

Contents

- Introduction** xi
- Chinua Achebe** 1
One of the most significant figures in contemporary African literature, perhaps best known for his novels *Things Fall Apart* and *Anthills of the Savannah* which depict an authentic view of Igbo culture.
- Ray Bradbury**13
Winner of the Nebula Grand Masters Award, this popular author of science fiction and fantasy is responsible for works such as *The Martian Chronicles* and *The Illustrated Man*.
- Brock Cole** 27
Illustrator and author whose respect for his readers and characters is evident in his complex young adult novels *The Goats* and *Celine*.
- Roald Dahl** 33
Edgar Allan Poe Award-winner whose tales of the bizarre and the unexpected are complimented by humorous titles for younger readers such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
- Genaro Gonzalez** 47
Nominated for the American Book Award, this Chicano author explores the broken dreams of immigrants and migrant workers in books like *Rainbow's End* and *Only Sons*.
- Patricia Hermes** 53
American author who balances serious topics such as abandonment, illness and death with warmth and humor, as evidenced in *Friends Are Like That* and *My Girl*.
- Zora Neale Hurston** 59
One of the most prolific African American writers of her time with works like *Jonah's Gourd Vine* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, this author/folklorist also played a key part in the Harlem Renaissance.
- Barbara Kingsolver** 73
Author of novels *The Bean Trees* and *Animal Dreams*, which feature strong female characters who fight for their own rights and those of the people they love.
- Tanith Lee** 81
Adaptor of popular myths, legends, and fairy tales who combines dark fantasy with romance and eroticism in books such as *Companions on the Road* and *Sabella: or, The Blood Stone*, and in the "Secret Books of Paradys" series.
- Lurlene McDaniel** 89
Prolific author whose novels—including *Too Young to Die* and *Goodbye Doesn't Mean Forever*—focus on teenagers facing death because they or a family member have a terminal illness.
- Larry McMurtry** 97
Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize who examines the mystique of the American West in books like *Horseman, Pass By*, *The Last Picture Show*, and *Lonesome Dove*.
- Arthur Miller** 109
Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and scenarist whose works include *All My Sons*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*, and the film *The Misfits*.
- Joyce Carol Oates** 123
Pushcart Prize-winning author of suspenseful Gothic and contemporary novels such as *Bellefleur* and *Black Water* which depict the eruption of violence into everyday life.
- George Orwell** 139
In classic books like *Animal Farm* and *1984*, this British author presents recurring themes of personal freedom, the influence of language and the abuse of power.

Stella Pevsner 153
 Popular author of books that deal with contemporary teen life, such as *Cute Is a Four-Letter Word*, *The Night the Whole Class Slept Over*, and *Jon, Flora, and the Odd-Eyed Cat*.

Chaim Potok 159
 In books like *The Chosen* and *The Promise*, this best-selling novelist explores Judaism and Anti-Semitism as it effects the lives of young people.

Philip Pullman 169
 Known primarily for his mysteries set in Victorian London, this British Edgar Allan Poe Award nominee has been praised for creating interesting and intelligent characters such as investigator Sally Lockheart.

Robert Redford 177
 Academy Award-winning American director, producer and actor whose films, such as *Ordinary People* and *Quiz Show*, examine American cultural and family life.

Ann Rinaldi 189
 Writer of stories set in both contemporary and historical settings—including *Time Enough for Drums* and *Wolf by the Ears*—that highlight the universality of many teen concerns.

Zylpha Keatley Snyder 197
 American author who writes about young people using their imagination and ingenuity to escape loneliness, as in *Season of Ponies* and *The Velvet Room*.

Oliver Stone 205
 Screenplay writer, producer and director noted for both his Vietnam trilogy—*Platoon*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and *Heaven and Earth*—and for films such as *The Doors* and *JFK* that explore cultural and historical figures.

William Wegman 217
 Artist and photographer who dresses and then photographs his pet Weimaraners for works like *Cinderella* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Acknowledgments 229

Author/Artist Index 235