasy/sci-fi series

**Caroline Cooney** – teen romances and stories of strong friendships

**Robert Cormier** - adolescents facing physical, psychological, and moral challenges

**Chris Crutcher**- wide variety of serious problems that confront adolescents daily

**Sarah Dessen** - coming-of-age stories featuring realistic protagonists

**Sharon Draper** – Characters are typically African-American teens

**Simone Elkeles** - Writes about family tensions and relationships, often in a humorous way.

**John Green** – Prolific YA author. His first novel was *Looking for Alaska*

**Pete Hautman** – imaginative, action-filled plots

**S.E. Hinton** – teen gangs and the troubled process of fitting in

**Ellen Hopkins** – free verse style; characters dealing with drugs, abuse, etc.

**Ursula K. LeGuin** - science fiction and fantasy

**Lois Lowry** – Best known for her novel, *The Giver*. Writes about dystopian societies

**Mike Lupica** – Sports fiction

**Stephenie Meyer** – vampire fiction; *Twilight* series

**Walter Dean Myers** – African American descent; realistic fiction featuring African-American characters

**James Patterson** – *Maximum Ride* science fiction thriller series

**Rick Riordan** – Percy Jackson and Heroes of Olympus series

**Veronica Roth** – *Divergent* series

**Neal Shusterman** – realistic fiction, mysteries, science fiction, and thrillers

**William Sleator** - fantasy, mystery, and science fiction to explore personal relationships

**Sonya Sones** – writes in poetry style, often about love and relationships

**Jordan Sonnenblick** - often bases his works on events from his own life

**Gary Soto** - works mine his own childhood experiences

**Nicholas Sparks** - romance-heavy novels have spent weeks on the best-seller lists

**Maggie Stiefvater** – fantasy tales; mythical beings

**Todd Strasser** – various concerns of adolescents: drugs, sex, illness, popularity, music

**K.M. Walton** – Writes about teen issues such as bullying and drug abuse; local author

**Scott Westerfeld** - science fiction

**Jacqueline Woodson** -writes about "invisible" people: young girls, minorities, homosexuals, the poor

**Paul Zindel** - depictions of dysfunctional families and psychological torment.

## **Adult Fiction**

**Mitch Albom** - Journalist, sportswriter, memoirist, and novelist whose writings deal with topics that range from sports to coping with death.

**Julia Alvarez** - Late twentieth-century Dominican American writer of poems, essays, short stories, and novels.

**Maya Angelou** – one of the most admired and respected authors in contemporary American literature, especially valued for her perspective on the African American experience and for her achievements in humanizing her struggle as an African American woman

**Russell Banks** - realistic tales of poverty and race relations.

**H.G. Bissinger** – Sports non-fiction (Friday Night Lights)

**Dan Brown** – interest in code-breaking and government intelligence agencies

**Octavia Butler** - the only widely known African American woman to write science fiction

**Truman Capote** - great literature out of real events

**Willa Cather** - considered one of the foremost interpreters of the American pioneer experience.

**Michael Chabon** - work deals with American life among little-explored subcultures, including children, cartoonists, refugees, college professors, and gangsters.

**Kate Chopin** – considered among the most important women in nineteenth-century American fiction. Best known for her 1899 novel, *The Awakening*, a once-scandalous account of one woman's growing sexuality in the American South during the Victorian era

**Sandra Cisneros** - work portrays the Mexican American experience, especially the social roles that women within it fill.

**Tom Clancy** - military and espionage novels

**Mary Higgins Clark** - Enormously popular writer of mystery and suspense fiction that deals mainly with women whose lives are invaded by calamity.

**Michael Crichton** - combines hard science with compelling elements of the mystery genre.

**Philip K. Dick** – science fiction, Dick's characters find that their familiar world is in fact an illusion, either self-created or imposed on them by others.

**Don DeLillo** – *End Zone*, an existential comedy that parlays football into a metaphor for thermonuclear war, and *Ratner's Star*, a surrealistic science fiction that is structurally akin to the mathematical formulas it employs.

**John Feinstein** - Journalist and occasional novelist known especially for numerous best-selling books on American sports topics.

**F. Scott Fitzgerald** - best known for his depictions of upper-middle-class life in the 1920s.

**Ernest Gaines** - best known for novels of rural black life in the southern United States.

**Kaye Gibbons** - first-person vernacular narratives, especially *Ellen Foster*, *A Cure for Dreams*, and *Charms for the Easy Life*, that center on the lives of rural southern women.

**John Grisham** - Novelist specializing in so-called legal thrillers whose immense popularity began in 1991 with the publication of *The Firm*.

**David Guterson** – *Snow Falling on Cedars* - The debut novel, which recounts the trial of a Japanese man for the alleged killing of a Caucasian fisherman in 1954

**Joseph Heller** – anti-war, treatment of the "Jewish Experience in America

**Ernest Hemingway** - serious fiction in the twentieth century, famous for his simple writing style and repeated use of the theme of grace under pressure.

**Zora Neale Hurston** - Early twentieth-century African American novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist.

**John Irving** - known for his comic, socially perceptive novels, several of which were adapted into films.

**Jack Kerouac** – dissatisfaction with the repressive climate of the United States after World War II./Beat Generation

**Sue Monk Kidd** – appealing female characters, lifelong interest in spirituality

**Stephen King** – tales of horror and suspense.

**Jamaica Kincaid** - Her use of poetic language and vivid imagery evoke the Caribbean and develop universal themes of loss, betrayal, love, the past, and rebellion against domination

**Barbara Kingsolver** - known for the accessibility of her style and her political activism.

**Maxine Hong Kingston** - work creatively links the stuff of legend with details of actual experience; writer who opened the door to literary acceptance for a whole generation of Chinese American and Asian American writers.

**Jack London** - realistic tales of adventure and hardship in Canada and Alaska.

**Anne McCaffrey** - science fiction, while scientifically accurate, focuses more on character and human relationships than is customary in the genre.

**Cormac McCarthy** - Late-twentieth-century novelist of the historic American South and West, known for his dark, apocalyptic narratives and soaring prose style.

**Frank McCourt** - , highly personal account of his life and a synthesis and critique of Ireland's narrative traditions.

**Herman Melville** - American novelist, short story writer, essayist, and poet. He is best known for his novel *Moby-Dick* and the posthumous novella *Billy Budd*.

**Toni Morrison** - novels depicting the struggles of African American women in a white, male-dominated culture.

**Walter Mosley** – widely praised detective stories

**Joyce Carol Oates** - novels centering on the troubled and violent underside of American life.

**Tim O'Brien** - best known for his portrayals of U.S. participation in the war in Vietnam.

**James Patterson** – violence-splashed, suspense-pumped crime thrillers."

**Ann Petry** – first black female author to address many of the problems faced by scores of disadvantaged black women.

**Jodi Picoult** - themes center on women's issues, family, and relationships

**Chaim Potok** - fiction stressing the tension between Hasidic Jews and those Jews less strict in their religious observances.

**Anne Rice** – tales of vampires and witches.

**Philip Roth** - capturing the voice of the postwar generation's youth

**J.D. Salinger** - Post-World War II novelist and short-story writer noted for capturing the voice of the postwar generation's youth and for disappearing from public view after the 1960s.

**Alice Sebold** – first published book was a memoir of her rape as an eighteen-year-old college freshman.

**Michael Shaara** - historical fiction who is celebrated for *The Killer Angels*, a classic Civil War novel.

**Leslie Marmon Silko** – has earned acclaim for her writings about Native Americans

**Garth Stein** - Most famous novel is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* (summer reading 2012)

**John Steinbeck** - California novelist best known for his socially conscious books, several of which were made into classic films.

**Kathryn Stockett** - *The Help* is Stockett's debut novel. She previously worked in magazine publishing while living in New York City.

**Amy Tan** - Asian American fiction writer known for her explorations of Chinese American women's issues.

**Scott Turow** - Novelist and attorney, the foremost author of legal suspense thrillers.

**Mark Twain** - American author and humorist. He is most noted for his novels, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), and its sequel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)

**Anne Tyler** - writes believably about the nature of the family in late twentieth-century America

**John Updike** - chronicler of the joys and tribulations of the suburban middle class.

**Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.** - Novelist, essayist, and satirist whose writings explore social inequities, the injustice of war, and overreliance on technology.

**Alice Walker** - Modern African American fiction writer, poet, essayist, editor, and activist whose popular womanist works engage readers and inspire them to confront issues of violence and oppression in society.

**Edith Wharton** - Early-twentieth-century novelist known for her vivid depictions of life in New York's post-Civil War and turn-of-the-century high society.

**Tom Wolfe** - Mid-twentieth-century African American writer noted for his social realism.

**Richard Wright** – Mid-twentieth-century African American writer noted for his social realism.