

# *2010*

**Rabble-rouser's calendar for people involved in using the written word  
to amuse, inspire, inform, or stimulate readers**



# 2010

## **Rabble-rouser's calendar for people involved in using the written word to amuse, inspire, inform, or stimulate readers**

I quote others only the better to express myself. **Michel Eyquem de Montaigne** (b. 2/28)

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation. **George Bernard Shaw** (b. 7/26)

Quoting: The act of repeating erroneously the words of another. **Ambrose Bierce** (b. 6/24)

## Literacy Lovers

For your born writer, nothing is so healing as the realization that he has come upon the right word. **Catherine Shober Drinker Bowen** (b. 1/1/1897)

How do I know what I think until I see what I say? **E. M. Forster** (b. 1/1/1879)

Thinking is the activity I love best, and writing to me is simply thinking through my fingers. . . . Nothing interferes with my concentration. You could put on an orgy in my office and I wouldn't look up—well, maybe once. **Isaac Asimov** (b. 1/2/1920)

Whenever citizens are seen routinely as enemies of their own government, writers are routinely seen to be the most dangerous enemies.

**E. L. Doctorow** (b. 1/6/1931)

Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeves, spits on its hands and goes to work. **Carl Sandburg** (b. 1/6/1878)

Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. **Zora Neale Hurston** (b. 1/7/1891?)\*

The writer of originality, unless dead, is always shocking, scandalous; novelty disturbs and repels. **Simone de Beauvoir** (b. 1/9/1908)

Publishers are demons, there's no doubt about it. **William James** (b. 1/11/1842)

I usually write to a point where the work is getting worse rather than better. That's the point to stop and the time to publish.

**John Dos Passos** (b. 1/14/1896)

One virtue of poetry is that it makes us more alive. **Dudley Randall** (b. 1/14/1914)\*

Question everything. Every stripe, every star, every word spoken. Question everything. **Ernest J. Gaines** (b. 1/15/1933)\*

Books are . . . funny little portable pieces of thought. **Susan Sontag** (b. 1/16/1933)

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing. **Benjamin Franklin** (b. 1/17/1706)

Books are where things are explained to you, life is where things aren't. **Julian Barnes** (b. 1/19/1946)

When you write, it is like braiding hair. Taking a handful of coarse unruly strands and attempting to bring them unity. **Edwidge Danticat** (b. 1/19/1969)\*

Damn words; they're just the pots and pans of life, the pails and scrubbing-brushes. I wish I didn't have to think in words.

**Edith Wharton** (b. 1/24/1862)

To write simply is as difficult as to be good. **Somerset Maugham** (b. 1/25/1874)

One should be able to return to the first sentence of a novel and find the resonances of the entire work. **Gloria Naylor** (b. 1/25/1950)\*

Sometimes I think heaven must be one continuous unexhausted reading. **Virginia Woolf** (b. 1/25/1882)

When I use a word, it means what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less. (uttered by Humpty Dumpty) **Lewis Carroll** (b. 1/27/1832)

Reading anything that moves you, disturbs you is a path into the great swirl of humanity, past, present, and future.

**Michael Dorris** (b. 1/30/1945)

## Powerful Words

1/1/1863: Abraham Lincoln delivered his Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all enslaved persons living in states rebelling against the Union.

1/26/1930: The Indian National Congress declared India's independence from British rule, "We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people, as of any other people, to have freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their toil and have the necessities of life, so that they may have full opportunities of growth. We believe also that if any government deprives a people of these rights and oppresses them the people have a further right to alter it or abolish it."

1/31/1865: The U.S. Congress passed Amendment XIII: ". . . Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime where of the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. . . ."

# January, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors featured in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>John Henrik Clarke</i> (1915)* <i>Jesse Jackson</i> (1908)* <i>Claude and Shelby Steele</i> (1946)* <i>Brenda Wilkinson</i> (1946)*	2 Crosby Bonsall (1921) <i>St. Clair Drake</i> (1911)* <i>John Hope Franklin</i> (1915)* Oscar Micheaux (1884)*
3 Marcus Cicero (106 B.C.) <i>Mae Jackson</i> (1946)* Lucretia Mott (1793) Morten Nielsen (1922)	4 Louis Braille (1809) Jacob Grimm (1785) Phyllis Naylor (1933) J. R. R. Tolkien (1892)	5 Olympia Brown (1835) <i>Tananarive Due</i> (1966)* Umberto Eco (1932) Ngugi wa Thiong'o (1938)	6 Reyes Cárdenas (1948) Kahlil Gibran (1883) Carl Sandburg (1878) <i>Effie Waller Smith</i> (1879)*	7 Kay Choroa (1936) Shulamith Firestone (1945) <i>Zora Neale Hurston</i> (1891)* <i>Rayford W. Logan</i> (1897)*	8 <i>Cyrus Colter</i> (1910)* <i>Leon Forrest</i> (1937)* Stephen Hawking (1942) Carl Rogers (1902)	9 Carrie C. Catt (1859) Simone de Beauvoir (1908) Judith Krantz (1928) John B. Watson (1878)
10 Remy Charlip (1929) Robinson Jeffers (1887) Caroline Severance (1820) Nicolas Steno (1638)	11 William James (1842) Alan Stewart Paton (1903) Alice C. H. Rice (1870) Edward Titchener (1867)	12 <i>Margaret Danner</i> (1915)* <i>Walter Mosley</i> (1952)* <i>ZZ Packer</i> (1973)* Johann Pestalozzi (1746)	13 <i>Johari Amini</i> (1935)* Michael Bond (1926) Carolyn Heilbrun (1926) Flora Nwapa (1931)	14 <i>John Oliver Killens</i> (1916)* Hugh Lofting (1886) Tillie Olsen (1913) <i>Dudley Randall</i> (1914)*	15 <i>Ernest J. Gaines</i> (1933)* <i>Anthony Grooms</i> (1955)* <i>Martin L. King, Jr.</i> (1929)* <i>William Pickens</i> (1881)*	16 Franz Brentano (1838) Dian Fossey (1932) Laura Riding (1901) Susan Sontag (1933)
17 Anne Brontë (1820) P. Calderón de la Barca (1600) <i>Jewell P. Cobb</i> (1924)* <i>Carl Murphy</i> (1889)*	18 Jacob Bronowski (1908) Rubén Darío (1867) A. A. Milne (1882) Peter Mark Roget (1779)	19 <i>Edwidge Danticat</i> (1969)* <i>John H. Johnson</i> (1918)* <i>Effie Lee Newsome</i> (1885)* Edgar Allan Poe (1809)	20 <i>Jesús Colón</i> (1901)* <i>Sarah Webster Fabio</i> (1928)* <i>E. J. Josey</i> (1924)* <i>Pat Parker</i> (1944)* <i>Samm-Art Williams</i> (1946)*	21 <i>Julia Fields</i> (1938)* Wolfgang Köhler (1887) Leadbelly (1885?) Eliza Roxey Smith (1804)	22 Francis Bacon (1561) (Lord) Byron (1788) Beatrice Webb (1858) Brian Wildsmith (1930)	23 <i>Benjamin Quarles</i> (1904)* <i>Amanda Berry Smith</i> (1837)* <i>Susan L. Taylor</i> (1946)* <i>Derek Walcott</i> (1930)*
24 Vicki Baum (1888) William Congreve (1670) <i>Arthur Schomburg</i> (1874)* Edith Wharton (1862)	25 Robert Burns (1759) Somerset Maugham (1874) <i>Gloria Naylor</i> (1950)* Virginia Woolf (1882)	26 <i>Angela Davis</i> (1944)* <i>May Miller</i> (1899)* Edward Sapir (1884) <i>Ivan Van Sertima</i> (1935)*	27 Lewis Carroll (1832) <i>Lorenz Graham</i> (1902)* <i>Julius Lester</i> (1939)* Hester Lynch (1740?)	28 Colette (1873) <i>Hazel B. Garland</i> (1913)* Kathleen Lonsdale (1903) José Julian Martí (1853)	29 Alice Evans (1881) Germaine Greer (1939) <i>Florida Ruffin Ridley</i> (1861)* <i>Oprah Winfrey</i> (1954)*	30 Lloyd Alexander (1924) Richard Brautigan (1933?) <i>Sterling Plumpp</i> (1940)* Angela Thirkell (1890)
31 Zane Grey (1872) Norman Mailer (1923) Thomas Merton (1915) Oe Kenzaburo (1935)						

## Literacy Lovers

My poems are indelicate. But so is life. **Langston Hughes** (b. 2/1/1902)\*

I revel in the prospect of being able to torture a phrase once more. **S. J. Perelman** (b. 2/1/1904)

When I come to the end of a book, I always think I'll never be able to write again. **Paul Auster** (b. 2/3/1947)

Writers, like teeth, are divided into incisors and grinders. **Walter Bagehot** (b. 2/3/1826)

I love writing. I love the swirl and swing of words as they tangle with human emotions. **James Michener** (b. 2/3/1907)

English / is a foreign anguish. **Marlene Nourbese Philip** (b. 2/3/1947)

Besides Shakespeare and me, who do you think there is? **Gertrude Stein** (b. 2/3/1874)

I only read what I am hungry for at the moment when I have an appetite for it, and then I do not read, I *eat*. **Simone Weil** (b. 2/3/1909)

They ask me if I were on a desert island and knew nobody would ever see what I wrote, would I go on writing. My answer is most emphatically yes, I would go on writing for company. **William S. Burroughs** (b. 2/5/1914)

There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts. **Charles Dickens** (b. 2/7/1812)

Seized with a determination to learn to read, at any cost, I hit upon many expedients to accomplish the desired end.

**Frederick Douglass** (b. 2/7/1817)\*

Writers have a rare power not given to anyone else; we can bore people long after we are dead. **Sinclair Lewis** (b. 2/7/1885)

Poetry is the most concentrated form of literature; it is the most emotionalized and powerful way in which thought can be presented.

**Amy (Lawrence) Lowell** (b. 2/9/1874)

I write . . . what I want to read. **Alice Walker** (b. 2/9/1944)\*

Books think for me. **Charles Lamb** (b. 2/10/1775)

The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read. **Abraham Lincoln** (b. 2/12/1809)

Sometimes the only thing I had to hold on to was knowing I could read, and that could get me through. **Audre Lorde** (b. 2/18/1934)\*

A real book is not one that's read, but one that reads us. **W. H. Auden** (b. 2/21/1907)

The role of the writer is not to say what we can all say, but what we are unable to say. **Anaïs Nin** (b. 2/21/1903)

One of the most effective ways to keep a people enslaved . . . is to create in that people a disrespect and fear of the written and spoken word. **Haki Madhubuti** (b. 2/23/1942)\*

A word has power in and of itself. It comes from nothing into sound and meaning; it gives origin to all things.

**N. Scott Momaday** (b. 2/27/1934)

## Powerful Words

2/13/1689: Before being crowned the United Kingdom's monarchs, William and Mary accepted their subjects' "Declaration of Right," including freedom from royal interference with the judicial system, freedom to petition the monarchs, freedom to elect members of Parliament without interference from the monarchs, freedom of speech in Parliament without fear of repercussions, freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, from excessive bail, and from fines and forfeitures without trial.

2/14/1773: Thomas Paine anonymously published his *Common Sense*, written by 1/10/1773; it sold more than 100,000 copies in its first 3 months.

2/18/1688: Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, petitioned against slavery, asking, "Is there any that would be done or handled at this manner?"

# February, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 G. Stanley Hall (1844) <i>Langston Hughes</i> (1902)* Reynolds Price (1933) Muriel Sarah Spark (1918) <i>Henry M. Turner</i> (1834)*	2 Anna Bauchens (1881) William Rose Benét (1886) <i>Joseph Cotter, Sr.</i> (1861)* James Joyce (1882) Judith Viorst (1931)	3 Horace Greeley (1811) <i>Victor LaValle</i> (1972)* James Michener (1907) Joan Lowery Nixon (1927) <i>Marion Troy Riggs</i> (1957)*	4 Raymond Dart (1893) Betty Friedan (1921) John Hearne (1926) Russell Hoban (1925) Rosa Parks (1913)	5 William Burroughs (1914) Andrew Greeley (1928) Susan Hill (1942) Margaret Millar (1915) (Madame) Sévigné (1626)	6 Mary Leakey (1913) Una M. Marson (1905) <i>William Gardner Smith</i> (1927)* <i>Anne Spencer</i> (1882)* <i>Melvin B. Tolson</i> (1898?)*
7 <i>Darlene Clark Hine</i> (1947)* Sinclair Lewis (1885) <i>Chris Rock</i> (1965)* <i>James M. Trotter</i> (1842)* Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867)	8 Elizabeth Bishop (1911) Kate Chopin (1851) John Grisham (1955) Dmitri Mendeleev (1834) <i>Frances Foster Smith</i> (1944)*	9 Letitia Baldrige (1926) <i>Lloyd Noel Ferguson</i> (1918)* Amy Lowell (1874) Natsume Soseki (1867) <i>Alice Walker</i> (1944)*	10 Fleur Adcock (1934) Bertolt Brecht (1898) E. L. Konigsburg (1930) Charles Lamb (1775) Boris Pasternak (1890)	11 <i>Lydia Maria Child</i> (1802)* Josephine Dodge (1855) <i>Jarena Lee</i> (1783)* <i>Edward C. Williams</i> (1871)* Jane Yolen (1939)	12 Judy Blume (1938) <i>Frank Hercules</i> (1911)* <i>Jewell Parker Rhodes</i> (1954)* <i>Jackie Torrence</i> (1944)* <i>Jacqueline Woodson</i> (1963?)*	13 Eleanor Farjeon (1881) Pauline Frederick (1906?) Helen Gardner (1908) Sarojini Naidu (1879) Georges Simenon (1903)
14 <i>Richard Allen</i> (1760)* <i>Charlotta Bass</i> (1874)* <i>Oliver W. Harrington</i> (1912)* Jamake Highwater (1942) <i>Robert E. Park</i> (1864)*	15 Norman Bridwell (1928) Susan Brownmiller (1935) Galileo Galilei (1564) <i>Beverly Jenkins</i> (1951)* Ibuse Masuji (1898)	16 Henry Adams (1838) <i>St. Claire Bourne</i> (1943)* <i>Maud Cuney Hare</i> (1874)* <i>Ice-T</i> (1958)* <i>William S. Scarborough</i> (1852)*	17 <i>Mary Frances Berry</i> (1938)* Dorothy Canfield (1879) <i>Julia de Burgos</i> (1914)* Chaim Potok (1929) Ruth Rendell (1930)	18 Jean M. Auel (1936) <i>Bebe Moore Campbell</i> (1950)* Ida A. Harper (1851) <i>Audre Lorde</i> (1934)* <i>Toni Morrison</i> (1931)*	19 Nicolaus Copernicus (1473) <i>William P. French</i> (1943)* <i>Eileen Stanza Southern</i> (1920)* Amy Tan (1952) <i>Katherine Tillman</i> (1870)*	20 Adam Black (1784) <i>Ellis Cose</i> (1951)* Russel Crouse (1893) <i>Angelina E. Grimké</i> (1805)* Shiga Naoya (1883)
21 W. H. Auden (1907) Erma Bombeck (1927) Ha Jin (1956) <i>Barbara Jordan</i> (1936)* Anaïs Nin (1903)	22 Jane (Auer) Bowles (1917) Edna St. V. Millay (1892) <i>Ishmael Reed</i> (1938)* <i>William Whipper</i> (1804)* <i>Joseph Willson</i> (1817)*	23 <i>Claude Brown</i> (1937)* <i>W. E. B. Du Bois</i> (1868)* <i>Haki Madhubuti</i> (1942)* Samuel Pepys (1633) Emma Willard (1787)	24 Mary Ellen Chase (1887) Judith Ortiz Cofer (1942) Wilhelm Grimm (1786) George Moore (1852) <i>Daniel A. Payne</i> (1811)*	25 <i>Russell Atkins</i> (1926)* Carlo Goldoni (1707) <i>William Hansberry</i> (1894)* <i>A. L. Higginbotham, Jr.</i> (1928)* <i>George S. Schuyler</i> (1895)*	26 <i>Sara Delaney</i> (1889)* "Fats" Domino (1928)* Victor Marie Hugo (1802) <i>Sharon Bell Mathis</i> (1937)* <i>Robert F. Williams</i> (1925)*	27 <i>Angelina W. Grimké</i> (1880)* <i>Trudier Harris</i> (1948)* <i>C. Hunter-Gault</i> (1942)* <i>Samella S. Lewis</i> (1924)* <i>Thylas Moss</i> (1954)*
28 Ben Hecht (1894?) Michel Montaigne (1533) Linus Pauling (1901) Gabriele Rossetti (1783) Stephen Spender (1909)						

## Literacy Lovers

The word play of Negro kids in the South would make the experimental poets, the modern poets, green with envy. **Ralph (Waldo) Ellison** (b. 3/1/1914)\*

Be careful, think about the effect of what you say. Your words should be constructive, bring people together, not pull them apart. **Miriam Makeba** (b. 3/4/1932)

When / We gloriously forget ourselves and plunge / Soul-forward, headlong, into a book's profound, / Impassioned for its beauty and salt of truth— / 'Tis then we get the right good from a book. **Elizabeth Barrett Browning** (b. 3/6/1806)

In the end all books are written for your friends. **Gabriel García Márquez** (b. 3/6/1928)

A good many young writers make the mistake of enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, big enough for the manuscript to come back in. This is too much of a temptation to the editor. **Ring Lardner** (b. 3/6/1885)

Many ideas grow better when they are transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up. **Oliver Wendell Holmes** (b. 3/8/1841)

Those big-shot writers . . . could never dig the fact that there are more salted peanuts consumed than caviar. **Mickey Spillane** (b. 3/9/1918)

When [ideas] come, I write them; when they don't come, I don't. **Jack Kerouac** (b. 3/12/1922)

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler. **Albert Einstein** (b. 3/14/1879)

I can remember the lush spring of language in childhood. Sitting in church, rolling it around my mouth like marbles—*tabernacle* and *pharisee* and *parable*.

**Penelope Lively** (b. 3/17/1933)

When I write, . . . I think of the books on library shelves, without their jackets, years old, and a countryish teen-aged boy finding them, and having them speak to him. **John Updike** (b. 3/18/1932)

A bit of trash now and then is good for the severest reader. It provides that necessary roughage in the literary diet. **Phyllis McGinley** (b. 3/21/1905)

First and foremost I write for myself. Writing has been for a long time my major tool for self-instruction and self-development.

**Toni Cade Bambara** (b. 3/25/1939)\*

I certainly am glad you like the stories because now I feel it's not bad that I like them so much. The truth is I like them better than anybody and I read them over and over and laugh and laugh, then get embarrassed when I remember I was the one wrote them. **Flannery O'Connor** (b. 3/25/1925)

Writing . . . keeps me from believing everything I read. **Gloria Steinem** (b. 3/25/1934)

All the fun's in how you say a thing. **Robert Lee Frost** (b. 3/26/1874)

My poetry, I should think, has become the way of my giving out what music is within me. **Countee Cullen** (b. 3/30/1903)\*

## Powerful Words

3/2/1807: The U.S. Congress passed a much-argued prohibition against importing slaves from Africa into the United States, effective 1/1/1808.

3/3/1807: Slaveholding President Thomas Jefferson signed the prohibition into law.

3/5/1970: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was ratified and went into effect.

3/17/1965: President Lyndon Baines Johnson sent Congress his Voting Rights Act of 1965, to enforce the voting rights promised by Amendment XIV.

3/18/1963: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled on *Gideon v. Wainwright*, requiring state courts to provide attorneys to criminal defendants if the defendants couldn't afford their own.

3/22/1972: The U.S. Congress proposed the Equal Rights Amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

3/23/1971: The U.S. Congress proposed Amendment XXVI, extending citizenship to persons 18 years of age and older.

# March, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Steven E. Barnes</i> (1952)* <i>Tonya Bolden</i> (1959)* <i>Blanche K. Bruce</i> (1841)* <i>Ralph W. Ellison</i> (1914)* Robert Lowell (Jr.) (1917)	2 Thomas Bodley (1545) <i>Elaine Brown</i> (1943)* Leo Dillon (1933) John Irving (1942) "Dr. Seuss" (1904)	3 Sholem Aleichem (1859) <i>Henry Clay Bruce</i> (1836)* <i>Alexander Crummell</i> (1819)* Patricia MacLachlan (1938) <i>Daniel A. P. Murray</i> (1852)*	4 Giorgio Bassani (1916) William Foyle (1885) <i>Haile Gerima</i> (1946)* Miriam Makeba (1932) Alan Sillitoe (1928)	5 <i>Charles H. Fuller</i> (1939)* Lynn Margulis (1938) Gerardus Mercator (1512) Frank Norris (1870) Howard Pyle (1853)	6 Elizabeth B. Browning (1806) Cyrano de Bergerac (1619) Gabriel Garcia Márquez (1928) Ring Lardner (1885) Juan Luis Vives (1492)
7 Kobo Abe (1924) Luther Burbank (1849) Manuel del Cabral (1907) Alessandro Manzoni (1785) Sara Woods (1922)	8 <i>Marcus B. Christian</i> (1900)* Mouloud Feraoun (1913) José Luis González (1926) Kenneth Grahame (1859) Eric Linklater (1899)	9 William Cobbett (1763) David Garnett (1892) Honoré Mirabeau (1749) Vita Sackville-West (1892) Mickey Spillane (1918)	10 <i>Hallie Quinn Brown</i> (1850)* Henry W. Fowler (1858) Jack Kent (1920) Tekahionwake (1862?) Frances Trollope (1780)	11 <i>Vinnette J. Carroll</i> (1922)* (Madame) d'Épinay (1726) Wanda Gág (1893) Ezra Jack Keats (1916) Torquato Tasso (1544)	12 <i>Alvin Aubert</i> (1930)* John Aubrey (1626) <i>Virginia Hamilton</i> (1936)* Jack Kerouac (1922) <i>Randall Kenan</i> (1963)*	13 Walter Annenberg (1908) Genêt (1892) <i>Yolanda Joe</i> (1962?)* Joseph Priestley (1733) Ellen Raskin (1928)
14 Isabella Beeton (1836) <i>Linda B. Brown</i> (1939)* Marguerite de Angeli (1889) Albert Einstein (1879) Horton Foote (1916)	15 Alice Fletcher (1838) Augusta Gregory (1852) Robert Nye (1939) <i>David Ruggles</i> (1810)* <i>Harriet E. Wilson</i> (1825?)*	16 Caroline Herschel (1750) Alice Hoffman (1952) Georg Simon Ohm (1789) Sully Prudhomme (1839) Pieter C. Hoof (1581)	17 <i>Myrlie Evers-Williams</i> (1933)* Kate Greenaway (1846) Penelope Lively (1933) Norbert Rillieux (1806) <i>Bayard Rustin</i> (1910)*	18 <i>Kathleen C. Collins</i> (1942)* <i>Michael S. Harper</i> (1938)* "Queen Latifah" (1970)* <i>Wilson Pickett</i> (1941)* <i>Frances C. Welsing</i> (1935)*	19 Jose de Anchieta (1534) <i>Barry Beckham</i> (1944)* Minna Canth (1844) Sarah G. Millin (1889?) Irving Wallace (1916)	20 Mitsumasa Anno (1926) <i>Tracy Chapman</i> (1964)* <i>Tom Dent</i> (1932)* <i>Spike Lee</i> (1957)* Ovid (43 B.C.)
21 Geoffrey Dearmer (1893) Lajos Kassák (1887) Phyllis McGinley (1905) Ved Mehta (1934) <i>Pedro Juan Pietri</i> (1943)*	22 <i>Houston A. Baker</i> (1943)* Randolph Caldecott (1846) Cheddi Jagan (1918) Louis L'Amour (1908) Stephen Sondheim (1930)	23 Ama Aidoo (1942) Fannie Farmer (1857) Margaret Farrar (1897) Erich Fromm (1900) Lorenzino de' Medici (1514)	24 Fanny Crosby (1820) L. Ferlinghetti (1919) Dario Fo (1926) <i>Carl Hancock Rux</i> (1968?)* <i>Kalamu ya Salaam</i> (1947)*	25 <i>Toni Cade Bambara</i> (1939)* Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826) Flannery O'Connor (1925) Shimazaki Toson (1872) <i>Roger W. Wilkins</i> (1932)*	26 Robert Frost (1874) A. E. Housman (1859) Elizabeth Howard (1923) Erica Jong (1942) Tennessee Williams (1911)	27 Heinrich Mann (1871) Ruth McCormick (1880) <i>Jess Mowry</i> (1960)* Karl Pearson (1857) Budd Schulberg (1914)
28 Russell Banks (1940) Byrd Baylor (1924) <i>Léon-Gontran Damas</i> (1912)* Maxim Gorky (1868) Teresa of Avila (1515)	29 Alexander Chalmers (1759) Utpal Dutt (1929) Judith Guest (1936) Ricardo Sánchez (1941) <i>Herbert A. Simmons</i> (1930)*	30 Mary Whiton Calkins (1863) <i>Countee Cullen</i> (1903)* Moses Maimonides (1135) Sean O'Casey (1880) Anna Sewell (1820)	31 René Descartes (1596) Mary Abigail Dodge (1833) Octavio Paz (1914) Marge Piercy (1936) Judith Rossner (1935?)			

## Literacy Lovers

Good words are worth much, and cost little. **George Herbert** (b. 4/3/1593)

I am always at a loss to know how much to believe of my own stories. **Washington Irving** (b. 4/3/1783)

Language. I loved it. . . . I never did find a voice I didn't find wonderful and beautiful. **Maya Angelou** (b. 4/4/1928)\*

Few [are] too young, and none too old, to make the attempt to learn. **Booker T. Washington** (b. 4/5/1856)\*

I'm widest awake as a writer doing something new, engaged in a process I'm not sure I can finish, generating at the edge of my powers. Some people bungee jump; I write. **Barbara Kingsolver** (b. 4/8/1955)

The words were living things to her. She sensed them bestriding the air and charging the room with strong colors. **Paule Marshall** (b. 4/9/1929)\*

A book always has a trajectory of its own. It takes you places you did not intend to go and leaves you with thoughts and ideas different from those you had when you began. **David Halberstam** (b. 4/10/1934)

Our liberty depends on freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost. **Thomas Jefferson** (b. 4/13/1743)

I cannot remember a time when I was not in love with them—with the books themselves, cover and binding and the paper they were printed on, with their smell and weight and with their possession in my arms, captured and carried off to myself.

**Eudora Welty** (b. 4/13/1909)

Read—read—read *much*. Read everything. **Henry James** (b. 4/15/1843)

If you can't annoy somebody, there's little point in writing. **Kingsley Amis** (b. 4/16/1922)

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are books that other folk have lent me. **Anatole France** (b. 4/16/1844)

Since we are destined to live out our lives in the prison of our minds, our one duty is to furnish it well. **Peter Ustinov** (b. 4/16/1921)

Did you ever stop to think that a writer will spend three years, or many more, on a book that the average reader will skim through in a few hours?

**Ellen Glasgow** (b. 4/22/1873?)

I have rewritten—often several times—every word I have ever published. My pencils outlast their erasers.

**Vladimir Nabokov** (b. 4/22/ or 4/23/1899)

I don't think there's a single truth to a historical event, but rather multiple truths that historians and novelists deliver to us.

**Charles (Richard) Johnson** (b. 4/23/1948)\*

Literature is a unique resource that articulates and preserves a people's culture. **Coretta Scott King** (b. 4/27/1927)\*

Only after the writer lets literature shape her can she perhaps shape literature. **Annie Dillard** (b. 4/30/1945)

## Powerful Words

4/1–31/2010: National Poetry Month.

4/11/1968: President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which “prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin” in “the sale, rental, and financing of housing.”

4/12–18/2009: National Library Week.

4/16/1963: While being jailed for his protest against segregation, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” admonishing his fellow clerics, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

# April, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Augusta Baker</i> (1911)* <i>Samuel R. Delany</i> (1942)* Sophie Germain (1776) <i>Alberta Hunter</i> (1895)* <i>Gil Scott-Heron</i> (1949)*	2 Hans C. Andersen (1805) <i>Melba Boyd</i> (1950)* Giovanni Casanova (1725) Max Ernst (1891) Émile Zola (1840)	3 <i>James Madison Bell</i> (1826)* <i>Lloyd Brown</i> (1913)* Jane Goodall (1934) George Herbert (1593) Washington Irving (1783)
4 <i>Maya Angelou</i> (1928)* Marguerite Duras (1914) Gloria Rolando (1953) Robert Sherwood (1896) "Bettina" von Arnim (1785)	5 Arthur Hailey (1920) Thomas Hobbes (1588) <i>Chandler Owen</i> (1889)* Algernon Swinburne (1837) <i>Booker T. Washington</i> (1856)*	6 John Pepper Clark (1935) <i>Eugenia Collier</i> (1928)* André Dacier (1651) James Mill (1773) James Dewey Watson (1928)	7 Charles Burney (1726) <i>Cheryl W. Hudson</i> (1948)* Gabriela Mistral (1889) <i>William M. Trotter</i> (1872)* William Wordsworth (1770)	8 Oscar Zeta Acosta (1936) Albion Bacon (1865) <i>Raymond Dandridge</i> (1882)* Johann Günther (1695) Barbara Kingsolver (1955)	9 Charles Baudelaire (1821) <i>Nathan Hare</i> (1934)* <i>Paule Marshall</i> (1929)* <i>Paul Robeson</i> (1898)* <i>Waters Turpin</i> (1910)*	10 Angélico Chávez (1910) <i>Kenneth Edmonds</i> (1959)* David Halberstam (1934) <i>Reginald Shepherd</i> (1963)* <i>James M. Whitfield</i> (1822)*
11 <i>Sharon M. Draper</i> (1952)* Ellen Goodman (1941) Margaret of Navarre (1492) Leo Rosten (1908) Mark Strand (1934)	12 Alan Ayckbourn (1939) <i>Horace R. Cayton</i> (1903)* Beverly Cleary (1916) <i>Toi Derricotte</i> (1941)* Scott Turow (1949)	13 Seamus Heaney (1939) <i>Nella Larsen</i> (1891)* <i>Carl Senna</i> (1944)* Eudora Welty (1909) <i>Rita Williams-Garcia</i> (1957)*	14 James Branch Cabell (1879) Christiaan Huygens (1629) Anne Sullivan (1866) Edward Tolman (1886) Arnold J. Toynbee (1889)	15 Leonardo da Vinci (1452) Nanak Dev Ji (1469) <i>Lofen Mitchell</i> (1919)* <i>A. Philip Randolph</i> (1889)* <i>Omar Tyree</i> (1969)*	16 Anatole France (1844) <i>Essex Hemphill</i> (1957)* Hans Sloane (1660) John Syngé (1871) <i>Eleanora E. Tate</i> (1948)*	17 Isak Dinesen (1885) <i>Billie Holiday</i> (1915)* Cynthia Ozick (1928) <i>Theophilus Steward</i> (1843)* Thornton Wilder (1897)
18 Clarence Darrow (1857) Richard H. Davis (1864) <i>Bob Kaufman</i> (1925)* Thomas Middleton (1580) Leopold Stokowski (1882)	19 Duygu Asena (1946) Echegaray y Eizaguirre (1832) <i>Lani Guinier</i> (1950)* <i>Etheridge Knight</i> (1931)* Sarah K. Knight (1666)	20 Pietro Aretino (1492) Agnes Chase (1869) Adolf Hitler (1889) Philippe Pinel (1745) Carrie Mae Weems (1953)	21 <i>Hal Bennett</i> (1930)* <i>Roscoe Bruce, Sr.</i> (1879)* Charlotte Brontë (1816) <i>Gerald Early</i> (1952)* Friedrich Froebel (1782)	22 <i>Benjamin Brawley</i> (1882)* Paula Fox (1923) Ellen Glasgow (1873?) Immanuel Kant (1724) (Madame) de Staël (1766)	23 <i>Charles R. Johnson</i> (1948)* Jorge M. V. Lima (1895) Ngao Marsh (1899) Max Planck (1858) William Shakespeare (1564)	24 <i>Mumia Abu-Jamal</i> (1954)* Sue Grafton (1940) <i>Kevin Powell</i> (1966)* <i>Nathan A. Scott, Jr.</i> (1925)* Benjamin Whorf (1897)
25 Muhammad Abdullah (1918) Walter de la Mare (1873) John Keble (1792) Maud Hart Lovelace (1892) Claude Mauriac (1914)	26 John Audubon (1785) "Ma" Rainey (1886)* <i>Ted Shine</i> (1931)* <i>Natasha Trethewey</i> (1966)* <i>Marilyn N. Waniek</i> (1946)*	27 Ludwig Bemelmans (1898) <i>Jessie R. Fauset</i> (1882)* <i>Coretta Scott King</i> (1927)* <i>August Wilson</i> (1945)* Mary Wollstonecraft (1759)	28 Margaret Just Butcher (1913) <i>Marita Golden</i> (1950)* <i>Calvin C. Hernton</i> (1934)* Chukwuemeka Ike (1931) Harper Lee (1926)	29 William R. Hearst (1863) <i>Yusef Komunyakaa</i> (1947)* Henri Poincaré (1854) Tey Diana Rebolledo (1937) Rafael Sabatini (1875)	30 Annie Dillard (1945) Carl Gauss (1777) Jaroslav Hašek (1833) John C. Ransom (1888) Alice B. Toklas (1877)	

## Literacy Lovers

Every writer I know has trouble writing. **Joseph Heller** (b. 5/1/1923)

The poems I've written which I've feared no one could really understand are the poems that people respond to most. **May Sarton** (b. 5/3/1912)

Writers, if they are worthy of that jealous designation, do not write for other writers. They write to give reality to experience.

**Archibald MacLeish** (b. 5/7/1892)

No two people read the same book. **Edmund Wilson** (b. 5/8/1895)

For several days after my first book was published I carried it about in my pocket, and took surreptitious peeps at it to make sure the ink had not faded.

**James Barrie** (b. 5/9/1860)

Definition of a classic: a book everyone is assumed to have read and often thinks they have. **Alan Bennett** (b. 5/9/1934)

I find it impossible to write about dumb people. **Stanley Elkin** (b. 5/11/1930)

Writers should be read—but neither seen nor heard. **Daphne du Maurier** (b. 5/13/1907)

Most people don't realize that writing is a craft. You have to take your apprenticeship in it like anything else.

**Katherine Anne Porter** (b. 5/15/1890)

I wanted to choose words that even you / would have to be changed by. **Adrienne Rich** (b. 5/16/1929)

There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it. **Bertrand Russell** (b. 5/18/1872)

My alma mater was books, a good library. **Malcolm X** (b. 5/19/1925)\*

Next o'er his books his eyes began to roll, / In pleasing memory of all he stole. **Alexander Pope** (b. 5/21/1688)

It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.

**Arthur Conan Doyle** (as Sherlock Holmes) (b. 5/22/1859)

There is a loving way with words and an unloving way. And it is only with the loving way that the simplicity of language becomes beautiful.

**Margaret Wise Brown** (b. 5/23/1910)

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads. \* \* \* 'Tis the good reader that makes the good book.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson** (b. 5/25/1803)

When I was a child I loved to read. . . . Books brought me the greatest satisfaction. **Jamaica Kincaid** (b. 5/25/1949)\*

No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting. **Mary Wortley Montagu** (baptized 5/26/1689)

You shouldn't pay very much attention to anything writers say. They don't know why they do what they do. **John Barth** (b. 5/27/1930)

The dirtiest book of all is the expurgated book. **Walt Whitman** (b. 5/31/1819)

## Powerful Words

5/2/1911: The Wisconsin state legislature passed the nation's first Worker's Compensation Act upheld by both the state and the U.S. Supreme Courts. As of 11/1/1911, it guaranteed compensation to workers injured on the job. By 1948, all U.S. states, as well as Hawaii and Alaska, had similar laws.

5/11–17/2009: National Children's Book Week, promoted by the Children's Book Council — relish reading enjoyable books to young ones.

5/16/1763: Biographer's Day, the day James Boswell met Samuel Johnson.

5/17/1954: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, overturning the 1896 "separate but equal" segregation doctrine established by the notorious *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision.

# May, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Sterling Allen Brown</i> (1901)* <i>Evelyn B. Granville</i> (1924)* <i>Max C. Robinson</i> (1939)*
2 <i>Nannie Burroughs</i> (1879)* (Edith) Somerville (1858) Benjamin Spock (1903)	3 <i>Septima P. Clark</i> (1898)* Niccolò Machiavelli (1469) <i>Lillie Patterson</i> (1917)*	4 Thomas H. Huxley (1825) <i>Dori J. Maynard</i> (1958)* <i>Alice Randall</i> (1959)*	5 Nellie Bly (1867) <i>Adam C. Powell, Sr.</i> (1865)* <i>Douglas T. Ward</i> (1930)*	6 <i>Martin R. Delany</i> (1812)* Sigmund Freud (1856) Theodore H. White (1915)	7 <i>Fenton Johnson</i> (1888)* Rabindranath Tagore (1861) <i>Darwin T. Turner</i> (1931)*	8 Peter Benchley (1940) <i>Louise Meriwether</i> (1923)* Gary Snyder (1930)
9 Eleanor Estes (1906) <i>Rudolph Fisher</i> (1897)* Joy Harjo (1951) José Ortega y Gasset (1883)	10 <i>Henry Bibb</i> (1815)* <i>Jayne Cortez</i> (1936)* <i>Christopher P. Curtis</i> (1953)* <i>Suzan-Lori Parks</i> (1963)*	11 <i>Edward Brathwaite</i> (1930)* Isaac D'Israeli (1766) Richard Feynman (1918) Joanne Oppenheim (1934)	12 Edward Lear (1812) <i>Nellie Y. McKay</i> (1930?)* Farley Mowat (1921) <i>Albert L. Murray</i> (1916)*	13 Alphonse Daudet (1840) Daphne du Maurier (1907) Norma Klein (1938) "Stevie Wonder" (1950)*	14 François de Callières (1645) José S. Chocano (1875) Timothy Dwight (1752) Maria Fornés (1930)	15 L. Frank Baum (1856) Giselle Fernandez (1961) Katherine A. Porter (1890) <i>Alvin Poussaint</i> (1934)*
16 <i>Cyrus Cassells</i> (1957)* Anne McCormick (1881) Adrienne Rich (1929) Studs Terkel (1912)	17 <i>Eloise Greenfield</i> (1929)* Robin Maugham (1916) Alfonso Reyes (1889) <i>Joel Elias Spingarn</i> (1875)*	18 Dantès Bellegarde (1877) Paul Gascoigne (c. 1525) Lillian Hoban (1925) Bertrand Russell (1872)	19 Nora Ephron (1941) <i>Tom Feelings</i> (1933)* <i>Lorraine Hansberry</i> (1930)* <i>Malcolm X</i> (1925)*	20 Margery Allingham (1904) Honoré de Balzac (1799) <i>Lydia Cabrera</i> (1900)* John Stuart Mill (1806)	21 <i>Regina Anderson</i> (1901)* Alexander Pope (1688) <i>Marguerite Ross-Barnett</i> (1942)* Vicki Ruiz (1955)	22 <i>Thulani Davis</i> (1948?)* Arnold Lobel (1933) Giuseppe Parini (1729) <i>Olympia Vernon</i> (1973)*
23 Margaret Wise Brown (1910) Margaret Fuller (1810) Thomas Hood (1799) Carolus Linnaeus (1707) Scott O'Dell (1898)	24 Bob Dylan (1941) Lillian Gilbreth (1878) Ynes Mexia (1870) Arthur Wing Pinero (1855) Helen Taussig (1898)	25 <i>Joanne M. Braxton</i> (1950)* <i>Jamaica Kincaid</i> (1949)* <i>David Levering Lewis</i> (1936)* <i>Joyce Carol Thomas</i> (1938)* <i>Dorothy Porter Wesley</i> (1905)* <i>Jay Wright</i> (1935)*	26 Abd al-Qadir (1807) Edmond Goncourt (1822) Richard Lederer (1938) Charles d'Orléans (1391) Robert M. Yerkes (1876)	27 Rachel Carson (1907) John Cheever (1912) Elizabeth Haldane (1862) Dashiell Hammett (1894) <i>Victoria Matthews</i> (1861)*	28 <i>Cyril V. Briggs</i> (1888)* Ian Fleming (1908) Lizzie Black Kander (1858) May Swenson (1919) Patrick White (1912)	29 G. K. Chesterton (1874) <i>Aaron McGruder</i> (1974)* <i>Ronald Milner</i> (1938)* T. H. White (1906) <i>Marvin X</i> (1944)*
30 <i>Elizabeth Alexander</i> (1962)* Millicent Selsam (1912) Cornelia Skinner (1901) <i>Albery A. Whitman</i> (1851)*	31 Rudolphus Agricola (1443) Walt Whitman (1819) Judith Wright (1915) <i>Al Young</i> (1939)*					

## Literacy Lovers

There should be no distinction between what we write down and what we really know. **Allen Ginsberg** (b. 6/3/1926)

Live always in the best company when you read. **Sydney Smith** (b. 6/3/1771)

If I knew what the meanings of my books were, I wouldn't have bothered to write them. **Margaret Drabble** (b. 6/5/1939)

One writes to make a home for oneself, on paper, in time, in others' minds. **Alfred Kazin** (b. 6/5/1915)

Words do wonderful things. They sound purr. They can urge, they can wheedle, whip, whine. They can sing, sass, singe. They can churn, check, channelize. They can be a hup, 2, 3, 4. They can forge a fiery army out of a hundred languid men. **Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks** (b. 6/7/1917)\*

A poem is a way of capturing a moment. **Nikki Giovanni** (b. 6/7/1943)\*

When you're writing a book, you're in it, and it isn't until you have finished it and see it as a book . . . that you step back and think, what was I doing? **Sara Paretsky** (b. 6/8/1947)

I don't know exactly how it's [writing's] done. I let it alone a good deal. **Saul Bellow** (b. 6/10/1915)

Books without knowledge of life are useless. **Ben Jonson** (b. 6/11/1572)

A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. **William Styron** (b. 6/11/1925)

If I read a book that impresses me, I have to take myself firmly in hand before I mix with other people. **Anne Frank** (b. 6/12/1929) Anne's voice tumbled out of the book, so full of life, moods, curiosity, feelings. . . . She was alive again in my mind. Miep Gies

Authors before they write should read. **Fanny (née Frances) Burney** (b. 6/13/1752)

The final measure of the greatness of all peoples is the amount and standard of the literature and art they have produced.

**James Weldon Johnson** (b. 6/17/1871)\*

Words could incite, soothe, destroy, exorcise, redeem. **Gail Godwin** (b. 6/18/1937)

Literature is the one place in any society where, within the secrecy of our own heads, we can hear voices talking about everything in every possible way. **Salman Rushdie** (b. 6/19/1947)

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore? **Henry Ward Beecher** (b. 6/24/1813)

Literature is my Utopia. Here I am not disfranchised. No barrier of the senses shuts me out from the sweet, gracious discourse of my book-friends. They talk to me without embarrassment or awkwardness. **Helen Keller** (b. 6/27/1880)

## Powerful Words

6/4/1919: The U.S. Senate joined the House in proposing Amendment XIX to the U.S. Constitution, offering women *suffrage*, the right to vote.

6/13/1866: The U.S. Congress proposed Amendment XIV to the U.S. Constitution: “. . . All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

6/13/1966: The U.S. Supreme court ruled on *Miranda v. Arizona*, ensuring that criminal defendants be advised of their rights against self-incrimination and to consult with an attorney before being questioned by the police.

6/25/1938: The U.S. Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act, prohibiting “oppressive child labor,” setting a national minimum wage, and requiring time-and-a-half overtime pay for overtime work in many jobs.

# June, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 James Daugherty (1889) John Drinkwater (1882) Caroline Hentz (1800) John Masfield (1878) <i>Arthenia J. Millican</i> (1920)*	2 <i>Addison Gayle, Jr.</i> (1932)* <i>Clarence Page</i> (1947)* <i>Victor Séjour</i> (1817)* <i>Cornel West</i> (1953)* <i>Dorothy West</i> (1907)*	3 Allen Ginsberg (1926) William Hone (1780) <i>Curtis Mayfield</i> (1942)* Larry McMurtry (1936) Sydney Smith (1771)	4 Mabel Lucie Attwell (1879) <i>Evelyn Higginbotham</i> (1945)* Mary Kingsley (1852) Ruth Westheimer (1928) <i>Charles S. Wright</i> (1932)*	5 Ruth Benedict (1887) F. García Lorca (1898) Bill Moyers (1934) <i>Orlando Patterson</i> (1940)* Richard Scarry (1919)
6 <i>Raymond Andrews</i> (1934)* <i>Marian W. Edelman</i> (1939)* <i>Julian Mayfield</i> (1928)* <i>Sarah P. Remond</i> (1826)* <i>A'Lelia Walker</i> (1885)*	7 Elizabeth Bowen (1899) <i>Gwendolyn Brooks</i> (1917)* <i>David Driskell</i> (1931)* <i>Nikki Giovanni</i> (1943)* Deborah Tannen (1945)	8 Francis Crick (1916) Sara Paretsky (1947) <i>Dori Sanders</i> (1930?)* Kate Wilhelm (1928) Marguerite Yourcenar (1903)	9 S. N. Behrman (1893) Patricia Cornwell (1956) Weedon Grossmith (1854) <i>T. D. Jakes</i> (1957)* Bertha von Suttner (1843)	10 Saul Bellow (1915) Grace Mirabella (1930) Terence Rattigan (1911) Maurice Sendak (1928) Edward O. Wilson (1929)	11 Maxine Baca Zinn (1942) <i>Charlotte Brown</i> (1883)* Athol Fugard (1932) Anne N. Royall (1769) <i>Eulalie Spence</i> (1894)*	12 Djuna Barnes (1892) Brigid Brophy (1929) Anne Frank (1929) Harriet Martineau (1802) Johanna Spyri (1827)
13 Luis Alvarez (1911) Fanny Burney (1752) <i>Latoya Hunter</i> (1978)* Dorothy Sayers (1893) William Butler Yeats (1865)	14 John Bartlett (1820) Che Guevara (1928) <i>Jill Nelson</i> (1952)* <i>Harriet Beecher Stowe</i> (1811)* <i>John Edgar Wideman</i> (1941)*	15 Ana Castillo (1953) <i>James A. Emanuel</i> (1921)* Erik Erikson (1902) Kobayashi Issa (1763) <i>John Marrant</i> (1755)*	16 <i>Marita Bonner</i> (1899)* Mary K. Goddard (1736?) Joyce Carol Oates (1938) José P. Rizal (1861) <i>Tupac Shakur</i> (1971)*	17 John Hersey (1914) <i>James W. Johnson</i> (1871)* <i>Robert C. Maynard</i> (1937)* <i>Louis Peterson</i> (1922)* <i>Carl Van Vechten</i> (1880)*	18 "Corky" Gonzales (1928) <i>Angela Johnson</i> (1961)* <i>John R. Keene</i> (1965)* Anna Lenngren (1754) <i>Ellesee Southerland</i> (1943)*	19 Thomas Fuller (1608) <i>Sutton E. Griggs</i> (1872)* Mari-Luci Jaramillo (1928) Pauline Kael (1919) Blaise Pascal (1623)
20 Juan Bruce-Novoa (1944) <i>Charles W. Chesnutt</i> (1858)* <i>E. Lynn Harris</i> (1955)* <i>Drusilla D. Houston</i> (1876)* <i>Charlemae Rollins</i> (1897)*	21 <i>Gerald W. Barrax</i> (1933)* Arnold Gesell (1880) Robert Kraus (1925) Mary McCarthy (1912) <i>Ann Shockley</i> (1927)*	22 <i>Octavia Butler</i> (1947)* <i>Katherine Dunham</i> (1909?)* Julian Huxley (1887) Harriet Lothrop (1844) Erich Maria Remarque (1898)	23 Anna Akhmatova (1889) Jean Anouilh (1910) <i>Charles E. Cobb, Jr.</i> (1943)* Alfred Kinsey (1894) Alan Turing (1912)	24 Ambrose Bierce (1842) John Ciardi (1916) Rebecca Davis (1831) Anita Desai (1937) <i>Courtnei Wright</i> (1950)*	25 Eric Carle (1929) Harriet Mann Miller (1831) <i>Beatrice M. Murphy</i> (1908)* Rose Cecil O'Neill (1874) George Orwell (1903)	26 <i>Michael Baisden</i> (1963)* William Broonzy (1893) <i>Barbara Chase-Riboud</i> (1939)* <i>Mary E. Mebane</i> (1933)* <i>William J. Simmons</i> (1849)*
27 <i>Lucille Clifton</i> (1936)* <i>Paul Laurence Dunbar</i> (1872)* Emma Goldman (1869) <i>M. Carl Holman</i> (1919)* Helen Keller (1880)	28 Paul Broca (1824) Maria Goepfert-Mayer (1906) Mark Helprin (1947) Luigi Pirandello (1867) Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712)	29 <i>Stokely Carmichael</i> (1941)* Giacomo Leopardi (1798) Virginia Pope (1885) A. de Saint-Exupéry (1900) James Van Der Zee (1886)	30 John Gay (1685) Mollie Hunter (1922) Eleanor F. Lattimore (1904) David McPhail (1940) Czeslaw Milosz (1911)			

## Literacy Lovers

A book ought to be an icepick to break up the frozen sea within us. **Franz Kafka** (b. 7/3/1883)

I write fiction because it's a way of making statements I can disown. I write plays because dialogue is the most respectable way of contradicting myself.

**Tom Stoppard** (b. 7/3/1937)

The greatest possible mint of style is to make the words absolutely disappear into the thought. **Nathaniel Hawthorne** (b. 7/4/1804)

When I was about eight, I decided that the most wonderful thing, next to a human being, was a book. **Margaret Walker** (b. 7/7/1915)\*

I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves.

**Anna Quindlen** (b. 7/8/1953)

The whole world opened to me when I learned to read. **Mary McLeod Bethune** (b. 7/10/1875)

Masterpieces are no more than the shipwrecked flotsam of great minds. **Marcel Proust** (b. 7/10/1871)

No one can write decently who is distrustful of the reader's intelligence, or whose attitude is patronizing. **E. B. White** (b. 7/11/1899)

Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it short. **Henry David Thoreau** (b. 7/12/1817)

Idiom is larger than geography; it is the hot breath of a people. **Mari Evans** (b. 7/16/1923)\*

We raked books off the shelves by the dozen and hauled them along on picnics, to haylofts, up oak trees, to bath and to bed. **Kathleen Norris** (b. 7/16/1880)

In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot or will not read. **S. I. Hayakawa** (b. 7/18/1906)

Talent is helpful in writing, but guts are absolutely necessary. **Jessamyn West** (b. 7/18/1902?)

Mastery of language affords remarkable power. **Frantz Fanon** (b. 7/20/1925)

I have tried simply to write the best I can; sometimes I have good luck and write better than I can. **Ernest Hemingway** (b. 7/21/1899)

When a book, any sort of book, reaches a certain intensity of artistic performance it becomes literature. That intensity may be a matter of style, . . . or half a dozen other things. **Raymond Chandler** (b. 7/23/1888)

Every man who knows how to read has it in his power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant, interesting. **Aldous Huxley** (b. 7/26/1894)

The writer who aims at producing the platitudes which are "not for an age but for all time" has his reward in being unreadable in all ages.

**George Bernard Shaw** (b. 7/26/1856)

## Powerful Words

7/8/1777: The Vermont Republic's constitution abolished slavery, the first of the future U.S. states to do so: "Chapter I. a Declaration of the Rights of the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont. I. That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. Therefore, no male person, born in this country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law, to serve any person, as a servant, slave or apprentice, after he arrives to the age of twenty-one Years, nor female, in like manner, after she arrives to the age of eighteen years, unless they are bound by their own consent, after they arrive to such age, or bound by law, for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like.

7/15/1834: A royal decree definitively abolished the Spanish Inquisition.

7/21/1972: George Carlin was arrested for violating obscenity laws with his "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television"; the charges were later dismissed.

# July, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Thomas Dorsey</i> (1899)* <i>Harryette Mullen</i> (1953)* "George Sand" (1804) Jean Stafford (1915) <i>Walter F. White</i> (1893)*	2 <i>Ed Bullins</i> (1935)* <i>James D. Corrothers</i> (1869)* Hermann Hesse (1877) <i>Thurgood Marshall</i> (1908)* <i>Richard Nugent</i> (1906)*	3 <i>Cecil Brown</i> (1943)* M. F. K. Fisher (1908) Charlotte P. Gilman (1860) Franz Kafka (1883) <i>Gertrude Mossell</i> (1855)*
4 Cristina Garcia (1958) Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804) <i>Ted Joans</i> (1928)* <i>Ted Poston</i> (1906)* Neil Simon (1927)	5 <i>Jesse Max Barber</i> (1878)* George Borrow (1803) Jean Cocteau (1889) <i>Naomi Madgett</i> (1923)* <i>Robert D. Pharr</i> (1916)*	6 Bessie Head (1937) V. von Heidenstam (1859) Dhan Gopal Mukerji (1890) <i>Randall Robinson</i> (1941)* Alexander Wilson (1766)	7 Camillo Golgi (1843?) Robert A. Heinlein (1907) <i>Helene Johnson</i> (1906)* Nettie Maria Stevens (1861) <i>Margaret Walker</i> (1915)*	8 <i>Gwendolyn Bennett</i> (1902)* Alfred Binet (1857) Jean de la Fontaine (1621) Shirley Ann Grau (1929) Anna Quindlen (1953)	9 Franz Boas (1858) <i>June Jordan</i> (1936)* <i>Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe</i> (1951)* Oliver Sacks (1933)	10 <i>Arthur Ashe Jr.</i> (1943)* E. Clerihew Bentley (1875) Alice Munro (1931) Marcel Proust (1871) <i>Noble Sissle</i> (1889)*
11 Thomas Bowdler (1754) L. de Gongora y Argote (1561) Patricia Polacco (1944) <i>Richard Wesley</i> (1945)* E. B. White (1899)	12 <i>Bill Cosby</i> (1937)* Pablo Neruda (1904) Lucy Fitch Perkins (1865) <i>Beah Richards</i> (1926)* Henry D. Thoreau (1817)	13 <i>Donald Bogle</i> (1944)* Marcia Brown (1918) <i>Ashley Bryan</i> (1923)* <i>Sam Greenlee</i> (1930)* Wole Soyinka (1934)	14 <i>Maulana Karenga</i> (1941)* <i>Willard Motley</i> (1909)* Peggy Parish (1927) Politian (1454) <i>Spencer Williams</i> (1893)*	15 Thomas Bulfinch (1796) Dorothy Fields (1905) Clement C. Moore (1779) Iris Jean Murdoch (1919) Maggie Lena Walker (1867)	16 <i>Frank R. Crosswaith</i> (1892)* <i>Mari Evans</i> (1923)* <i>Barbara Lee</i> (1946)* <i>Assata Shakur</i> (1947)* <i>Ida B. Wells</i> (1862)*	17 Shmuel Agnon (1888) Erle S. Gardner (1889) Karla Kuskin (1932) Frank Snowden (1911) Christina Stead (1902)
18 <i>Lemuel Haynes</i> (1753)* Laurence Housman (1865) Thomas S. Kuhn (1922) Margaret Laurence (1926) Jessamyn West (1902?)	19 A. J. Cronin (1896) <i>Alice D. Nelson</i> (1875)* Herbert Marcuse (1898) Eve Merriam (1916?) Rosalyn Yalow (1921)	20 <i>Henry L. Dumas</i> (1934)* Frantz Fanon (1925) (Sir) Edmund Hillary (1919) (Sir) Richard Owen (1804) Petrarch (1304)	21 Hart Crane (1899) Mónica Lozano (1956) <i>Charles L. Reason</i> (1818)* <i>Chuck Stone</i> (1924)* Diana R. Trilling (1905)	22 Stephen V. Benét (1898) <i>Carollivia Herron</i> (1947)* S. E. Hinton (1948) Gregor Mendel (1822) Margery Williams (1881)	23 Lisa Alther (1944) <i>Kelly Miller</i> (1863)* <i>Carl Phillips</i> (1959)* Robert Quackenbush (1929) <i>Quincy Troupe</i> (1943)*	24 <i>Kenneth B. Clark</i> (1914)* Alexander Dumas ( <i>père</i> ) (1802) Zelda Fitzgerald (1900?) Robert Graves (1895) <i>Charles S. Johnson</i> (1893)*
25 R. Arévalo Martinez (1884) <i>Angela Jackson</i> (1951)* Ruth Krauss (1901?) Akinari Ueda (1734) <i>George B. Vashon</i> (1824?)*	26 Austin C. Clarke (1934) Steven Cosgrove (1945) Aldous Huxley (1894) Carl Jung (1875) George B. Shaw (1856)	27 Hillaire Belloc (1870) Alexander Dumas ( <i> fils</i> ) (1824) Elizabeth Hardwick (1916) <i>Woodie King, Jr.</i> (1937)* Bharati Mukherjee (1940)	28 Natalie Babbitt (1932) <i>Diane Oliver</i> (1943)* Karl Popper (1902) Beatrix Potter (1866) Manoel R. Querino (1851)	29 <i>Chester Himes</i> (1909)* Stanley Kunitz (1905) Don Marquis (1878) Booth Tarkington (1869) José Manuel Valdés (1767)	30 Emily Brontë (1818) <i>Elizabeth Haynes</i> (1883)* <i>Anita Faye Hill</i> (1956)* Giorgio Vasari (1511) Jose A. Villarreal (1924)	31 Lynne Reid Banks (1929) John Canton (1718) Ndabaningi Sithole (1920) Mary Walcott (1860) <i>Whitney M. Young</i> (1921)*

## Literacy Lovers

Events, not books should be forbid. **Herman Melville** (b. 8/1/1819)

Let us secure not such books as people want, but books just above their wants, and they will reach up to take what is put out for them.

**Maria Mitchell** (b. 8/1/1818)

You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive.

**James A. Baldwin** (b. 8/2/1924)\*

You can lie to your wife or your boss, but you cannot lie to your typewriter. Sooner or later you must reveal your true self in your pages.

**Leon Uris** (b. 8/3/1924)

The poet's pleasure in finding ingenious ways to enclose her secrets should be matched by the reader's pleasure in unlocking and revealing these secrets. **Diane Wakoski** (b. 8/3/1937)

[My poetry is] a way of coming to grips with reality . . . of discovery . . . of solving for the unknowns. **Robert Hayden** (b. 8/4/1913)\*

Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds. **Percy Bysshe Shelley** (b. 8/4/1792)

A people's literature is the great text-book for real knowledge of them. **Edith Hamilton** (b. 8/12/1867)

Talk of the happiness of getting a great prize in the lottery! What is that to the opening of a box of books! **Robert Southey** (b. 8/12/1774)

The only thing I was fit for was to be a writer, and this notion rested solely on my suspicion that I would never be fit for any real work, and that writing didn't require any. **Russell Baker** (b. 8/14/1925)

There is no denying the fact that writers should be read but not seen. **Edna Ferber** (b. 8/15/1885?)

Provoking, isn't it? that when one is most in need of sensible words, one finds them not. **Charlotte L. Forten (Grimké)** (b. 8/17/1837?)\*

Hiring someone to write your autobiography is like hiring someone to take a bath for you. **Mae West** (b. 8/17/1892?)

Poets aren't very useful. / Because they aren't consumeful or very produceful. **Ogden Nash** (b. 8/19/1902)

I have always come to life after coming to books. **Jorge Luis Borges** (b. 8/24/1889)

Just remember that reading is an art, and it is under just as much threat as writing. So please keep at it. **Martin Amis** (b. 8/25/1949)

The only fence against the world is a thorough knowledge of it. **John Locke** (b. 8/29/1632)

## Powerful Words

8/5/1100: On his coronation, King Henry I of England issued his written Charter of Liberties, in which he formally bound the English king to obey particular laws, and he prohibited various abuses of royal power.

8/20/1964: President Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act, launching Head Start, Job Corps, Vista, and other programs of his "War on Poverty."

8/28/1963: At the March on Washington, about 200,000 people heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., say, "We . . . remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. . . . Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. . . . though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' . . ."

8/29/1962: The U.S. Congress proposed Amendment XXIV, to eliminate the poll tax intended to prevent poor folks, especially African Americans, from voting.

# August, 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Jean B. Lamarck (1744) Rose Macaulay (1881) <i>Benjamin E. Mays</i> (1894)* Herman Melville (1819) <i>Jackie Ormes</i> (1911)*</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Isabel Allende (1942) <i>James A. Baldwin</i> (1924)* Ethel M. Dell (1881) <i>Nell Irvin Painter</i> (1942)* <i>Philippa D. Schuyler</i> (1931)*</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Edward W. Blyden (1832) H. ibn Ali Bourguiba (1903) P. D. James (1920) Leon Uris (1924) Diane Wakoski (1937)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><i>Nick Aaron Ford</i> (1904)* <i>Robert Hayden</i> (1913)* <i>Iceberg Slim</i> (1918)* <i>Barack Obama</i> (1961)* <i>Robert Purvis</i> (1810)* <i>Sapphire</i> (1950)*</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Mary Ritter Beard (1876) <i>James H. Cone</i> (1938)* John Eliot (1604) Guy de Maupassant (1850) <i>Gertrude E. Rush</i> (1880)*</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Lorna Cervantes (1954) <i>Donna Hill</i> (1955)* Shirley Ann Jackson (1946) <i>Susie Taylor</i> (1848)* "Dora" Wordsworth (1804)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><i>Ralph Bunche</i> (1904)* Betsy Byars (1928) Paulina Davis (1813) Ernesto Galarza (1905) Excilia Saldaña (1946)</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Alurista (1947) <i>Matthew A. Henson</i> (1866)* Jan Pienkowski (1936) Marjorie K. Rawlings (1896) Sara Teasdale (1884)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><i>Patricia McKissack</i> (1944)* John Oldham (1653) Jean Piaget (1896) P. L. Travers (1906?) Izaak Walton (1593)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Jorge Amado (1912) <i>Anna Julia Cooper</i> (1858?)* <i>J. E. Franklin</i> (1937)* <i>Janet A. McDonald</i> (1953)* <i>Era Bell Thompson</i> (1905?)*</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Enid Blyton (1897) Louise Bogan (1897) Don Freeman (1908) <i>Alex Haley</i> (1921)* <i>Carl T. Rowan</i> (1925)*</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Katherine Lee Bates (1859) Edith Hamilton (1867) <i>Walter Dean Myers</i> (1937)* Mary R. Rinehart (1876) Robert Southey (1774)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Anders Ångström (1814) William Caxton (1415?) Joycelyn Elders (1933) George Grove (1820) Alfred Hitchcock (1899)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>Molefi Kete Asante</i> (1942)* Russell Baker (1925) <i>Ernest Everett Just</i> (1883)* <i>Ethel L. Payne</i> (1911)* Danielle Steel (1947)</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Julia Child (1912) Gerty Cori (1896) Linda Ellerbee (1944) Edna Ferber (1885?) (Sir) Walter Scott (1771)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Beatrice de Regniers (1914) Jean de La Bruyère (1645) <i>Louis E. Lomax</i> (1922)* <i>Wallace Thurman</i> (1902)* <i>Wyatt Tee Walker</i> (1929)*</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Pierre de Fermat (1601) <i>Charlotte Forten</i> (1837?)* <i>Marcus Garvey</i> (1887)* <i>Archibald Grimké</i> (1849)* Mae West (1892?)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Brian Aldiss (1925) Paula Danziger (1944) Meriwether Lewis (1774) Elsa Morante (1918) Alain Robbe-Grillet (1922)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>James G. Cozzens (1903) John Dryden (1631) Mary Belle Harris (1874) Joaquim Nabuco (1849) Ogden Nash (1902)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Thomas Corneille (1625) Edgar A. Guest (1881) Maria Louise Pool (1841) Salvatore Quasimodo (1901) Roger Sperry (1913)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Aubrey Beardsley (1872) X. J. Kennedy (1929) Caroline Leigh (1926) <i>Lorenzo D. Turner</i> (1890)* <i>Melvin Van Peebles</i> (1932)*</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Kung Tzu-chen (1792) <i>S. Lawrence-Lightfoot</i> (1944)* Dorothy Parker (1893) Beatus Rhenanus (1485) <i>Sekou Sundiata</i> (1945)*</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Jose A. Burciaga (1940) Erlinda B. Gonzales (1942) Constant Lambert (1905) Arnold Toynbee (1852) Sarah Whiting (1847)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Jorge Luis Borges (1889) A. S. Byatt (1936) <i>J. D. Green</i> (1813)* Oscar Hijuelos (1951) Jean Rhys (1894)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Kjeld Abell (1901) Martin Amis (1949) Bret Harte (1836) Bill Nye (1850) <i>Sherley A. Williams</i> (1944)*</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Julio Cortázar (1914) Earl Derr Biggers (1884) Barbara Ehrenreich (1941) Zona Gale (1874) Antoine Lavoisier (1743)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Confucius (551 B.C.) Nancy Friday (1938) Georg Hegel (1770) <i>William Patterson</i> (1891)* <i>Robert Lee Vann</i> (1879)*</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><i>Rita Dove</i> (1952)* Roger Duvoisin (1904) Johann von Goethe (1749) <i>Carlene H. Polite</i> (1932)* <i>Patricia J. Williams</i> (1951)*</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Anna Ella Carroll (1815) René Depestre (1926) Sarah B. Elliott (1848) Oliver Holmes (Sr.) (1809) John Locke (1632)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Virginia Lee Burton (1909) <i>Donald Crews</i> (1938)* Laurent de Brunhoff (1925) Mary W. Shelley (1797) <i>Roy Wilkins</i> (1901)*</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><i>Eldridge Cleaver</i> (1935)* <i>Dubose Heyward</i> (1885)* Maria Montessori (1870) <i>Josephine Ruffin</i> (1842)* <i>Lorenzo Thomas</i> (1944)*</p>				

## Literacy Lovers

I had once tried to write, had once reveled in feeling, had let my crude imagination roam, but the impulse to dream had been slowly beaten out of me by experience.

Now it surged up again and I hungered for books, new ways of looking and seeing. **Richard Wright** (b. 9/4/1908)\*

A writer's ambition should be to trade a hundred contemporary readers for ten readers in ten years' time and one reader in a hundred years' time.

**Arthur Koestler** (b. 9/5/1905)

I can make you spend hours finding out about somebody that you would not invite to your dining table. **David (Henry) Bradley, Jr.** (b. 9/7/1950)\*

I love smooth words, like gold-enameled fish / Which circle slowly with a silken swish. **Elinor Wylie** (b. 9/7/1885)

Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will be grasped at once. **Cyril Connolly** (b. 9/10/1903)

The novel is the highest example of subtle interrelatedness that man has discovered. **D. H. (David Herbert) Lawrence** (b. 9/11/1885)

There are no dull subjects. There are only dull writers. **H. L. (Henry Louis) Mencken** (b. 9/12/1880)

I think the whole glory of writing lies in the fact that it forces us out of ourselves and into the lives of others.

**Sherwood Anderson** (b. 9/13/1876)

It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous.

**Robert Benchley** (b. 9/15/1889)

It was clear that the books owned the shop rather than the other way about. Everywhere they had run wild and taken possession of their habitat.

**Agatha Christie** (b. 9/15/1890)

In literacy lay freedom for the black slave. **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** (b. 9/16/1950)\*

The greatest part of a writer's time is spent in reading, in order to write; a man will turn over half a library to make one book.

**Samuel Johnson** (b. 9/18/1709)

There is nothing so important as the book can be. **Maxwell E. Perkins** (b. 9/20/1884)

I'm sorry that I have written you a five-page letter. I didn't have time to write a one-page letter. **Philip Dormer Stanhope Chesterfield** (b. 9/22/1694)

This is part of the writer's calling: to look at our potentialities. **Alexis Deveau** (b. 9/24/1948)\*

Read, read, read. Read everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. **William Faulkner** (b. 9/25/1897)

It is poetry that changes everything. **bell hooks** (b. 9/25/1952?)\*

There are men that will make you books and turn 'em loose into the world with as much dispatch as they would do a dish of fritters.

**Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra** (b. 9/29/1547)

## Powerful Words

9/14/1918: For a speech he gave opposing the WWI draft on 4/16/1918, Eugene Debs was convicted of violating the Espionage Act and sentenced to 10 years in prison. On 12/25/1921, President Harding commuted his sentence to time served. He welcomed Debs to the White House, "I have heard so damned much about you, Mr. Debs, that I am very glad to meet you personally." In 1924, Debs was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

9/14/2001: Representative Barbara Lee (CA) cast the only vote against Bush's "use-of-force" resolution, a vote for which she has received death threats.

9/17/1787: The U.S. Congress adopted the U.S. Constitution.

9/24/1965: President Lyndon Baines Johnson issued Executive Order 11246, requiring government contractors to "take affirmative action" to counteract prior discriminatory practices in all aspects of employment, including hiring.

# September, 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Edgar R. Burroughs (1875) Anna B. Comstock (1854) Karl August Folkers (1906) <i>Rosa Cuthbert Guy</i> (1925?)* Lily Tomlin (1939)	2 Allen Drury (1918) Estebán Echeverría (1805) <i>James Forten</i> (1766)* Lucretia P. Hale (1820) Giovanni Verga (1840)	3 Aliko (Brandenberg) (1929) <i>Annie E. Delany</i> (1891)* <i>Malcolm Gladwell</i> (1963)* <i>Charles H. Houston</i> (1895)* Sarah Orne Jewett (1849)	4 Katherine Biddle (1902) Syd Hoff (1912) <i>Lewis Latimer</i> (1848)* Mary Renault (1905) <i>Richard Wright</i> (1908)*
5 Tomaso Campanella (1568) Cathy Guisewhite (1950) Arthur Koestler (1905) <i>Larry Neal</i> (1937)* <i>Frank G. Yerby</i> (1916)*	6 Jane Addams (1860) Catharine Beecher (1800) Zelia Nuttall (1857) <i>Joel Augustus Rogers</i> (1880)* Felix Salten (1869)	7 <i>David Bradley, Jr.</i> (1950)* <i>Jean B. Hutson</i> (1914)* August Kekulé (1829) Edith Sitwell (1887) Elinor Wylie (1885)	8 Ludovico Ariosto (1474) Ann Beattie (1947) Jack Prelutsky (1940) Esther Rome (1945) Jon Scieszka (1954)	9 <i>Delilah Beasley</i> (1871?)* <i>Sarah Douglass</i> (1806)* <i>Otis Redding</i> (1941)* <i>Sonia Sanchez</i> (1934)* <i>Mildred P. Walter</i> (1922)*	10 <i>Hoyt Fuller</i> (1923)* <i>Georgia D. Johnson</i> (1877)* <i>John R. Lynch</i> (1847)* <i>John F. Matheus</i> (1887)* Thomas Sydenham (1624)	11 Joanna Baillie (1762) <i>Jewelle Gomez</i> (1948)* "O. Henry" (1862) <i>Joseph H. Jackson</i> (1900)* Pierre de Ronsard (1524)
12 Amílcar Cabral (1924) Irene (Joliot-)Curie (1897) <i>Kristin Hunter</i> (1931)* Alfred A. Knopf (1892) H. L. Mencken (1880)	13 <i>Adrienne Kennedy</i> (1931)* <i>Alain Locke</i> (1886)* <i>Eugene Perkins</i> (1932)* <i>Danzy Senna</i> (1970)* <i>Mildred D. Taylor</i> (1943)*	14 William Armstrong (1914) A. von Humboldt (1769) Kate Millett (1934) Margaret Sanger (1883?) <i>John Steptoe</i> (1950)*	15 Tomie de Paola (1934) <i>Claude McKay</i> (1889?)* <i>Anne Moody</i> (1940)* <i>Nancy G. Prince</i> (1799)* <i>Theodore Ward</i> (1902)*	16 <i>Claude A. Barnett</i> (1889)* <i>Henry L. Gates, Jr.</i> (1950)* "B. B." King (1925)* <i>James McPherson</i> (1943)* H. A. Rey (1898)	17 Elizabeth Enright (1909) Ken Kesey (1935) Agostinho Neto (1922) F. Quevedo y Villegas (1580) Mary Stewart (1916)	18 Agnes De Mille (1905) Samuel Johnson (1709) Laura Villela Sabia (1916) <i>Anna D. Smith</i> (1950)* Joseph Story (1779)
19 <i>Sarah Delany</i> (1889)* William Golding (1911) <i>James S. Haskins</i> (1941)* Penelope Mortimer (1918) Arthur Rackham (1867)	20 Judith Baca (1946) Maxwell E. Perkins (1884) Upton Sinclair (1878) "Stevie" (Florence Margaret) Smith (1902)	21 Stephen King (1947) Allen Lane (1902) Marsha Norman (1947) H. G. Wells (1866) Taro Yashima (1908)	22 Philip Chesterfield (1694) <i>Julianne Malveaux</i> (1953)* Alice Meynell (1847) Esphyr Slobodkina (1908) Fay Weldon (1931)	23 Euripides (c. 480 B.C.) <i>George Jackson</i> (1941)* John Avery Lomax (1875?) <i>Mary E. C. Terrell</i> (1863)* Victoria Woodhull (1838)	24 <i>Alexis Deveau</i> (1948)* <i>E. Franklin Frazier</i> (1894)* <i>Frances Harper</i> (1825)* <i>Jessie Carney Smith</i> (1930)* Horace Walpole (1717)	25 Fannie F. Andrews (1867) William Faulkner (1897) Felicia Hemans (1793) "bell hooks" (1952)* William Rossetti (1829)
26 T. S. Eliot (1888) Martin Heidegger (1889) <i>Bernice McFadden</i> (1965)* Ivan Pavlov (1849) <i>Ellen Tarry</i> (1906)*	27 Louis Auchincloss (1917) George Cruikshank (1792) Louis Johnson (1924) Myrtle Reed (1874) Bernard Waber (1924)	28 <i>James E. Campbell</i> (1867)* Prosper Mérimée (1803) <i>David Walker</i> (1785)* Kate Douglas Wiggin (1856) Frances Willard (1839)	29 Stan Berenstain (1923) Colin Dexter (1930) Enrico Fermi (1901) Elizabeth Gaskell (1810) Kondraty F. Ryleyev (1795)	30 Truman Capote (1924) Edgar d'Aulaire (1898) Laura Esquivel (1950) Alvin Tresselt (1916) Elie Wiesel (1928)		

## Literacy Lovers

Poetry is an effort to express the unexpressable in terms of the unforgettable. **Louis Untermeyer** (b. 10/1/1885)

I didn't invent the world I write about—it's all true. **Graham Greene** (b. 10/2/1904)

Books . . . are all I have, . . . and I live with them constantly. **Wallace Stevens** (b. 10/2/1879)

Always there should be books—chosen more to divert than to strain the reader's attention. **Emily Post** (b. 10/3/1873?)

A writer is someone who writes, that's all. You can't stop it; you can't make yourself do anything else but that. **Gore Vidal** (b. 10/3/1925)

Publishing is a very mysterious business. It is hard to predict what kind of sale or reception a book will have, and advertising seems to do very little good. **Thomas Wolfe** (b. 10/3/1900)

“Verbatim.” Every writer's answer, in her or his heart, to the question, “How would you like to be remembered?”

**Roy Blount, Jr.** (b. 10/4/1941)

I love my readers. They're the only ones I know that have never told me to shut up! **Anne Rice** (b. 10/4/1941)

Writing, which is my form of celebration and prayer, is also my way of inquiry. **Diane Ackerman** (b. 10/7/1948)

As I stared at the books, I suddenly understood that I didn't know a hell of a lot about anything. What it was that seemed to move me then was that learning was *important*. **Amiri Baraka** (b. 10/7/1934)\*

Great writers leave us not just their words, but a way of looking at things. **Elizabeth Hall Janeway** (b. 10/7/1913)

A man is a fool not to put everything he has, at any given moment, into what he is creating. . . . It's a matter of just sitting down and working. I have never had the problem of a writing block. **Frank Herbert** (b. 10/8/1920)

Good writing excites me, and makes life worth living. **Harold Pinter** (b. 10/10/1930)

Writing is a labor of love and also an act of defiance, a way to light a candle in a gale wind. **Alice Childress** (b. 10/12/1916?)\*

Isn't it a joy—there is hardly a greater one—to find a new book, a living book, and to know that it will remain with you while life lasts?

**Katherine Mansfield** (b. 10/14/1888)

A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. **Italo Calvino** (b. 10/15/1923)

Literature anticipates life. It does not copy it, but molds it to its purpose. **Oscar Wilde** (b. 10/16/1854)

Reading, to me, is simply the expansion of one's mind to include some people whom you just didn't get to meet before.

**Ntozake Shange** (b. 10/18/1948)\*

I was born with the impression that what happened in books was much more reasonable, and interesting, and real, in some ways, than what happened in life. **Anne Tyler** (b. 10/25/1941)

When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes. **Desiderius Erasmus** (b. 10/26–27/1466?)

Love the words. **Dylan Marlais Thomas** (b. 10/27/1914)

## Powerful Words

10/9/1990: The U.S. government issued a written apology and the first of 82,210 \$20,000 checks to Japanese Americans (or their heirs) unjustly imprisoned in internment camps during WWII. Almost 120,000 had been interned.

10/16/1758: Dictionary Day, honoring lexicographer Noah Webster's birth.

10/31/1517: Martin Luther nailed his theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, questioning Catholic Church practices and Papal authority.

# October, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Faith Baldwin (1893) Jerome Bruner (1915) <i>John B. Russwurm</i> (1799)* Louis Untermeyer (1885)	2 Hannah Adams (1755) Graham Greene (1904) Wallace Stevens (1879) <i>Nat Turner</i> (1800)*
3 <i>T. Thomas Fortune</i> (1856)* <i>Talib Kweli</i> (1975)* <i>Geraldine Trotter</i> (1872)* <i>Henry Van Dyke</i> (1928)*	4 Roy Blount, Jr. (1941) Munro Leaf (1905) <i>Bernice J. Reagon</i> (1942)* Alvin Toffler (1928)	5 Denis Diderot (1713) <i>Edward P. Jones</i> (1950)* <i>Neil deGrasse Tyson</i> (1958)* Gene Zion (1913)	6 Richard Dedekind (1831) Caroline Gordon (1895) Thor Heyerdahl (1914) Rebecca Lobo (1973)	7 Diane Ackerman (1948) <i>Amiri Baraka</i> (1934)* <i>Frank L. Brown</i> (1927)* Elizabeth Janeway (1913)	8 <i>"Bill" Greaves</i> (1926)* <i>Jesse Jackson, Sr.</i> (1941)* John Cowper Powys (1872) <i>Faith Ringgold</i> (1930)*	9 <i>Mary Ann S. Cary</i> (1823)* <i>Elton C. Fax</i> (1909)* Tadeusz Rozewicz (1921) Léopold Senghor (1906)
10 Frederick Barthelme (1943) James Clavell (1924) James Marshall (1942) Harold Pinter (1930) Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941)	11 Carlos Arniches (1866) Russell Freedman (1929) Harriet Hawes (1871) Elmore Leonard (1925) Ethel Mannin (1900)	12 <i>Alice Childress</i> (1916?)*, <i>William Cobb</i> (1904)*, <i>Borden Deal</i> (1922)*, <i>Charles Gordone</i> (1925)*, <i>Dick Gregory</i> (1932)*, <i>Joyce A. Ladner</i> (1943)*, <i>Ann Petry</i> (1908)*, <i>William Raspberry</i> (1935)*	13 <i>Arna Bontemps</i> (1902)* Lenny Bruce (1926?) <i>Colin Channer</i> (1963)* <i>Saunders Redding</i> (1906)* <i>Askia M. Touré</i> (1938)*	14 Hannah Arendt (1906) e. e. cummings (1894) Miles Franklin (1879) Lois Lenski (1893) Katherine Mansfield (1888)	15 John K. Galbraith (1908) Helen Hunt Jackson (1830) <i>Conrad Kent Rivers</i> (1933)* <i>Victoria R. Spivey</i> (1906)* Virgil (70 B.C.)	16 Robert Ardrey (1908) Günter Grass (1927) Noah Webster (1758) Oscar Wilde (1854) <i>George W. Williams</i> (1849)*
17 <i>Lerone Bennett</i> (1928)* Elinor Glyn (1864) <i>Jupiter Hammon</i> (1711?)* <i>Samuel R. Ward</i> (1817)*	18 <i>Mamie P. Clark</i> (1917)* <i>Joyce Hansen</i> (1942)* <i>Terry McMillan</i> (1951)* <i>Ntozake Shange</i> (1948)*	19 Miguel Asturias (1899) <i>Johnnetta B. Cole</i> (1936)* Edward Emberley (1931) Lewis Mumford (1895)	20 Frederic Bartlett (1886) John Dewey (1859) Crockett Johnson (1906) Robert Pinsky (1940)	21 <i>(F.) Ai (Ogawa)</i> (1947)* Samuel Coleridge (1772) Ursula Le Guin (1929) <i>Ahmos Zu-Bolton, III</i> (1935)*	22 <i>Julie Dash</i> (1952)* Abigail S. Duniway (1834) Doris Lessing (1919) John Reed (1887)	23 <i>Michael Eric Dyson</i> (1958)* Marjorie Flack (1897) <i>Wade Hudson</i> (1946)* Pierre Larousse (1817)
24 Sara J. B. Hale (1788) Moss Hart (1904) A. v. Leeuwenhoek (1632) Denise Levertov (1923)	25 Carolyn Bailey (1875) Thomas Macaulay (1800) <i>Nathaniel Mackey</i> (1947)* Anne Tyler (1941)	26 John Arden (1930) Edward Brooke, III (1919) <i>Mahalia Jackson</i> (1911)* Steven Kellogg (1941)	27 Enid Bagnold (1889) <i>Ruby Dee</i> (1927)* Maxine H. Kingston (1940) Dylan Thomas (1914)	28 Ayi Kwei Armah (1939?) Anna Dickinson (1842) Auguste Escoffier (1846) Ishikawa Takuboku (1885)	29 James Boswell (1740) <i>Josephine B. Bruce</i> (1853)* Othniel C. Marsh (1831) Guillermo Valencia (1873)	30 Rudolfo A. Anaya (1937) <i>James T. Holly</i> (1829)* <i>Colleen McElroy</i> (1935)* Irma Rombauer (1877)
31 John Evelyn (1620) John Keats (1795) <i>Ethel Waters</i> (1896)*						

## Literacy Lovers

It has been said that writing comes more easily if you have something to say. **Sholem Asch** (b. 11/1/1880)

I don't make jokes—I just watch the government and report the facts. **Will Rogers** (b. 11/4/1879)

Those who write clearly have readers; those who write obscurely have commentators. **Albert Camus** (b. 11/7/1913)

I hoard books. They are people who do not leave. **Anne Sexton** (b. 11/9/1928)

I wrote the scenes . . . by using the same apprehensive imagination that occurs in the morning before an afternoon's appointment with my dentist.

**John P. (Phillips) Marquand** (b. 11/10/1893)

Bad books are about things the writer already knew before he wrote them. **Carlos Fuentes** (b. 11/11/1928)

This is what I find most encouraging about the writing trades: They allow mediocre people who are patient and industrious to revise their stupidity, to edit themselves into something like intelligence. **Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.** (b. 11/11/1922)

Any writer overwhelmingly honest about pleasing himself is almost sure to please others. **Marianne Moore** (b. 11/15/1887)

Poetry is where the language is renewed. **Margaret Eleanor Atwood** (b. 11/18/1939)

Writing is making sense of life. **Nadine Gordimer** (b. 11/20/1923)

Language is very difficult to put into words. **Voltaire** (b. 11/21/1694)

I easily sink into mere absorption of what other minds have done, and should like a whole life for that alone.

**George Eliot (néé Mary Ann Evans)** (b. 11/22/1819)

Authors who please everyone at once are quickly exhausted. **André Gide** (b. 11/22/1869)

I am as interested in *how* things are said as I am in what is said. **Gayl Jones** (b. 11/23/1949)\*

It's not the answer that enlightens, but the question. **Eugène Ionesco** (b. 11/26/1912)

Most people like reading about what they already know. **Nancy Mitford** (b. 11/28/1904)

That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit. (**Amos**) **Bronson Alcott** (b. 11/29/1799)

No matter how true I believe what I am writing to be, if the reader cannot also participate in that truth, then I have failed.

**Madeleine L'Engle** (b. 11/29/1918)

Personally I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught. **Winston Churchill** (b. 11/30/1874)

## Powerful Words

11/1/2010: National Author's Day (started in 1929, by the General Federation of Women's Clubs). Also, National Family Literacy Day.

11/3/1986: The Lebanese magazine *Ash-Shiraa* exposed the Iran-Contra weapons-for-hostages deal of the Ronald Reagan Administration.

11/7/1693: King Carlos II of Spain proclaimed his promise of freedom to any English slaves who escaped to Florida. In October 1687, Florida's Governor Cendoya had already freed 11 fugitive slaves who arrived there. Afterward, hundreds of English slaves fled *south* to freedom in Florida.

11/7/1973: Both houses of the U.S. Congress managed to override President Nixon's veto of the War Powers Resolution. It clarifies the constitutional authority of the President versus the Congress, limiting presidential authority to send U.S. forces into hostilities unless Congress declares war.

11/24/1859: Charles Darwin officially published *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection, or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (printed 10/1/1859); booksellers had bought every copy 2 days earlier.

# November, 2010

\* Italics indicate authors highlighted in *Encyclopedia of African-American Writing: Five Centuries of Contribution* (2009), by Shari Dorantes Hatch.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Margaret Burroughs</i> (1917)* Stephen Crane (1871) <i>William M. Kelley</i> (1937)* <i>Nancy H. Maynard</i> (1946)* Nicholasa Mohr (1938?)	2 George Boole (1815) <i>Michelle Cliff</i> (1946)* Odysseus Elytis (1911) Shere Hite (1942) Georges Sorel (1847)	3 Gyo Fujikawa (1908) Lucan (39) André Malraux (1901) Evelyn Nieves (1959) <i>Tom Weatherly</i> (1942)*	4 Ciro Alegria (1909) <i>Francis J. Grimké</i> (1850)* G. E. Moore (1873) Will Rogers (1879) Alex Shoumatoff (1946)	5 Will Durant (1885) Anna Leonowens (1834) <i>Willis Richardson</i> (1889)* Hans Sachs (1494) Ida M. Tarbell (1857)	6 Colley Cibber (1671) James Jones (1921) Cesare Lombroso (1836) Mike Nichols (1931) Harold W. Ross (1892)
7 Albert Camus (1913) Marie Curie (1867) <i>Nathan C. Heard</i> (1936)* Margaret Leech (1893) Konrad Lorenz (1903)	8 Horace Mann Bond (1904) Dorothy Day (1897) Hermann Rorschach (1884) Bram Stoker (1847) <i>Kevin Young</i> (1970)*	9 <i>Benjamin Banneker</i> (1731)* Allama M. Iqbal (1877) Florence Sabin (1871) Carl Sagan (1934) Anne Sexton (1928)	10 M. Cota-Cárdenas (1941) Oliver Goldsmith (1730) William Hogarth (1697) Martin Luther (1483) Mabel Todd (1856)	11 Gordon Allport (1897) Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821) <i>Shirley G. Du Bois</i> (1896?)* Carlos Fuentes (1928) Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922)	12 Baha'u'llah (1817) Tracy Kidder (1945) Marjorie Sharmat (1928) Elizabeth C. Stanton (1815) Ben Travers (1886)	13 Augustine of Hippo (354) <i>Wanda Coleman</i> (1946)* <i>Whoopi Goldberg</i> (1949)* <i>Arnold Rampersad</i> (1941)* C. Vann Woodward (1908)
14 Astrid Lindgren (1907) Charles Lyell (1797) Miska Miles (1899) William Steig (1907) Taha Hussein (1889)	15 Sara J. Baker (1873) Richmal Crompton (1890) David McCord (1897) Marianne Moore (1887) Daniel Pinkwater (1941)	16 Chinua Achebe (1930) <i>Paula Giddings</i> (1947)* <i>W. C. Handy</i> (1873)* George S. Kaufman (1889) <i>Barbara Smith</i> (1946)*	17 Jean d'Alembert (1717) Eliza Farnham (1815) Shelby Foote (1916) August F. Möbius (1790) Auberon Waugh (1939)	18 <i>Tina McElroy Ansa</i> (1949)* Margaret Atwood (1939) "Dorothy Dix" (1861) George Gallup (1901) <i>Howard Thurman</i> (1900)*	19 <i>William Attaway</i> (1911)* Dick Cavett (1936) <i>Lyda M. Merrick</i> (1890)* Sharon Olds (1942) <i>Francis Whipper</i> (1845)*	20 Thomas Chatterton (1752) Nadine Gordimer (1923) Selma Lagerlöf (1858) <i>E. Ethelbert Miller</i> (1950)* <i>Pauli Murray</i> (1910)*
21 Beryl Bainbridge (1932?) <i>Arthur P. Davis</i> (1904)* Marilyn French (1929) Elizabeth Speare (1908) "Voltaire" (1694)	22 Abigail Adams (1744) Abby Morton Diaz (1821) "George Eliot" (1819) André Gide (1869) <i>Valerie W. Wesley</i> (1947)*	23 Trudy D. Haynes (1926) <i>Gayl Jones</i> (1949)* <i>Dorothy Sterling</i> (1913)* Marie Van Vorst (1867) Maurice Zolotow (1913)	24 <i>Robert S. Abbott</i> (?) (1868)* Margaret Anderson (1886?) Frances H. Burnett (1849) Carlo Collodi (1826) Baruch Spinoza (1632)	25 Ba Jin (1904) Marc Brown (1946) Helen Santmyer (1895) Lewis Thomas (1913) Lope de Vega (1562)	26 William Cowper (1731) <i>Sarah M. Grimké</i> (1792)* Charles M. Schulz (1922) Mary Walker (1832) <i>Afaa M. Weaver</i> (1951)*	27 James Agee (1909) <i>Barbara Brandon</i> (1958?)* Fanny Kemble (1809) Elsie Crews Parsons (1875) José Asunción Silva (1865)
28 <i>Owen Dodson</i> (1914)* Friedrich Engels (1820) Carol Gilligan (1936) <i>Lance Jeffers</i> (1919)* Claude Lévi-Strauss (1908)	29 Louisa May Alcott (1832) Christian Doppler (1803) <i>Sarah Jones</i> (1974)* Madeline L'Engle (1918) <i>Adam C. Powell, Jr.</i> (1908)*	30 <i>Shirley Chisholm</i> (1924)* <i>C. S. Giscombe</i> (1950)* <i>Tayari Jones</i> (1970)* <i>"Brownie" McGhee</i> (1915)* <i>Gordon Parks (Sr.)</i> (1912)*				

## Literacy Lovers

Of all books, novels, which the Muses should love, make a serious claim on our compassion. **Joseph Conrad** (b. 12/3/1857)

The oldest books are still only just out to those who have not read them. **Samuel (“Erewhon”) Butler** (b. 12/4/1835)

The best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self-activity. **Thomas Carlyle** (b. 12/4/1795)

I write entirely to find out what I’m thinking, what I’m looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear. **Joan Didion** (b. 12/5/1934)

Every good story . . . must leave in the mind of the sensitive reader an intangible residuum of pleasure. **Willa Cather** (b. 12/7/1873)

The secret of all good writing is sound judgment. **Horace** (b. 12/8/65 B.C.)

The devoted writer of humor must continue to try to come as close to the truth as he can, even if he gets burned in the process.

**James Grover Thurber** (b. 12/8/1894)

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit. **John Milton** (b. 12/9/1608)

If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry. **Emily Elizabeth Dickinson** (b. 12/10/1830)

Writing is a dog’s life, but the only life worth living. **Gustave Flaubert** (b. 12/12/1821)

No author is a man of genius to his publisher. **Heinrich Heine** (b. 12/13/1797)

I put the poem on paper by sense and touch, much like a blind person fumbling in the dark for light. **Carolyn M. Rodgers** (b. 12/14/1945)\*

Literature is the last banquet between minds. **Edna O’Brien** (b. 12/15/1930?)

Breathe-in experience, breathe-out poetry. **Muriel Rukeyser** (b. 12/15/1913)

It is very worthwhile to be tormented for two or three years of one’s life, for the sake of being able to read all the rest of it. **Jane Austen** (b. 12/16/1775)

The words! I collected them in all shapes and sizes, and hung them like bangles in my mind. **Hortense Calisher** (b. 12/20/1911)

When I want to read a novel I write one. **Benjamin Disraeli** (b. 12/21/1804)

I write books to find out about things. **Rebecca West** (b. 12/21/1892)

Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret of style. **Matthew Arnold** (b. 12/24/1822)

Any fool may write a most valuable book by chance, if he will only tell us what he heard and saw with veracity.

**Thomas Gray** (b. 12/26/1716)

Writing, like life itself, is a voyage of discovery. **Henry Miller** (b. 12/26/1891)

In the case of books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.

**Mortimer Adler** (b. 12/28/1902)

## Powerful Words

12/10/1948: The United Nations General Assembly adopted its Declaration of Human Rights. In 1950, it proclaimed this day to be Human Rights Day.

12/15/1791: The U.S. Bill of Rights was ratified, including I. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” IV. “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, . . .” V. “No person shall be . . . compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . . .”

12/30/1971: Daniel Ellsberg was indicted for releasing the Pentagon Papers.

# December, 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Christine Ladd-Franklin</i> (1847) <i>Richard Pryor</i> (1940)* <i>Eugene Redmond</i> (1937)* Berta V. Scharrer (1906) <i>Paulette C. White</i> (1948)*	2 Sissela Bok (1934) Juana de la Cruz (1648) Nikos Kazantzákis (1885?) David Macaulay (1946) <i>Charles H. Wesley</i> (1891)*	3 Joseph Conrad (1857) Anna Freud (1895) Mary Lamb (1764) John von Neumann (1903) Ellen H. S. Richards (1911)	4 Samuel Butler (1835) Thomas Carlyle (1795) Persius (34) Rainer Rilke (1874) A. L. Rowse (1903)
5 Joan Didion (1934) Christina Rossetti (1830) Kate Simon (1912) Calvin Trillin (1935) <i>John A. Williams</i> (1925)*	6 <i>William Braithwaite</i> (1878)* Ira Gershwin (1896) <i>Akasha Hull</i> (1944)* Libbie H. Hyman (1888) Joyce Kilmer (1886)	7 Willa Cather (1873) Noam Chomsky (1928) <i>Pearl Cleage</i> (1948)* Virginia Kirkus (1893) Constance Skinner (1877)	8 Mary Bateson (1939) Mary Gordon (1949) Horace (65 B.C.) Delmore Schwartz (1913) James Thurber (1894)	9 <i>Samuel W. Allen</i> (1917)* <i>Joel C. Harris</i> (1848)* John Milton (1608) Dalton Trumbo (1905) <i>Sarah E. Wright</i> (1928)*	10 Melvil Dewey (1851) Emily Dickinson (1830) Ada Lovelace (1815) Nelly Sachs (1891) <i>Geneva Smitherman</i> (1940)*	11 <i>Leslie E. Banks</i> (1959)* Annie J. Cannon (1863) Birago Ismael Diop (1906) Nagib Mahfuz (1911) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918)
12 <i>Barbara Christian</i> (1943)* Erasmus Darwin (1731) <i>Mary Monroe</i> (1949?)* <i>Brenda M. Osbey</i> (1957)* <i>Lillian E. Smith</i> (1897)*	13 Emily Carr (1871) Marc Connelly (1890) William Hamilton (1730) Heinrich Heine (1797) Laurens Van der Post (1906)	14 <i>Stanley Crouch</i> (1945)* <i>John M. Langston</i> (1829)* <i>Raymond Patterson</i> (1929)* <i>Carolyn Rodgers</i> (1945)* <i>Claudia Tate</i> (1946)*	15 <i>Donald Goines</i> (1937)* <i>Kathryn Johnson</i> (1878?)* <i>Andy Razaf</i> (1895)* <i>Eslanda Robeson</i> (?) (1896)* Muriel Rukeyser (1913)	16 Jane Austen (1775) Marie Hall Ets (1893) Margaret Mead (1901) <i>George L. Ruffin</i> (1834)* (Jorge) Santayana (1863)	17 Erskine Caldwell (1903) Deborah S. Gannett (1760) William Safire (1929) Harriet Upton (1853) John G. Whittier (1807)	18 <i>Ossie Davis</i> (1917)* Gladys R. H. Dick (1881) <i>Everett Hoagland</i> (1942)* <i>Eric Walrond</i> (1898)* Charles Wesley (1707)
19 Eve Bunting (1928) Margaret Livermore (1820) Su Dongpo (c. 1036) Eleanor Porter (1868) <i>Carter G. Woodson</i> (1875)*	20 Sandra Cisneros (1954) <i>"Bo Diddley"</i> (1928)* Susanne Langer (1895) <i>William C. Nell</i> (1816)* <i>William J. Wilson</i> (1935)*	21 Heinrich Böll (1917) Gertrude B. Lane (1874) Mary Virginia Terhune (1830) Rebecca West (1892) Frank Zappa (1940)	22 Sara Coleridge (1802) <i>Sam Cornish</i> (1935)* <i>Percival Everett II</i> (1956)* <i>James Amos Porter</i> (1905)* <i>Chancellor Williams</i> (1898?)*	23 Avi (Wortis) (1937) Robert Bly (1926) J-F. Champollion (1790) <i>Henry H. Garnet</i> (1815)* Harriet Monroe (1860)	24 Fernan Caballero (1796) Elizabeth Chandler (1807) Mary Higgins Clark (1931) Juan Ramón Jiménez (1881) Ignatius of Loyola (1491)	25 Carlos Castañeda (1925) <i>William Demby</i> (1922)* <i>Benjamin Tanner</i> (1835)* Lila A. Wallace (1889) Dorothy Wordsworth (1771)
26 Charles Babbage (1792) <i>Lonne Elder, III</i> (1931)* Thomas Gray (1716) <i>Jean Toomer</i> (1894)* Mao Zedong (1893)	27 Ingrid d'Aulaire (1904) Meg Greenfield (1930) Johannes Kepler (1571) Charles Olson (1910) Louis Pasteur (1822)	28 Pio Baroja y Nessi (1872) Arthur Eddington (1882) Emily Cheney Neville (1919) Manuel Puig (1932) Catharine Sedgwick (1789)	29 Joaquín Acosta (1799?) Molly Bang (1943) Ovid Densusianu (1873) <i>Robert C. Weaver</i> (1907)* <i>S. Tookie Williams</i> (1953)*	30 Paul Bowles (1910) Rudyard Kipling (1865) Sara Lidman (1923) <i>Rose Leary Love</i> (1898)* Mercer Mayer (1943)	31 Pamela Bianco (1906) <i>Frank M. Davis</i> (1905)* <i>Amy E. J. Garvey</i> (1896)* <i>Clarence Major</i> (1936)* Andreas Vesalius (1514)	(January 1, 2011)

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