

Famous Authors and...

Novel  
Choices



# John Steinbeck

- **Steinbeck grew up in the Salinas Valley region of California, a culturally diverse place of rich migratory and immigrant history**
- **In all, he wrote twenty-five books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books and several collections of short stories.**



# Fun Facts

- **Steinbeck used 300 pencils to write *East of Eden*.** He was known to use up to 60 pencils in a day,.
- Letter to his Son:  
    “And don't worry about losing. If it is right, it happens -- The main thing is not to hurry. Nothing good gets away.”



- **His novel was burned and banned**
- The Associated Farmers of California dismissed the novel as a "pack of lies" and "communist propaganda".
- The book was briefly banned in the Soviet Union by Joseph Stalin, because the ruling Communist Party was troubled by the thought that it showed that even the most destitute Americans could afford a car.
- Steinbeck received death threats and the FBI put him under surveillance

- He was writing shortly after the death of his brother-in-law and it was a time in his life when he was plagued by doubts about the prospect of war and he was worried over the sale of his house in California.
- "Did ever a book get written under such excitement," he wrote. "My whole nervous system is battered. I hope I'm not headed for a nervous breakdown. My nerves are going fast. . . I wish I could just disappear for a while. So many things to drive me nuts. I'm afraid this book is going to pieces. If it does, I do too."

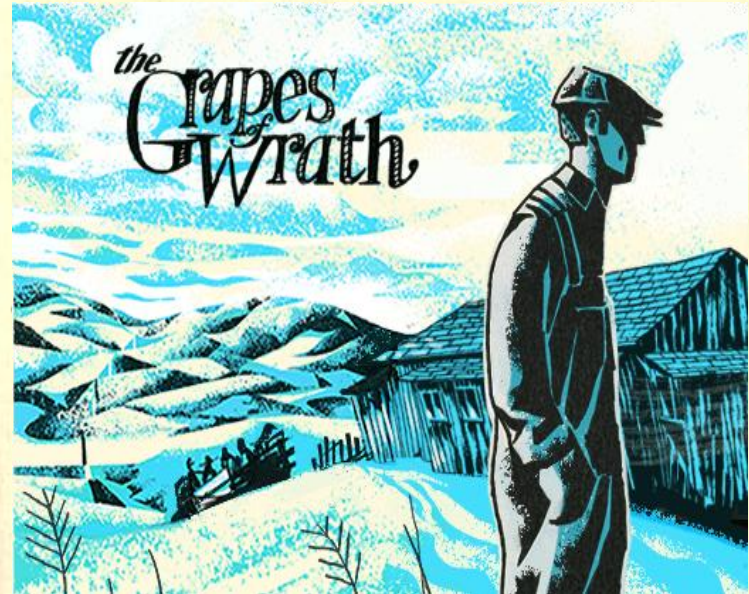
# Grapes of Wrath

- “First published in 1939, Steinbeck’s epic of the Great Depression chronicles (gives the history of) the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads.”
- “They are driven away from their homestead (farmhouse) and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.”



# Cont.

- “A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man’s fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman’s stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes the very nature of equality and justice in America.”



# Jules Verne

- Jules Gabriel Verne was a French author who pioneered the genre of science-fiction.
- He is best known for his novels "Journey to the Center of the Earth" (1864), "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" (1870), and "Around the World in Eighty Days" (1873).



- Verne wrote about space, air, and underwater travel before navigable aircraft and practical submarines were invented, and before any means of space travel had been devised.
- He is the third most translated author of all time, behind Disney Productions and Agatha Christie.
- His prominent novels have been made into films.
- Verne, along with H. G. Wells, is often referred to as the "Father of Science Fiction".



La question des ballons.





DIRIGIBLE

AEROPLANE

MOON ROCKET

LONG DISTANCE GUN

MOTOR TRUCK

SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS

AROUND THE MOON

PHONOGRAPH

ADVENTURE BOAT SAINT MICHEL

VERNE'S HOME

# Jules Verne

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROPHET

TELAUTOGRAPH WRITES AT DISTANCE

KINETOGRAPH

SUBMARINE-AEROMOBILE

VERNE'S TOMBSTONE

SUBMARINE

SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS BY HENRI GARNIER

# Fun Facts

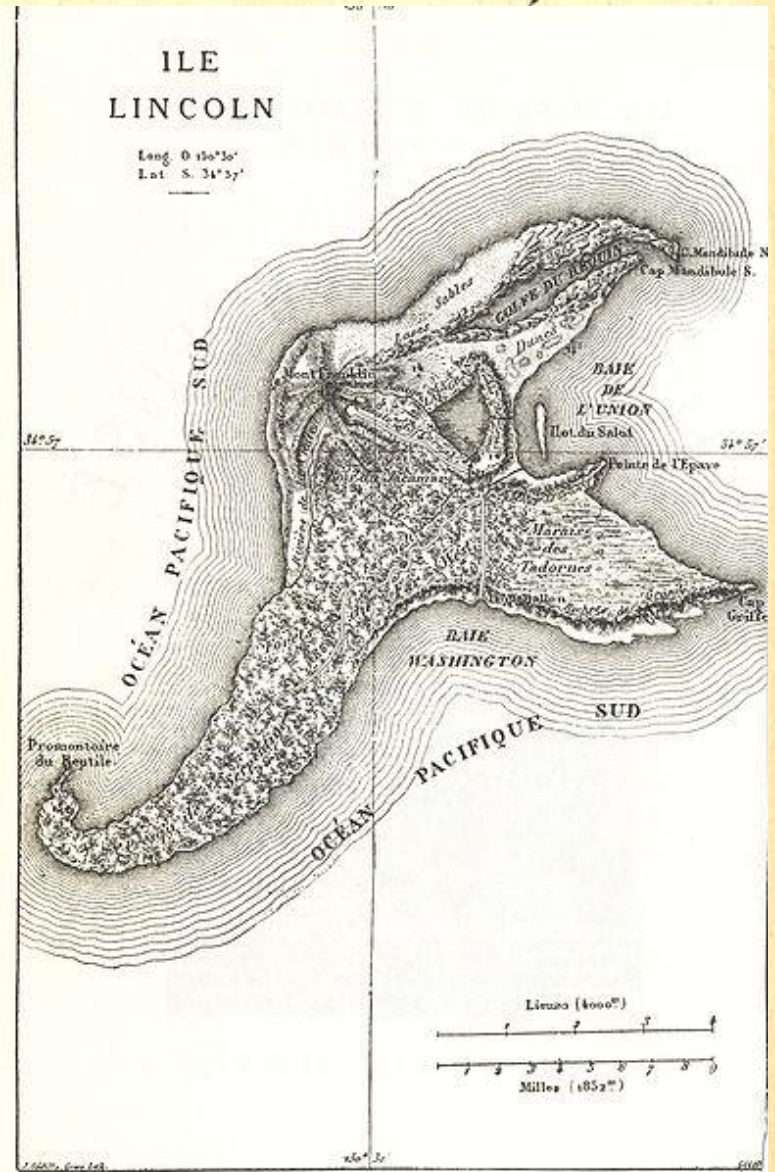
- Before he wrote stories he wrote libretti (lyrics) for operas.
- His father stopped giving him money, so he became a stockbroker.
- He hung out with both Victor Hugo and Alexander Dumas
- His submarine The Nautilus in 20,000 Leagues predated actual powered submarines by 25 years. In 1886, the first electric powered submarine was name The Nautilus after Verne's creation.
- He published at least 1 book a year for over 40 years on a wide range of subjects.
- He was shot by his mentally ill nephew



COLLECTION HETZEL

# Mysterious Island

- Five Union prisoners escape from the seige of Richmond in a balloon, are blown off course and crash on an uncharted island. They must learn to rebuild a society for themselves while awaiting rescue.



# Kurt Vonnegut

- He was born in Indianapolis, later the setting for many of his novels.
- Vonnegut trained as a chemist and worked as a journalist before joining the U.S. Army and serving in World War II.



- His experiences as an advance scout in the Battle of the Bulge, and in particular his witnessing of the bombing of Dresden, Germany whilst a prisoner of war, would influence much of his work.
- This event would also form the core of his most famous work, Slaughterhouse-Five, the book which would make him a millionaire



# SACRIFICE

"One of the few good things about modern times: If you die horribly on television, you will not have died in vain. You will have entertained us."

# His Life...

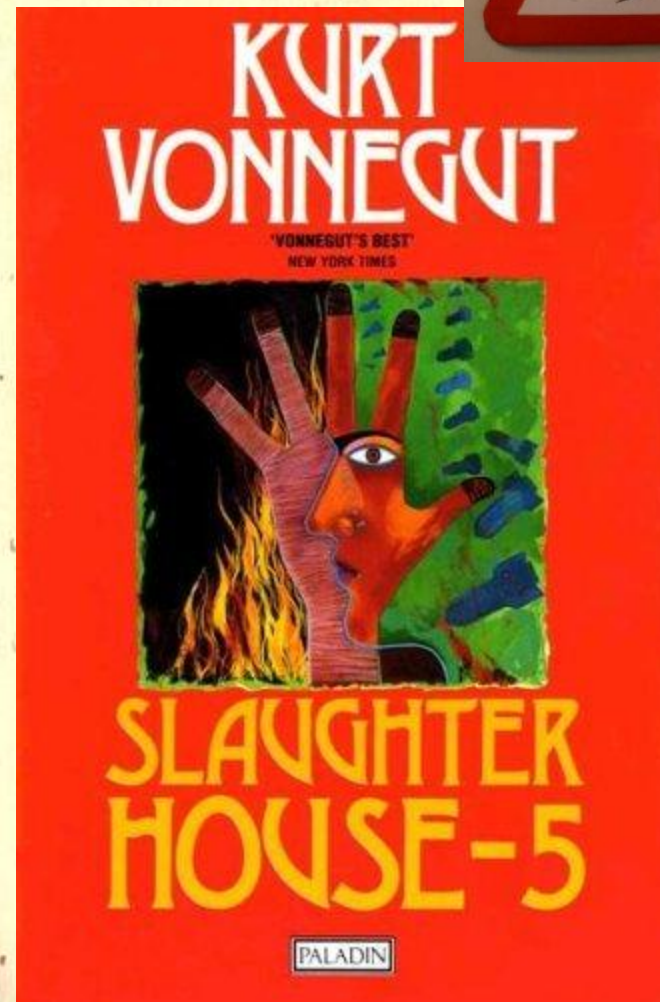
- Vonnegut had to leave Butler University in Indiana after being unable to manage more than a C in his English courses
- Vonnegut majored in biochemistry, mechanical engineering, and anthropology at a few different colleges, but never completed any of his majors during his lifetime.
- Vonnegut was a lifelong smoker, which in itself is not weird, but his reasoning, that it was “a classy way to commit suicide,”



Kurt never suspected that his mother committed suicide by drinking sleeping pills. He discovered the body of his mother when he left World War II on Mother's day in 1944

# Fun Facts

- Vonnegut graded his own books. He gave himself an A+ for *Slaughterhouse Five*,
  - B- for *Welcome to the Monkey House*,
  - C for *Breakfast of Champions*,
  - D for *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*
- He Waged War Against the Semicolon



# Slaughterhouse - Five

- Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic *Slaughterhouse-Five* introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore.
- We follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all the phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

- *Slaughterhouse-Five* is not only Vonnegut's most powerful book, it is also as important as any written work since 1945.
- Like *Catch-22*, it fashions the author's experiences in the Second World War into an eloquent and deeply funny plea against butchery in the service of authority
- "There are almost no characters in this story, and almost no dramatic confrontations, because most of the people in it are so sick,"



# S.E. Hinton

- Susan Eloise Hinton, was and still is, one of the most popular and best known writers of young adult fiction. Her books have been taught in some schools, and banned from others. Her novels changed the way people look at young adult literature.

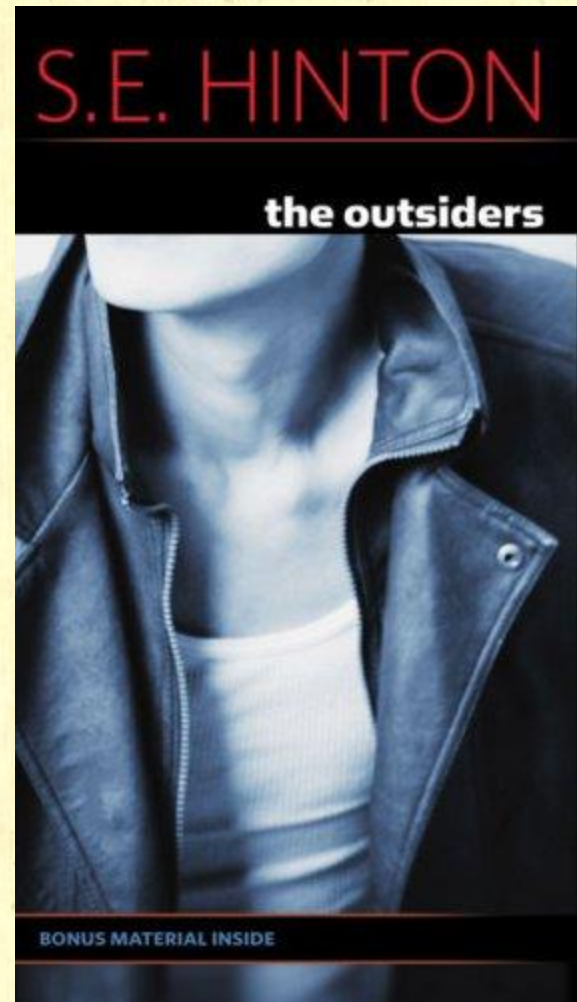


# Fun Facts

- Susan Eloise Hinton chose to use only her first and middle initials (S. E.) when it came time to publish her first book, because she thought that boys wouldn't read her book if they knew a girl had written it.
- Hinton was trained to be a teacher, but she never taught.
- When it came time for her to write her second novel, *That Was Then, This Is Now*, she was stumped and couldn't write at all. Her future husband helped by refusing to take her out on a date until she showed him that she had written at least two pages that day.

# The Outsiders

- There are two kinds of people in the world:
- A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine.
- A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back.
- Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his divided world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether or not someone is a soc or a greaser.



# Ray Bradbury

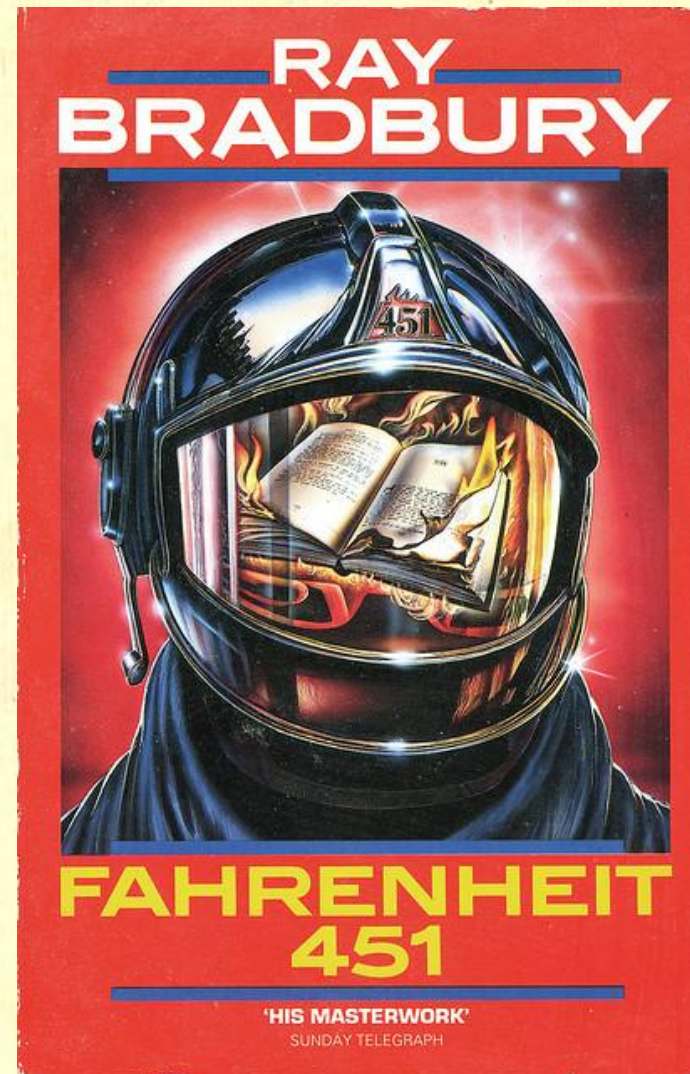
- American novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet, was born August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois. He graduated from a Los Angeles high school in 1938.
- Although his formal education ended there, he became a "student of life," selling newspapers on L.A. street corners from 1938 to 1942, and spending his nights in the public library and his days at the typewriter.

- In all, Bradbury has published more than thirty books, close to 600 short stories, and numerous poems, essays, and plays. His short stories have appeared in more than 1,000 school curriculum "recommended reading" anthologies.



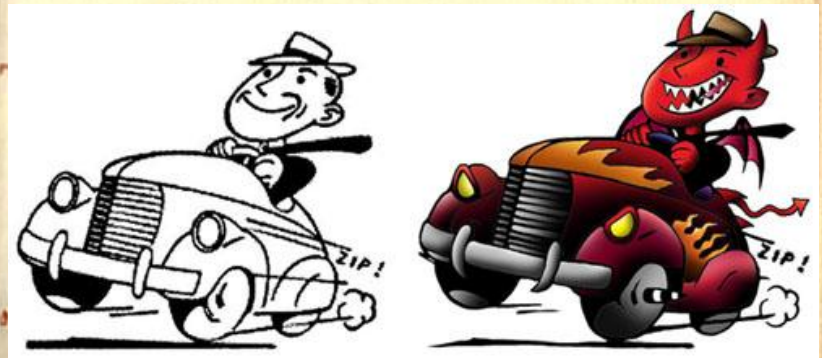
# Fun Fact

- It took Bradbury just nine days to write *Fahrenheit 451*, and he did it in the basement of the UCLA library on a rented typewriter. The title of his classic novel, by the way, comes from the temperature at which paper burns without being exposed to flame.
- He didn't believe in college. "I believe in libraries because most students don't have any money," Bradbury said. "When I graduated from high school, it was during the Depression and we had no money. I couldn't go to college, so I went to the library three days a week for 10 years."



- Not only did Bradbury never get a driver's license, he didn't believe in cars for *anyone*. His own personal aversion came from seeing a fatal car accident when he was just 16. "The automobile is the most dangerous weapon in our society—cars kill more than wars do."
- Despite his writings about all things futuristic, Bradbury loathed computers. "We are being flimflammed by Bill Gates and his partners,
- NASA gave him a funeral when they landed a rover on Mars a few months after Bradbury's death in 2012: They named the site where Mars Curiosity touched down "[Bradbury Landing](#)."

- At the age of 22, Bradbury finally summoned up the courage to ask a girl out for the first time ever. She was a bookstore clerk named Maggie, who thought he was stealing from the bookstore because he had a long trench coat on. They went out for coffee, which turned into cocktails, which turned into dinner, which turned into marriage, which turned into 56 anniversaries and four children. She was the only girl Bradbury ever dated.



# Fahrenheit 451

- The terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, since they are the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents (rebels) who defy society to preserve and read books.



- The classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, Fahrenheit 451 stands alongside Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World* as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity.
- Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.

# Markus Zusak

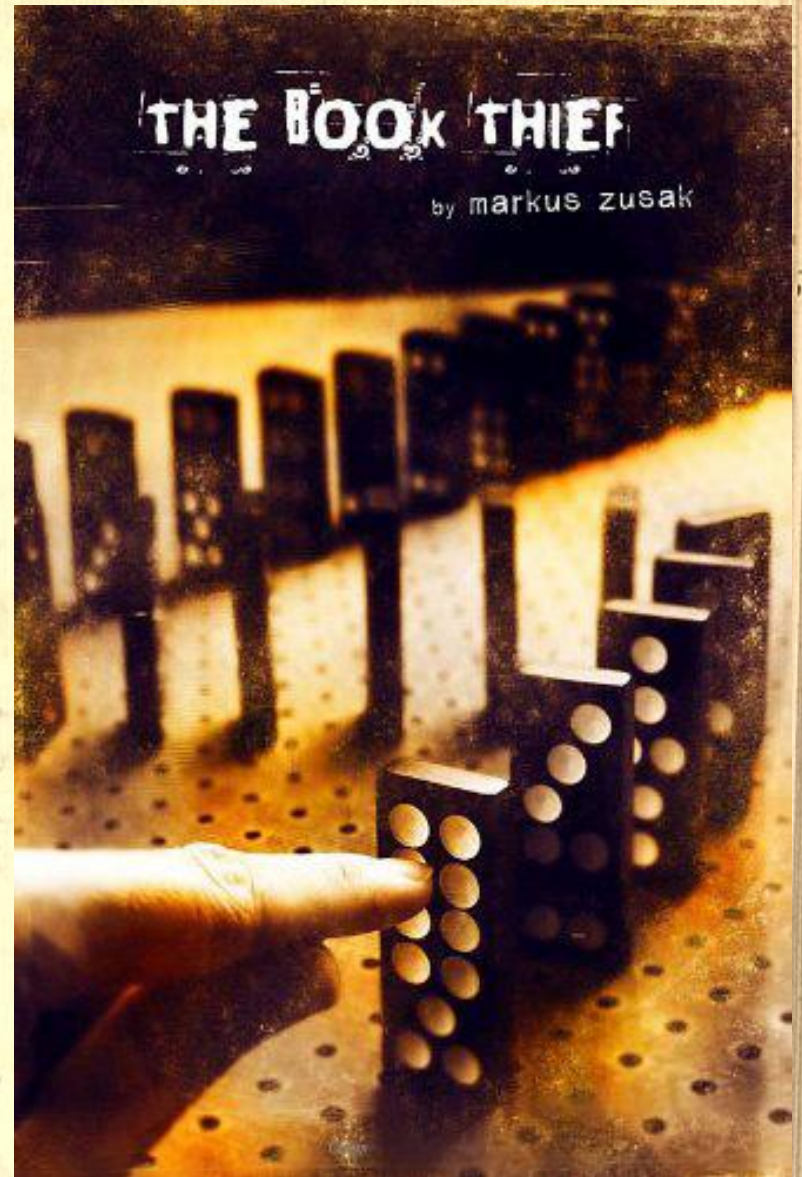
- He was born in 1975 and is the author of five books, including the international bestseller, ***The Book Thief***, which is translated into more than forty languages. First released in 2005, ***The Book Thief*** has spent a total of 375 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and still remains there eight years after it first came out.
- He is from Australia
- It took 7 years to get his first book published (It was ironically called the Underdog)
- He rewrote the first 90 pages of The Book Thief 150-200 times
- He thought this book would be his least popular



# Book Thief

- It's just a small story really, about, among other things, a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.

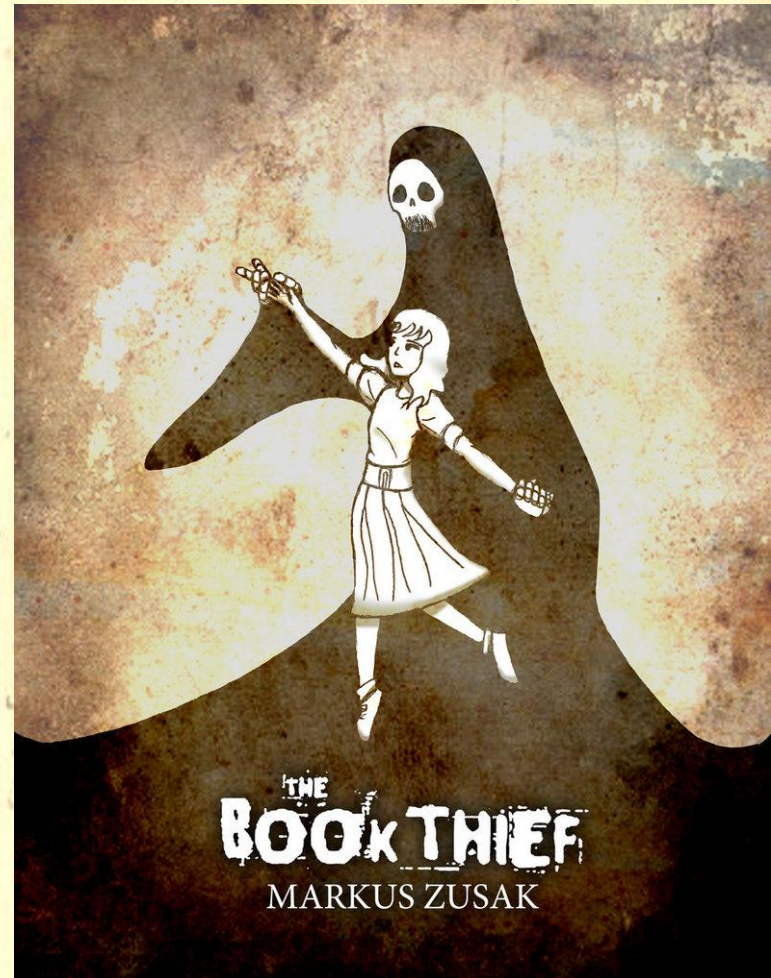
Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist: books..



# Cont.

- With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids - as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul



# Vote Now

- Grapes of Wrath
- The Outsiders
- Mysterious Island
- Fahrenheit 451
- Slaughterhouse-5
- Book Thief

Slaughterhouse-5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvlZtlBfCi0>

The Outsiders

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tgJqnVMAtc>

Mysterious Island

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC-VgDPME9E>

Fahrenheit 451

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9n98SXNGI8>

- Grapes of Wrath

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ayi81QMvak>

- Book Thief

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92EBSmxinus>

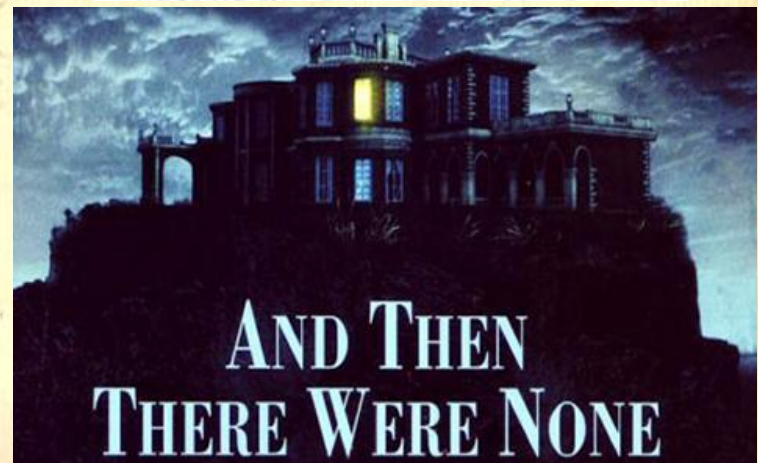
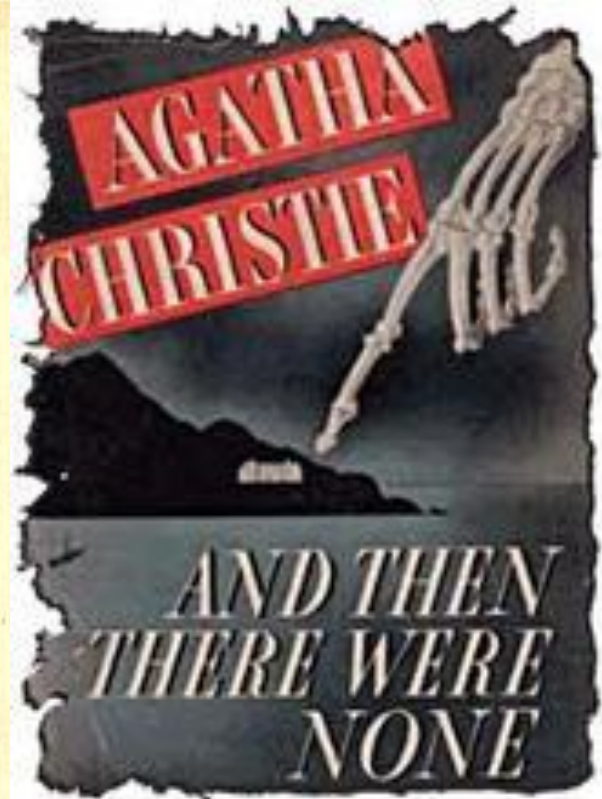
# Agatha Christie

- Agatha Christie also wrote romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, and was occasionally published under the name Agatha Christie Mallowan.
- During the First World War, she worked at a hospital as a nurse; later working at a hospital pharmacy, a job that influenced her work, as many of the murders in her books are carried out with poison.



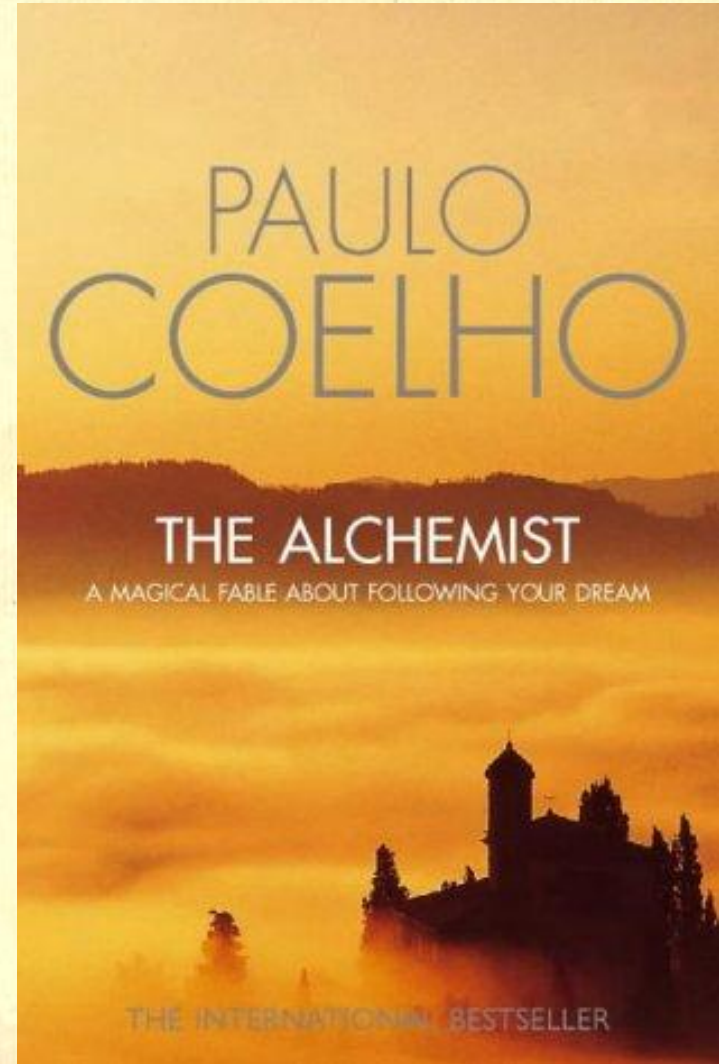
# And Then There Were None

- Ten strangers, each with a dark secret, are lured to a mansion on an uninhabited island and killed off one by one.
- Who is the murderer? Will anyone escape? ...only time will tell



# Paul Coelho

- The Brazilian author was born in 1947 in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Before dedicating his life completely to literature, he worked as theatre director and actor, lyricist and journalist





# The Alchemist

- Is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest

- . No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount (get over) the obstacles along the way. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within.



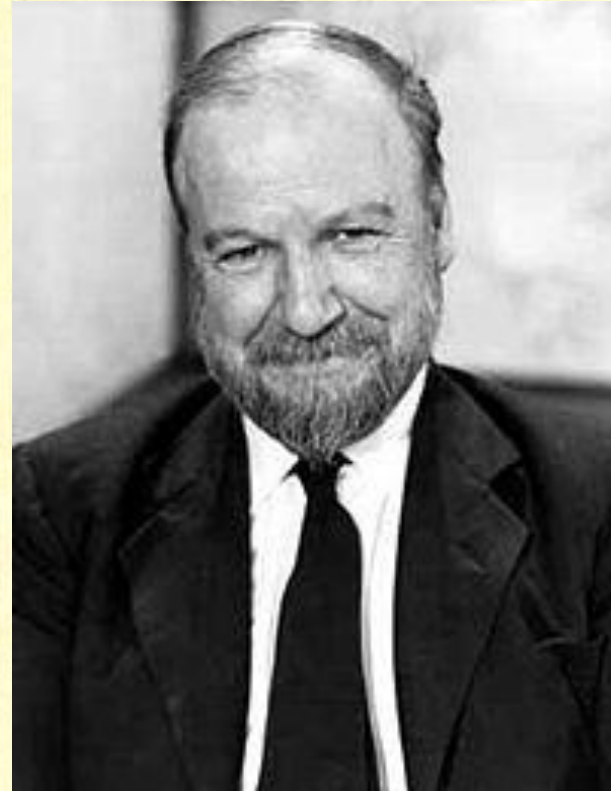


# THE ALCHEMIST

THE END IS IN THE BEGINNING

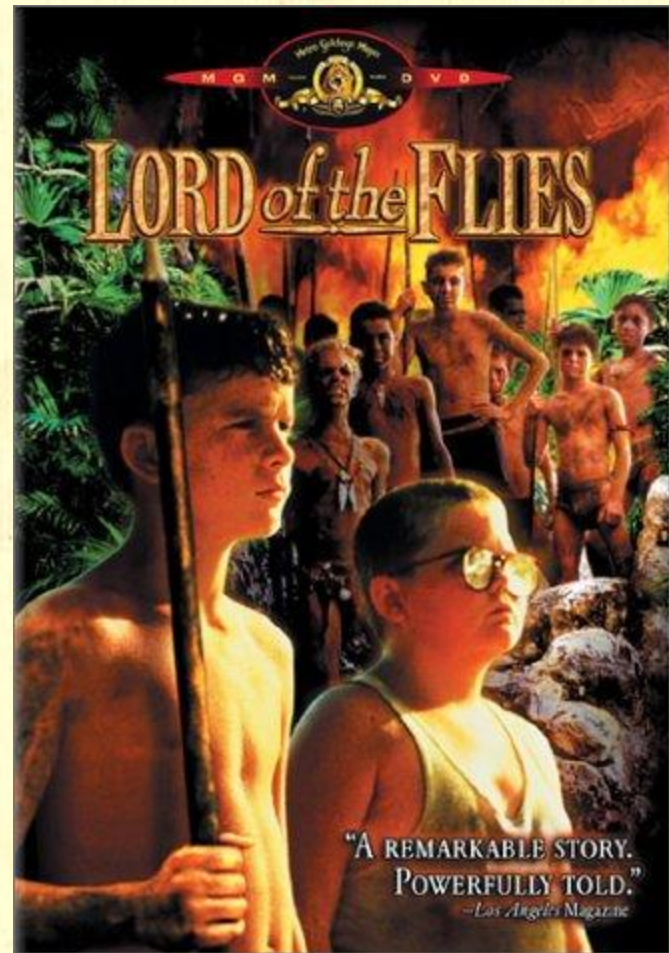
# William Golding

- Sir William Gerald Golding was a British novelist, poet, and playwright best known for his 1954 novel [Lord of the Flies](#).



# Lord of the Flies

- A group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first, it seems as though it's all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious & life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic & death.

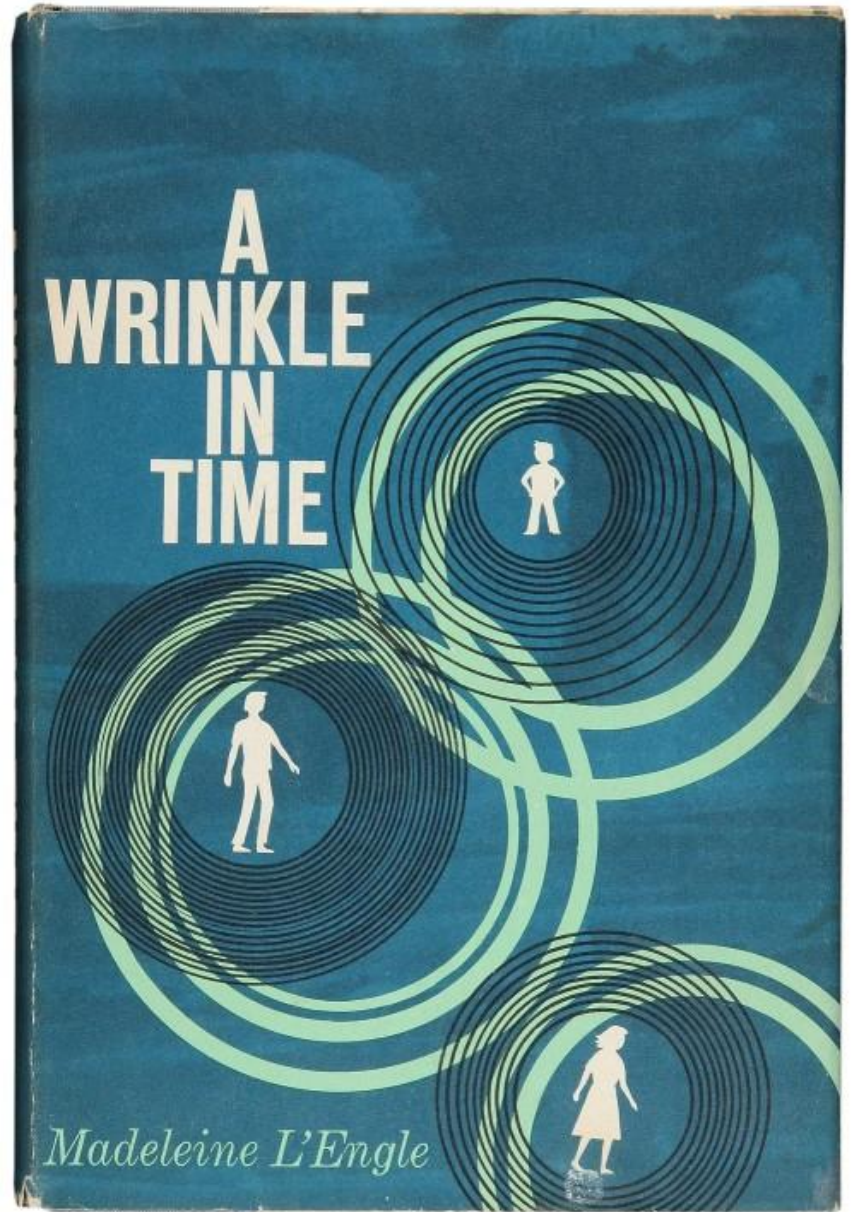




Capella

# Madeleine L'Engle

- She was an American writer best known for her Young Adult fiction
- Her works reflect her strong interest in modern science: tesseract, for example, are featured prominently in *A Wrinkle in Time*, mitochondrial DNA in *A Wind in the Door*, organ regeneration in *The Arm of the Starfish*, and so forth.
- She has written over 60 books and keeps writing. She enjoys



# A Wrinkle in Time

- It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.



- Meg's father had been experimenting with this fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. Now the time has come for Meg, her friend Calvin, and Charles Wallace to rescue him. But can they outwit the forces of evil they will encounter on their heart-stopping journey through space?





# Charles Dickens

- A prolific 19th Century author of short stories, plays, novellas, novels, fiction and non-fiction; during his lifetime
- Dickens became known the world over for his remarkable characters, his mastery of prose in the telling of their lives, and his depictions of the social classes, morals and values of his times.

- Some considered him the spokesman for the poor, for he definitely brought much awareness to their plight



# Tale of Two Cities

- After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette..

- From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine





# Aldous Huxley

- Aldous Leonard Huxley was an English writer and one of the most prominent members of the famous Huxley family
- Best known for his novels and wide-ranging output of essays, he also published short stories, poetry, travel writing, and film stories and scripts.
- Through his novels and essays Huxley functioned as an examiner and sometimes critic of social mores, norms and ideals

- Huxley was a humanist but was also interested towards the end of his life in spiritual subjects such as parapsychology and philosophical mysticism



# Brave New World

- Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harbouring an ill-defined longing to break free.
- A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...

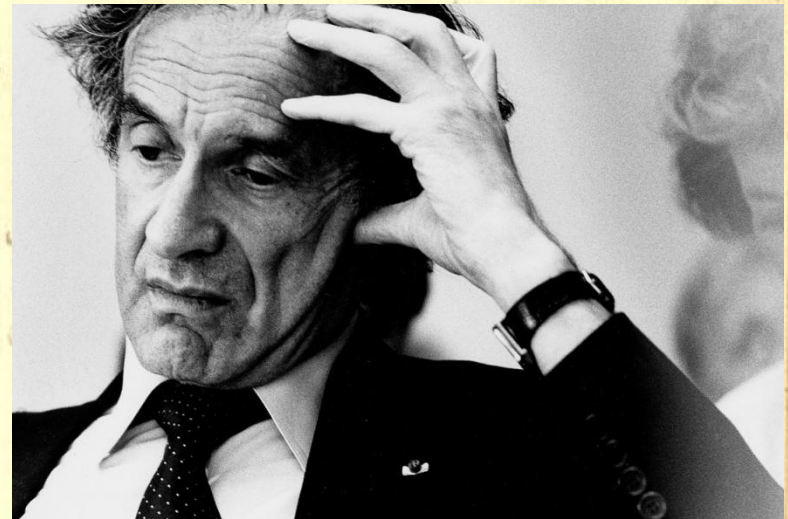


- Huxley's ingenious fantasy of the future sheds a blazing light on the present and is considered to be his most enduring masterpiece



# Elie Wiesel

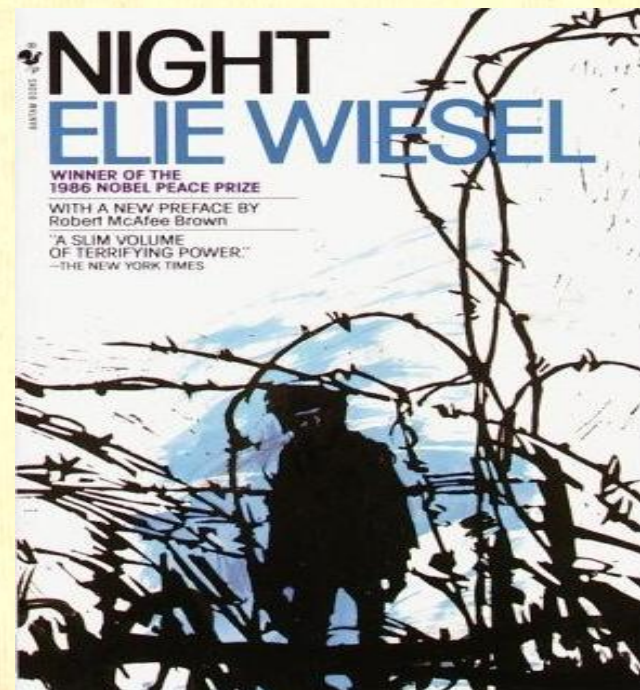
- Eliezer Wiesel is a Romania-born American novelist, political activist, and Holocaust survivor of Hungarian Jewish descent.
- He is the author of over 40 books, the best known of which is *Night*, a memoir that describes his experiences during the Holocaust and his imprisonment in several concentration camps.



# Night

- Night is a work by Elie Wiesel about his experience with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, at the height of the Holocaust and toward the end. In just over 100 pages of sparse and fragmented narrative, Wiesel writes about the death of God and his own increasing disgust with humanity, reflected in the inversion of the father–child relationship as his father declines to a helpless state and Wiesel becomes his resentful teenage caregiver..

- Penetrating and powerful, as personal as *The Diary Of Anne Frank*, *Night* awakens the shocking memory of evil at its absolute and carries with it the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again



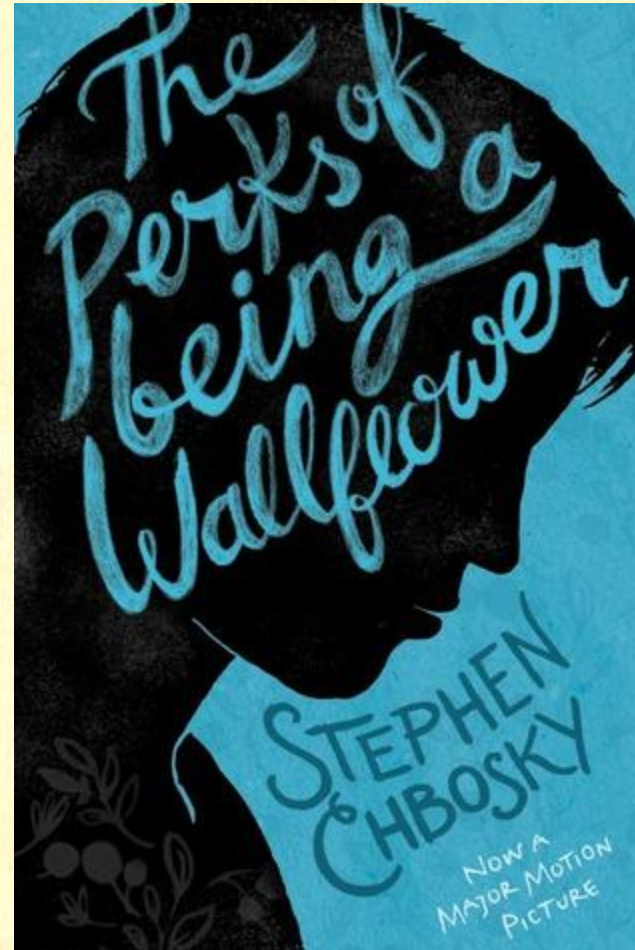




# Stephen Chbosky

- Due to the popularity of the novel, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a book that has stirred up quite a bit of controversy for what opponents see as graphic depictions of drug use, homosexuality, and premarital sex. In several instances, the book was even banned from high schools.

Chbosky never intended *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* to be a novel for adolescents; however, its focus on adolescents has caused critics to view it as such.



# The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Charlie is a freshman, and while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. Shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward, he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it.

- Charlie is attempting to navigate his way through uncharted territory: the world of first dates and mix tapes, family dramas and new friends; the world of sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, when all one requires is that perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite. But he can't stay on the sideline forever.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a deeply affecting coming-of-age story that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up



THE  
PEARL  
JOHN STEINBECK

*John*  
STEINBECK



The Pearl



## ***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.**

- Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence.
- Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security....
- A Mexican fable masterfully rewritten, *The Pearl* conveys the lesson that greed will turn your life to garbage.
- A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folk tale, *The Pearl* explores the secrets of man's nature, greed, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love