

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
AMERICAN LITERATURE
美国文学百科全书 (修订版)

VOLUME IV
THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD
1946 TO THE PRESENT



图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国文学百科辞典: 修订版. 第4卷 / (美) 波斯威尔(Boswell, M.), (美) 罗利森(Rollyson, C.) 编.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2010

ISBN 978-7-5446-1966-0

I. ①美… II. ①波… ②罗… III. ①文学—百科全书—美国—英文

IV. ①I712-61

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2010)第159734号

Published by arrangement with Facts On File, Inc.

This edition is for sale in Chinese mainland (excluding Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau).

本书由 Facts On File 出版社授权上海外语教育出版社出版。

仅供在中华人民共和国境内销售(香港、澳门和台湾除外)。

图字: 09-2008-792

项目总负责: 庄智象

责任编辑: 孙 玉 孙 静 苗 杨 梁晓莉 张亚东

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 张亚东

印 刷: 上海当纳利印刷有限公司

开 本: 889×1194 1/16 印张 33.75 字数 1295 千字

版 次: 2011 年 1 月第 1 版 2011 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 2 000 册

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-1966-0 / I · 0154

定 价: 1800.00 元 (全套 4 卷)

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

VOLUME IV

THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

1946 TO THE PRESENT



About the Editor

Marshall Boswell is professor of English at Rhodes College. He is the author of *John Updike's Rabbit Tetralogy* and *Understanding David Foster Wallace*, as well as works of fiction.

Planning Advisory Board for the *Encyclopedia of American Literature*

Sandra Adell, professor of literature in the Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin

Matthew J. Bruccoli, professor of English, emeritus, University of South Carolina

Emory Elliott, professor of English, University of California, Irvine

Richard Layman, vice president of Bruccoli Clark Layman/Manly, Inc.

Wendy Martin, chair and professor of American literature and American studies at Claremont Graduate University

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

VOLUME IV THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD 1946 TO THE PRESENT



Revised and Augmented by

Marshall Boswell

from the first edition prepared by

Carl Rollyson

 **Facts On File**
An imprint of Infobase Publishing

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



I wish to thank the following for their invaluable help in completing this volume: Michelle Hope, for her thorough archival work in the early stages of this project; Tod Marshall, Anna Teekell, Jennifer Brady, Rebecca Finlayson, Matthew Shipe, and Amber Shaw for their contributions; Richard Lay-

man, Matthew J. Brucoli, Elizabeth Leverton, and everyone at Brucoli Clark Layman/Manly Inc. for their tireless effort to bring this volume to completion; and, once again, Rebecca Finlayson, for incalculable emotional support.

—*M. B.*

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION



This four-volume *Encyclopedia of American Literature* is a thorough revision of the three-volume work published by Facts On File in 2002. It adds more than one thousand entries, some two hundred thousand words, and a new volume to the original work. Some one million books have been published in the United States since the first edition of *EAL* appeared; among them are many that require recognition in the encyclopedia, both as primary and secondary resources, some by writers who had not yet published five years ago.

The revised and updated work differs from its predecessor in these respects: 1) entries have been added to reflect the emergence of significant authors, current scholarship, and student interest; 2) bibliographies have been reworked and updated to include newly published primary and secondary works; 3) the scope has been expanded from 2001 to 2007; 4) chronologies, which provide the social, political, and literary context for the encyclopedia, have been substantially expanded; 5) study guides have been added for most frequently

studied authors and literary topics to aid students in organizing their approach to literary appreciation; 6) illustrations have been added to mark and elucidate entries and major figures; 7) epigraphs, taken from writers' works or interviews, have been added to entries on significant figures; and 8) corrections have been made, as necessary.

A circumstance too often ignored by compilers of literary reference works is the ever-changing landscape of the literary world. The usefulness of a reference book is, in large part, determined by the currency of its information. With this augmented, revised, and corrected edition, the editors of the *Encyclopedia of American Literature* undertake to accomplish what all who prepare reference works should aspire to: currency, accuracy, relevance, and maximum utility. It is a work in progress.

Matthew J. Bruccoli
Richard Layman
Editorial Directors

INTRODUCTION



Literary and cultural critics have generally demarcated the years immediately following World War II as the beginning of the so-called Postmodern era. Although the term Postmodernism remains controversial, particularly for the way it denotes both a widespread cultural dominant as well as a particular strain of postwar artistic production, the mid-century conclusion of World War II nevertheless seems a logical place to mark a decisive turn. The horrors of Auschwitz coupled with the detonation of the atomic bomb introduced a new level of dread about the future, while the technological advances inaugurated by the war continued to alter and complicate the way writers and artists viewed their relationship with the natural world. At the same time, Modernism, with its emphasis on newness and the interior, seemed exhausted and irrelevant in the wake of the recent war against totalitarian fascism. The primary task for postwar writers was to determine how to respond to a man-made world that seemed to have careened out of control of its creators.

Hence, while the popular imagination continues to paint the 1950s as a time of guileless conservatism, typified by the stock image of the smiling middle-class nuclear family, the major novelists, poets, and dramatists of the era provide a more nuanced, and anxious, portrait of the decade. Beat writers such as Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac rejected both the icy aestheticism of Modernism and the decade's bourgeois complacency in favor of an eastern-influenced expansiveness grounded in spontaneity and intuition. Playwright Arthur Miller captured the hollowness of the American capitalistic system in his play *Death of a Salesman*. Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin reminded readers of the racist underpinnings of that bourgeois social order, while Southern writers such as Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor transformed

their grotesque regional characters into emblems of the postwar malaise. Saul Bellow, an American Jew, moved from the cultural margins to the mainstream, suggesting to the literary world the possibilities of assimilation with his exuberant works of transcendent affirmation. The threat of nuclear annihilation was so terrifying it struck many writers as comically absurd, a vision that manifested itself in what has since become known as black humor, represented by such works as Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* (1955), Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle* (1963), and John Barth's early works of nihilistic comedy, *The Floating Opera* (1956, revised 1967) and *The End of the Road* (1958, revised 1967).

The novel was king in the Fifties, as even the most literary of American writers rose to the top of the best-seller lists. Norman Mailer, Ralph Ellison, James Jones, Saul Bellow, Mary McCarthy, John O'Hara, and others achieved major commercial success, while the academic study of American literature, first introduced in the 1920s, continued to expand: the so-called New Criticism viewed literary texts as self-contained units whose symbols, motifs, and images could be excavated by any trained reader. Whereas the influence of the three most important American writers of the 1920s, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and William Faulkner, had waned amid the deprivations of the Great Depression and through the devastation of World War II, their work (particularly their use of symbolism) received renewed attention in the halls of academia during the postwar period, thanks in part to the New Criticism. Both Faulkner and Hemingway won Nobel Prizes, while Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925), came to be identified as a slim masterpiece.

The techniques of New Criticism were popularized by Southern poets such as Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, and

John Crowe Ransom, for many poets—and novelists—of the era found financial security and artistic support as literature professors. Secure in tenured jobs, the major poets of the postwar period—Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, W.D. Snodgrass, and others—turned inward, writing directly from their personal experiences under the auspices of the new style of Confessional Poetry. These same academic writers also inspired the spread of creative-writing programs in colleges and universities throughout the country.

By the 1960s, the overturning of traditional values, the absurdist black humor, and the spirit of racial protest that characterized the literature of the previous decade had begun to influence the general culture. By then, a great number of the new decade's major writers were turning away from the careening culture their predecessors had helped bring into being. John Barth called for writers to accept and affirm their irrelevance by writing fiction that self-consciously announced its artificiality, a style known as metafiction, while the Jewish novelist Philip Roth frankly declared that American reality surpassed the writer's ability to fictionalize it. John Cheever and John Updike, both of them closely associated with *The New Yorker*, viewed the decade's tumult from the cozy confines of the American suburbs, where adultery and angst were rampant.

While the country's leading white male writers seemed to be turning away from cultural commentary in bewilderment, women writers and members of minority groups began to affirm their place in the national dialogue. The Second Wave feminist movement in particular opened the doors for women writers from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, including Joyce Carol Oates and Joan Didion; African American writers Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and Alice Walker;

and Asian American novelists Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan. Major Native American writers, including M. Scott Momaday, James Welch, Louis Erdrich, and Leslie Ann Silko also emerged during this period.

The effect of writing programs on the literary landscape became clearly evident in the 1980s. Short-story writers such as Raymond Carver and Bobbie Ann Mason introduced a new minimalism into the form, a style which proved amenable to the workshop process. The result was an outpouring of concisely conceived tales of hard-luck characters lost amid a welter of brand-name items. The rise of literary theory in the academy can be detected in the work of many of the decade's major poets, most particularly that of John Ashbery.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989—and the concomitant conclusion of the Cold War—many American writers have wrestled with the question of literature's political and social obligations. While such figures as dramatist Tony Kushner and novelists William Vollmann and Sherman Alexie have, through their art, advocated public education on political issues ranging from AIDS to Islamic terrorism, many of their contemporaries, such as David Foster Wallace and Jonathan Franzen, have openly wondered about the efficacy of literature to effect social change. Within the academy, the heyday of literary theory—and its proliferation of movements, schools, and competing theories—has ended, leaving the current study of literature in search of a clear direction. While this final volume of the *Encyclopedia of American Literature* seeks to provide clear explanations of the schools, movements and theoretical positions that have contributed to American literature since 1945, it also seeks to foreground the writers and the works they produced in a way that transcends those academic classifications.

EDITORIAL PLAN



Because literary careers do not fall neatly into chronological divisions, choices have been made about the placement of authors in volumes. When, for example, a writer might be placed in volume III or volume IV, the decision has been based on the publication of the author's first important or successful book or play. Tennessee Williams (1911–1983) is in volume III because *The Glass Menagerie* was produced in 1944; Arthur Miller (1915–2005) is in volume IV because *Death of a Salesman* was produced in 1949.

Small caps indicate cross-referenced entries *within this volume*; a comprehensive list of entries for all four volumes of the encyclopedia is provided at the end of each volume. Thus, in volume III the name Tennessee WILLIAMS appears

in small caps when it is first mentioned in an entry, but Arthur Miller is presented in regular type; the opposite is the case in volume IV. In the “List of Entries in All Volumes” at the end of each volume, Miller is listed with a roman numeral IV beside his name, indicating his placement in the fourth volume.

An entry on a major figure is followed by a bibliography listing the author's principal books and a study guide, which advises students how to research the author. In expanding and revising this volume, the editors solicited new or rewritten entries from scholars, whose work is credited with a byline. Entries without bylines were revised from the earlier edition or were written by the editors.

CHRONOLOGY

1946–PRESENT



1946

The first General Assembly of the United Nations meets.
 The United States conducts atomic tests in the Pacific.
 The Fulbright Act creates an international exchange scholarship program.
The Best Years of Our Lives, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *The Yearling* all premiere in movie theaters.
 Frank Sinatra sings "Something Old, Something New."
 Theodore Dreiser, *The Bulwark*.
 John Hersey, *Hiroshima*.
 Robert Lowell, *Lord Weary's Castle*.
 Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*.
 Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*.
 Eudora Welty, *Delta Wedding*.
 William Carlos Williams, *Paterson* (*Book One*).

1947

The United States pledges \$400 million to Greece and Turkey to help fight the spread of communism (Truman Doctrine).

Under the Marshall Plan, the United States gives \$12 billion to help rebuild Western Europe.
Miracle on 34th Street opens in movie theaters.
 Gene Autry sings "Here Comes Santa Claus."
 Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American to play in the major baseball leagues when he signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
 Ann Beattie (1947–), short-story writer.
 Nelson Algren, *The Neon Wilderness*.
 W. H. Auden, *The Age of Anxiety*.
 Robert Frost, *A Masque of Mercy*.
 James Michener, *Tales of the South Pacific*.
 John O'Hara, *Hellbox*.
 Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

1948

The Berlin blockade and airlift begins when the Soviet Union attempts to force the Western Allied powers to relinquish control of West Berlin.
 The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigates

alleged Communists in the federal government.
 President Harry S. Truman outlaws segregation in the armed forces and federal civil service.
 T. S. Eliot receives the Nobel Prize in literature.
 Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*.
 James Gould Cozzens, *Guard of Honor*.
 William Faulkner, *Intruder in the Dust*.
 Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*.
 Ezra Pound, *The Pisan Cantos*.
 Carl Sandburg, *Remembrance Rock*.
 Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions*.
 William Carlos Williams, *Paterson* (*Book Two*).

1949

Eleven leaders of the U.S. Communist Party are convicted of conspiracy.
 The Soviet Union explodes its first atomic weapon.
 Joe DiMaggio renews his contract with the New York Yankees for \$90,000.

Ezio Pinza sings "Some Enchanted Evening."

Sands of Iwo Jima opens in movie theaters.

William Faulkner receives the Nobel Prize in literature.

Nelson Algren, *The Man With the Golden Arm*.

Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*.

Raymond Chandler, *The Little Sister*.

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*.

John O'Hara, *A Rage to Live*.

1950

The Korean War begins.

Senator Joseph McCarthy asserts that 205 Communists are working in the U.S. State Department.

Althea Gibson becomes the first African American woman to compete in a national tennis tournament.

Nat "King" Cole sings "Mona Lisa."

The musical *Guys and Dolls* premieres on Broadway.

The National Book Awards are established.

Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*.

T. S. Eliot, *The Cocktail Party*.

Ernest Hemingway, *Across the River and Into the Trees*.

Budd Schulberg, *The Disenchanted*.

1951

The Twenty-second Amendment to the Constitution limits presidential tenure to two terms.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are found guilty of stealing U.S. atomic secrets for the U.S.S.R., and they are sentenced to death.

The African Queen opens in movie theaters.

Nelson Algren, *Chicago: City on the Make*.

William Faulkner, *Requiem for a Nun*.

James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*.

Carson McCullers, *The Ballad of the Sad Café*.

Marianne Moore, *Collected Poems*.

John O'Hara, *The Farmers Hotel*.

J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*.

William Styron, *Lie Down in Darkness*.

Herman Wouk, *The Caine Mutiny*.

1952

The HUAC increases its investigations of Communists; meanwhile, the Truman administration enforces loyalty oaths for government employees.

High Noon premieres in movie theaters.

Rocky Marciano knocks out Jersey Joe Walcott to take the heavyweight boxing championship. Upon his retirement four years later, Marciano is undefeated in forty-nine professional fights (with forty-three knockouts).

Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*.

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Archibald MacLeish, *Collected Poems*.

John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*.

E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*.

1953

An armistice is signed, halting the fighting in the Korean War.

The administration of Dwight D.

Eisenhower (1953–1961) begins.

Patti Page sings "That Doggie in the Window."

George Plimpton begins publication of the *Paris Review*.

Louis L'Amour, *Hondo*.

James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.

Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*.

Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*.

Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*.

Richard Wright, *The Outsider*.

1954

In *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declares racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

Senator Joseph McCarthy is censured by the Senate.

Ernest Hemingway receives the Nobel Prize in literature.

T. S. Eliot, *The Confidential Clerk*.

William Faulkner, *A Fable*.

Louis L'Amour, *Kilkenny*.

Wallace Stevens, *Collected Poems*.

Eudora Welty, *The Ponder Heart*.

1955

The polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk is declared effective and safe.

African American leaders mount a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

Bill Haley and His Comets sing "Rock Around the Clock."

The Seven Year Itch premieres in movie theaters.

Elizabeth Bishop, *North & South: A Cold Spring*.

William Inge, *Bus Stop*.

MacKinlay Kantor, *Andersonville*.

Louis L'Amour, *Guns of the Timberlands*.

Arthur Miller, *A View from the Bridge*.

Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find, and Other Stories*.

John O'Hara, *Ten North Frederick*.

Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Herman Wouk, *Marjorie Morningstar*.

1956

The first African American student is admitted to the University of Alabama.

Elvis Presley sings "Heartbreak Hotel."

New York Yankee Don Larsen
pitches the only perfect game in
World Series history.
Nelson Algren, *A Walk on the Wild
Side*.
John Berryman, *Homage to Mistress
Bradstreet*.
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl: And Other
Poems*.
John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*.
Louis L'Amour, *The Burning Hills*.
Edwin O'Connor, *The Last Hurrah*.
Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey
into Night*.
Grace Metalious, *Peyton Place*.

1957

President Eisenhower sends U.S.
Army paratroopers to Little
Rock, Arkansas, to enforce the
desegregation of Central High
School.
Martin Luther King Jr. and other
black leaders form the Southern
Christian Leadership Conference
to work for integration.
Elvis Presley sings "All Shook Up"
and "Jailhouse Rock."
Twelve Angry Men opens in movie
theaters.
Althea Gibson becomes the first
African American to win
the women's singles title at
Wimbledon.
James Agee, *A Death in the Family*.
John Cheever, *The Wapshot
Chronicle*.
James Gould Cozzens, *By Love
Possessed*.
William Faulkner, *The Town*.
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*.
Bernard Malamud, *The Assistant*.
Theodore Roethke, *Words for the
Wind*.
Richard Wilbur, *Poems, 1943–1956*.

1958

The first U.S. Earth satellite,
Explorer I, is launched.
Truman Capote, *Breakfast at
Tiffany's*.
Raymond Chandler, *Playback*.

John Kenneth Galbraith, *The
Affluent Society*.
Archibald MacLeish, *J. B.*
Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*.
John O'Hara, *From the Terrace*.
Tennessee Williams, *Suddenly Last
Summer*.

1959

Alaska and Hawaii become the
forty-ninth and fiftieth states in
the union, respectively.
The movie *Ben Hur* opens in
theaters.
Bobby Darin sings "Mack the
Knife."
The American Football League is
formed with eight professional
teams.
Saul Bellow, *Henderson the Rain
King*.
William S. Burroughs, *The Naked
Lunch*.
T. S. Eliot, *The Elder Statesman*.
William Faulkner, *The Mansion*.
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the
Sun*.
Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*.
Philip Roth, *Goodbye, Columbus*.
W. D. Snodgrass, *Heart's Needle*.

1960

Sit-ins occur throughout the
South in protest of racial
discrimination.
Candidates Richard M. Nixon and
John F. Kennedy hold the first
televised presidential
debates.
Psycho and *Spartacus* open in movie
theaters.
Ray Charles sings "Georgia on My
Mind."
Elvis Presley sings "Are You
Lonesome Tonight?"
James Dickey, *Into the Stone and
Other Poems*.
Randall Jarrell, *The Woman at the
Washington Zoo*.
Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
John O'Hara, *Ourselves to Know* and
Sermons and Soda Water.

Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Magician
of Lublin*.
William Styron, *Set This House on
Fire*.
John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*.

1961

The administration of President
John F. Kennedy (1961–1963)
begins.
The United States supports Cuban
exiles in the failed Bay of Pigs
invasion.
The Freedom Rides begin in the
South to protest
segregation.
West Side Story premieres in movie
theaters.
Ray Charles sings "Hit the Road,
Jack."
James Baldwin, *Nobody Knows My
Name: More Notes of a Native
Son*.
John Dos Passos, *Midcentury*.
Robert A. Heinlein, *Stranger in a
Strange Land*.
Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*.
John O'Hara, *Assembly*.
J. D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey*.
Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Spinoza
of Market Street*.

1962

In the Cuban Missile Crisis,
American naval forces impose a
blockade around Cuba in order
to force the removal of Soviet
missiles.
James Meredith is the first
African American to attend the
University of Mississippi.
John Steinbeck receives the Nobel
Prize in literature.
Thornton Wilder receives the first
National Medal for Literature.
The movie *Dr. No* opens.
Tony Bennett sings "I Left My Heart
in San Francisco."
Wilt Chamberlain becomes the first
professional basketball player
to score 100 points in a single
game.

Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
 James Dickey, *Drowning with Others*.
 William Faulkner, *The Reivers*.
 Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*.
 Katherine Anne Porter, *Ship of Fools*.
 William Carlos Williams, *Pictures from Brueghel and Other Poems*.
 Edmund Wilson, *Patriotic Gore*.

1963

John F. Kennedy is assassinated, and Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president (1963–1969).
 Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream Speech" at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
The Birds opens in movie theaters.
 Jack Nicklaus wins the Masters Tournament and the PGA (Professional Golfers' Association of America) Championship.
 The *New York Review of Books* is founded.
 Nelson Algren, *Who Lost an American?*
 Louis L'Amour, *How the West Was Won*.
 Bernard Malamud, *Idiots First*.
 Mary McCarthy, *The Group*.
 Thomas Pynchon, *V*.
 John Updike, *The Centaur*.

1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaws all discrimination in public accommodations and facilities; it also protects employment and voting rights.
 Martin Luther King Jr. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
 The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizes the president to use any means necessary to repel attacks against U.S. military forces in Southeast Asia.
Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb opens in movie theaters.

Saul Bellow, *Herzog*.
 John Berryman, *77 Dream Songs*.
 James Gould Cozzens, *Children and Others*.
 James Dickey, *Helmets, The Suspect in Poetry, and Two Poems of the Air*.
 Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast*.
 John O'Hara, *The Horse Knows the Way*.

1965

In the State of the Union address, President Johnson uses the term *Great Society* to describe his program of national reform.
 The Voting Rights Act is passed to counter local and state barriers that hinder African Americans from voting.
 Civil-rights leader Malcolm X is assassinated by rival Black Muslims at a rally in Harlem.
The Sound of Music premieres in movie theaters.
 The Metropolitan Museum in New York stages the highly successful "Three Centuries of American Painting" exhibit.
 Edward Albee, *Tiny Alice*.
 James Dickey, *Buckdancer's Choice*.
 Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.
 Frank Herbert, *Dune*.
 Norman Mailer, *An American Dream*.
 Flannery O'Connor, *Everything That Rises Must Converge*.
 John O'Hara, *The Lockwood Concern*.

1966

Medicare and Medicaid, federal health-insurance programs for the elderly and the poor, respectively, go into effect.
 Edward Albee, *A Delicate Balance*.
 John Barth, *Giles Goat-Boy*.
 Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*.
 Bernard Malamud, *The Fixer*.
 James Merrill, *Nights and Days: Poems*.

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*.

1967

The U.S. troop strength in Vietnam reaches 475,000; meanwhile, anti-war protests at home increase.
 Race riots occur in Detroit and Newark.
 The Green Bay Packers defeat the Kansas City Chiefs in the first annual Super Bowl game.
The Graduate plays in movie theaters.
 The Doors sing "Light My Fire."
 Richard Brautigan, *Trout Fishing in America*.
 James Dickey, *Poems 1957–1967*.
 William Styron, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*.
 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Manor*.
 Thornton Wilder, *The Eighth Day*.

1968

Civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy are both assassinated.
 Antiwar protestors disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.
 The Viet Cong, backed by North Vietnamese regular troops, launch the Tet Offensive and attack key sites throughout South Vietnam.
 James Gould Cozzens, *Morning Noon and Night*.
 Joan Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*.
 Norman Mailer, *The Armies of the Night*.
 Arthur Miller, *The Price*.
 N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*.
 Ezra Pound, *Cantos*.
 John Updike, *Couples*.

1969

The administration of President Richard M. Nixon (1969–1973) begins.

The number of U.S. troops in South Vietnam is at its highest level (541,500).
 Astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission land on the Moon.
 Elizabeth Bishop, *Complete Poems*.
 N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*.
 Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*.
 Philip Roth, *Portnoy's Complaint*.
 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

1970

Four Kent State University students are shot by National Guardsmen during a campus antiwar demonstration.
 The movies *Love Story* and *Patton* open in theaters.
 The Beatles sing "Let It Be."
 At Wimbledon, Billie Jean King and Rosemary Casals win the women's doubles title for the third time in four years.
 Saul Bellow, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*.
 James Dickey, *Deliverance*.
 Joan Didion, *Play It as It Lays*.
 Ernest Hemingway, *Islands in the Stream*.
 Leon Uris, *QB VII*.

1971

The Twenty-sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
The French Connection premieres in movie theaters.
 Janis Joplin sings "Me and Bobby McGee."
Godspell, a rock musical, plays on Broadway.
 Willie Mays scores his 1,950th run in the National League.
 William Peter Blatty, *The Exorcist*.
 Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.
 Bernard Malamud, *The Tenants*.
 Herman Wouk, *The Winds of War*.

1972

Richard M. Nixon becomes the first American president to visit China.
Fiddler on the Roof is the longest-running show in Broadway history.
 A. R. Ammons, *Collected Poems, 1951–1971*.
 John Barth, *Chimera*.
 Allen Ginsberg, *The Fall of America: Poems of These States, 1965–1971*.
 Ira Levin, *The Stepford Wives*.
 Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*.
 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Enemies: A Love Story*.
 Eudora Welty, *The Optimist's Daughter*.

1973

The Paris Peace Accords are signed, ending the Vietnam War.
American Graffiti and *The Sting* play in movie theaters.
 Lillian Hellman, *Pentimento*.
 Robert Lowell, *The Dolphin*.
 Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*.
 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *A Crown of Feathers*.
 Kurt Vonnegut, *Breakfast of Champions*.

1974

Because of the Watergate scandal, President Richard M. Nixon resigns, and he is succeeded by the vice president, Gerald R. Ford (1974–1977).
 The first issue of *People*, an offshoot of *Time* magazine dedicated to real life stories and celebrities, is printed.
 Henry "Hank" Aaron of the Atlanta Braves breaks Babe Ruth's record when he hits his 715th career home run.
 Peter Benchley, *Jaws*.
 Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, *All the President's Men*.
 Evan S. Connell, *The Connoisseur*.

William Everson, *Man-Fate: The Swan Song of Brother Antoninus*.
 Joseph Heller, *Something Happened*.
 Stephen King, *Carrie*.
 James Michener, *Centennial*.
 Gary Snyder, *Turtle Island*.

1975

Barry Lyndon and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* open in movie theaters.
 Edward Albee, *Seascape*.
 John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*.
 Saul Bellow, *Humboldt's Gift*.
 James Clavell, *Shogun: A Novel of Japan*.
 E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*.
 Judith Rossner, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*.
 Anne Sexton, *The Awful Rowing Toward God*.

1976

The United States celebrates the Bicentennial.
A Star Is Born opens in movie theaters.
 Saul Bellow wins the Nobel Prize in literature.
 Alex Haley, *Roots*.
 Ira Levin, *The Boys from Brazil*.
 Anne Rice, *Interview with the Vampire*.
 Leon Uris, *Trinity*.
 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slapstick*.

1977

The administration of Jimmy Carter (1977–1981) begins.
Star Wars opens in movie theaters.
 Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*.
 Robert Coover, *The Public Burning*.
 John Gregory Dunne, *True Confessions*.
 Walker Percy, *Lancelot*.

1978

Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks and becomes the first man ever to win the heavyweight boxing championship three times.
Isaac Bashevis Singer wins the Nobel Prize in literature.
John Gardner, *On Moral Fiction*.
John Irving, *The World According to Garp*.
Herman Wouk, *War and Remembrance*.
Louis Zukofsky, "A."

1979

Iranian militants storm the U.S. embassy in Teheran and take the diplomatic staff hostage.
John Barth, *Letters*.
Donald Justice, *Selected Poems*.
Norman Mailer, *The Executioner's Song*.
Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer*.
William Styron, *Sophie's Choice*.

1980

In a protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Carter announces that the United States will not participate in the summer Olympic Games in Moscow.
The first American Book Awards, formerly known as the National Book Awards, are presented.
Grease, the longest-running show on Broadway to date, closes after nearly 3,390 performances.
Jean M. Auel, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*.
Galway Kinnell, *Mortal Acts, Mortal Wounds*.
Walker Percy, *The Second Coming*.
Tom Robbins, *Still Life with Woodpecker*.

1981

The administration of Ronald Reagan (1981–1989) begins.

Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice.
John Ashbery, *Shadow Train*.
Toni Morrison, *Tar Baby*.
Joseph Wambaugh, *The Glitter Dome*.
John Updike, *Rabbit is Rich*.

1982

The movie *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* opens in theaters.
Jean M. Auel, *The Valley of Horses*.
Richard Condon, *Prizzi's Honor*.
John Jakes, *North and South*.
Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory*.
Paul Theroux, *The Mosquito Coast*.
Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*.
William Wharton, *A Midnight Clear*.

1983

Approximately 125 million people watch the last episode of the long-running comedy *M*A*S*H*; it is the largest television audience to date for a nonsports program.
The Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday is established.
A Chorus Line becomes the longest-running show in Broadway history.
Isaac Asimov, *The Robots of Dawn*.
William Kennedy, *Ironweed*.
Stephen King, *Pet Sematary* and *Christine*.
Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Yentl the Yeshiva Boy*.

1984

Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman to be nominated vice president on a major party ticket.
Jesse Jackson becomes the first African American to run a national campaign for a major party presidential nomination.
Michael Jackson's album *Thriller* reaches 37 million in sales and wins eight Grammy Awards.
Tom Clancy, *The Hunt for Red October*.
Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*.

Robert Ludlum, *The Aquitaine Progression*.
David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*.
Norman Mailer, *Tough Guys Don't Dance*.
Mario Puzo, *The Sicilian*.
Studs Terkel, *The Good War*.
John Updike, *The Witches of Eastwick*.
Gore Vidal, *Lincoln*.

1985

John Irving, *The Cider House Rules*.
Garrison Keillor, *Lake Wobegon Days*.
Stephen King, *Skeleton Crew*.
Carolyn Kizer, *Yin*.
Larry McMurtry, *Lonesome Dove*.
Anne Tyler, *The Accidental Tourist*.
Kurt Vonnegut, *Galápagos*.

1986

The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes shortly after liftoff, killing all crew members.
Blue Velvet plays in movie theaters.
Robert Penn Warren is named the first poet laureate of the United States.
Don DeLillo, *White Noise*.
Rita Dove, *Thomas and Beulah*.
Ernest Hemingway, *The Garden of Eden*.
Stephen King, *It*.
Robert Ludlum, *The Bourne Supremacy*.
James Welch, *Fools Crow*.
August Wilson, *Fences*.

1987

The Tower Commission reports on the Iran-Contra Affair, a secret arrangement by which American arms were sold to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages in Lebanon; some of the money was then funneled to the Contras, U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua.
Louis L'Amour, *The Haunted Mesa*.
T. Coraghessan Boyle, *World's End*.
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*.
Tom Wolfe, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.