

## The World Split Open: Great Authors on How and Why We Write (A Literary Arts Reader)

*By Margaret Atwood, Russell Banks, Ursula K. Le Guin, Marilynne Robinson, Wallace Stegner, Robert Stone, Jeanette Winterson*


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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"Far more than a compendium of dreary 'this is how and why I write' essays, these force readers to re-examine the ways they interact with words. The rhythm of syllables as they play against each other on the page and the way fiction, in particular, can transport us out of the here and now helps readers gain perspective and aids in our understanding of the world. . . **With eloquence and grace, highly acclaimed authors ponder the complexities of the writer's life and art form.**"

—*Kirkus*

"Dare I suggest that the unpublished majority find something . . . **aspirational** in the very act of reading these essays?"

—*The Masters Review*

### About the Author

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than forty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. Her newest novel, *MaddAddam* (2013), is the follow-up to *The Year of the Flood* (2009) and her Giller Prize winner, *Oryx and Crake* (2009). Other recent publications include *The Door*, a volume of poetry (2007), *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth* (2008), and *In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination* (2011). Additional titles include the 2000 Booker Prize-winning *The Blind Assassin*, *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy, *The Robber Bride*, *Cat's Eye*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *The Penelopiad*. Atwood lives in Toronto with the writer Graeme Gibson.

Russell Banks is the prize-winning author of seventeen books of fiction, including the novels *Continental Drift* and *Cloudsplitter*, both finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. Two of his novels, *Affliction* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, have been made into critically acclaimed, prize-winning films. He has published six collections of short stories, most recently *A Permanent Member of the Family*. His work is widely translated, and in 2010 he was made an *Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the Minister of Culture of France. He is the former president of the International Parliament of Writers and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was the New York State Author, 2004–2008, and in 2014 was inducted into the New York Writers Hall of Fame. He resides in upstate New York and Miami Beach, Florida.

Ursula Kroeber Le Guin was born in 1929 in Berkeley, California, and lives in Portland, Oregon. As of 2014, she has published twenty-one novels, eleven volumes of short stories, four collections of essays, twelve books for children, six volumes of poetry and four of translation, and has received many honors and awards including Hugo, Nebula, National Book Award, PEN-Malamud. Her most recent publications are *Finding My Elegy* (*New and Selected Poems, 1960–2010*) and *The Unreal and the Real* (*Selected Short Stories*), which received the 2012 Oregon Book Award for fiction.

Marilynne Robinson is the recipient of a 2012 National Humanities Medal, awarded by President Barack Obama for "her grace and intelligence in writing." She is the author of *Gilead*, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *Home*, winner of the Orange Prize and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and a finalist for the National Book Award. Her first novel, *Housekeeping*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award. Robinson's nonfiction books include *When I Was a Child I Read Books*, *Absence of Mind*, *The Death of Adam*, and *Mother Country*, which was nominated for a National Book Award. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and lives in Iowa City.

Wallace Stegner wrote thirty-five books over a sixty-year career. Among the novels are *The Big Rock Candy Mountain* (1943), *All The Little Live Things* (Commonwealth Club Gold Medal, 1967), *Angle of Repose* (Pulitzer Prize, 1972), *The Spectator Bird* (National Book Award, 1977), and *Crossing to Safety* (1987.) His nonfiction includes *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian* (1954), *Wolf Willow* (A History, A Story, and a Memory of the Last Plains Frontier) (1962), *The Sound of Mountain Water* (1969), and *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West* (1992), which earned him a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle award. In 1946 Stegner started the Creative Writing Program at Stanford University, where he served on the faculty until 1971. He was twice a Guggenheim Fellow and a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Arts and Letters. He died at eighty-four, on April 13, 1993.

Robert Stone's novel *Dog Soldiers* won the National Book Award. His other novels include *A Flag for Sunrise*, which was nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award, *Children of Light*, and *Bay of Souls*. He also published a memoir, *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties*. His latest novel, *Death of the Black-Haired Girl*, was published in fall of 2013. He lives in Key West, Florida.

Jeanette Winterson's first novel, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, won the 1985 Whitbread Prize for a First Novel and was adapted for television by Winterson in 1990. She won the 1987 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for *The Passion*. Her stage adaptation of *The PowerBook* in 2002 opened at the Royal National Theatre, London. Winterson was made an officer of Order of the British Empire (OBE) at the 2006 New Year Honours "For services to literature." She is a two-time winner of the Lambda Literary Awards: *Written on the Body* won in the category of Lesbian Fiction in 1994, and *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* won in the category of Lesbian Memoir or Biography in 2013. *Sexing the Cherry* won the 1989 E. M. Forster Award. Her latest novel, *The Daylight Gate*, was published in fall of 2013.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ray Goodrow:**

This *The World Split Open: Great Authors on How and Why We Write (A Literary Arts Reader)* book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That *The World Split Open: Great Authors on How and Why We Write (A Literary Arts Reader)* without we understand teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *The World Split Open: Great Authors on How and Why We Write (A Literary Arts Reader)* can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This *The World Split Open: Great Authors on How and Why We Write (A Literary Arts Reader)* having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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**Martha Fincher:**

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**Michael Sweet:**

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