

Sherman Alexie (b. 1966)



- He is from mixed Native American heritage. (Colville, Flathead, and Spokane)
- He grew up on a Spokane Reservation in Wellpinit, Washington.
- He suffered from hydrocephalus as a child, though he overcame it to become a basketball player.
- He attended high school outside of the reservation, which contributed to his interest in pop culture and diversity.
- He is interested in humor (even working at times as standup comedian)
- He examines the looming vestiges of colonialism
- He also explores the individual's ability to achieve some measure of agency
- He embraces the Native American tradition of having poetry tell stories. However, he also includes improvisational forms in his poetry.
- Some of his work includes:
 - *The Business of Fancydancing: Stories and Poems*
 - *Reservation Blues*
 - *Indian Killer*
 - *Flight*
 - *One Stick Song*
 - *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*
 - *Smoke Signals* (film)

Louise Erdrich (b. 1954)



- Raised in Wahpeton, North Dakota.
- Her mother is French (Turtle Mountain) Chippewa and her father is German American.
- Her grandmother was tribal chairman on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.
- She received her BA from Dartmouth College and a MFA from Johns Hopkins University
- She received the National Book Critics Circle Award and she was a finalist for a Pulitzer in 2008
- Much of her work deals with intersections between Native and Anglo American cultures; More specifically she deals with questions of identity for “mixed-blood” Native Americans.
- Her poetry is reflective of the story telling models of Native American oral expression which focus on storytelling.
- Her work also is concerned with correcting the static view of Native American women, which casts them as secondary in Native American society or in stereotypical roles.
- Some of her works include:
 - *Love Medicine*
 - *The Beet Queen*
 - *Tracks*
 - *The Bingo Place*
 - *Original Fire*
 - *Jacklight*
 - *Baptism of Fire*
 - *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*
 - *The Plague of Doves*

Craig Womack



- He is of Creek/Cherokee Ancestry
- He received his Ph.D. Degree from the University of Oklahoma.
- In 1997, he received Wordcraft Circle Storyteller of the Year award
- In 2000, he received the Wordcraft Circle Writer of the Year Award for his work *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism*
- He is both a Native American literary critic and author of fiction.
- He argues that Native American Literature should not be viewed through a postcolonial framework because such a framework originates from outside of the community.
- He wants Native Americans to develop literary theory that originates from individual traditions/ tribes.
 - Such theory should be entrenched in:
 - Geography
 - Individual Cultural Traditions
 - Language
 - Traditional Culture
- Some of his works include:
 - *Fiction and Politics: Issues of Activism in Native Novel*
 - *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism*
 - *Drowning in Fire*
 - *Art as performance, Story as Criticism: Reflections on Native Literary Aesthetics*

Maxine Kingston



- She was born to Chinese immigrants in 1940.
- Prior to immigration, her father was a poet and teacher. Her mother was a rural doctor.
- She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley.
- She desires her work to mediate between the past and the present, emphasizing the circular nature of time.
- Her texts also seek to emphasize Asian American nativity, eschewing xenophobic notions that render Asian Americans un-American.
- She received a National Book Critics' circle Award for *The Woman Warrior*, which was published in 1976.
- Some of her works include:
 - *The Woman Warrior: Memories of A Girlhood Among Ghosts*
 - *China Men*
 - *Tripmaster Monkey*
 - *The Fifth Book of Peace*

Naomi Shihab Nye



- Born March 12, 1952 in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Her father was Palestinian and her mother was American.
- She spent her childhood in Palestine, Jerusalem, and Texas.
- She graduated from Trinity University with a degree in English and World Religions.
- She received the Isabella Gardner poetry Ward Award
- She was elected the Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2010.
- Some of her works include:
 - *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*
 - *Fuel*
 - *Red Suitcase*
 - *Hugging the Jukebox*
 - *You and Yours*
 - *Sitti's Secrets*
 - *Habibi*

Moshin Hamid



- Born July 23, 1971 in Lahore, Pakistan.
- He spent part of his early life in the United States. His father was a college professor.
- He attended Princeton and Harvard Law School.
- He had the opportunity to study with Toni Morrison and Joyce Carol Oats
- He lives in Lahore, Pakistan with his wife and two children. However, he likes to think of himself as nomadic.
- He was short listed for the National Book Critics Circle Award and Man Booker Prize among others
- He is a proponent of migration and many of his works address the similarities between his homeland and America.
- Some of his works include:
 - *Moth Smoke*
 - *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
 - *How to get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*
 - *Exit West*