

Distinguished Australian Literary Writers and their Contributions to English Literature

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Abstract: Australian literature is the literary work produced by the people belonging to Australia. Sally Morgan, Noel Pearson, Kate Howarth and Yvette Holy are some of the famous Aboriginal Australian writers. The themes encountered in Australia literary works include aboriginality, democracy, migration, identity the unique geography of Australia, and its harsh climate. This paper studies distinguished Australian literary writers and their contributions to English Literature.

Keywords: Australian Literature, Aboriginal Writers.

I.AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

Australian literature is the literary work produced by the people belonging to Australia. Once upon a time, Australia was a British colony. The terms 'Outback' and 'the bush' are often used in Australian literary works. 'The bush' refers to badly inhabited areas, regardless of the surrounding vegetation. The 'outback' refers to the extremely dry places located in the inland areas of Australia. Indigenous Australians have also contributed immensely to Australian literature.

II.ABORIGINAL WRITERS

David Unaipon is one of the most critically acclaimed Aboriginal Australian writers. He was a preacher and an author, and is a Ngarrindjeriman. The Ngarrindjeriman people are a traditional Aboriginal Australian people. Oodgero Noonuccal, Sally Morgan, Noel Pearson, Kate Howarth and Yvette Holy are some of the famous Aboriginal Australian writers. The themes encountered in Australia literary works include aboriginality, democracy, migration, identity the unique geography of Australia, and its harsh climate. Literary works published by Australian writers have won awards worldwide. This paper studies some of the eminent Australian writers and their contributions to English Literature.

III.PETER CAREY

Peter Philip Carey is an Australian novelist. He has won the Booker Prize twice. Oscar and Lucinda, his novel revolves around the lives of an Anglican Priest named Oscar Hopkins and Lucinda Leplastrier, a young heiress. Obsession, faith and love form the crux of the novel. True history of the Kelly Gang is based on a history of the Kelly gang. Edward Kelly was a bush ranger and a gang leader. A bush ranger is an outlaw who lives in the bush.

IV.ALEXIS WRIGHT

Alexis Wright is a Waanyi writer. The Waanyi people are an Aboriginal Australian group. She gained fame for her novels, Carpentaria and Prasiheworthy. Carpentaria discusses multiple stories of the inhabitants of Desperance, a fictional town in Queensland. An ecological Catastrophe is at the heart of the novel, Prasiheworthy. She focuses on the plight of the aboriginal people.

V.MALOUF

David Malouf is an Australian novelist playwright and short story writer. His works are mostly set in Australia. His semi-autobiographical novel is titled Johnno. This was also his debut novel. Johnno deals with one's relationship with parents, growing up and friendships. His novella, An Imaginary Life was published in 1978. It describes the story of Ovid, the Roman poet, when he was exiled in Tomos.

VI.HELEN GARNER

Helen Garner is an Australian journalist, short-story writer and novelist. She has written fiction and non fiction. Monkey Grip was her debut novel and is considered a classic of English Literature. The novel portrays the life of Nora, a single mother raising her daughter in Melbourne in the 1970's. Her novella, The Children's Bach, published in 1984, is her second novel. Set in Melbourne, it deals with the lives of a married couple, Athena and Dexter.

VII.RICHARD FLANAGAN

Richard Flanagan is an Australian writer and screenwriter. He is a recipient of the Man Booker Prize. His sixth novel, The Narrow Road to the Deep North brought him critical acclaim. The novel describes the life of a doctor who is haunted by memories of his experiences as a prisoner of war. His debut novel, Death of a River Guide, published in 1994, narrates the past experiences of the protagonist, Aljaz, through a series of flashbacks.

VIII.PATRICK WHITE

Patrick White was an Australian playwright, novelist and short-story writer. He was born in London but raised in Australia. Happy Valley is a novel by Patrick White, published in 1939. Violence and adultery are the themes of the

novel. His second novel, *The Living and the Dead*, is set in the 1930s in London. Patrick White is a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

IX. KATE GRENVILLE

Kate Grenville is an Australian author who writes fiction and non-fiction. She is a recipient of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was also shortlisted for a Man Booker Prize. The novel, *The Idea of Perfection* was published in 1999 and deals with the life of Douglas, a shy engineer. Another novel of hers is titled *The Secret River*, which is a historical novel. It describes the life of an Englishman who is transported to Australia for theft.

X. THOMAS KENEALLY

Thomas Keneally is an Australian playwright, an essayist and is a recipient of the Booker Prize. His debut novel was *The Place at Whitton*, published in 1964. The setting of the novel is a seminary. His novel, *The Fear* tells the story of Danny Jordan who moves along with his family to Sydney due to the threat of a Japanese invasion.

XI. BANJO PATERSON

Banjo Paterson was an Australian journalist, bush poet and author. A bush poem renders the characteristics, life and scenery of the Australian bush. Bush poetry might include themes of drought, the lives of indigenous people and Australian folklore. Paterson's novel *An Outback Marriage* depicts the life of an Englishman who is touring the colonies. *The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses* is his first collection of poems. It comes under the genre of bush poetry, and focuses on perseverance, horsemanship and bravery.

XII. TIM WINTON

Tim Winton is an Australian writer of novels, non-fiction, short-stories and children's books. He was born in Subiaco in Western Australia. His novel, *Cloudstreet* describes the lives of the working class. In 1992, he won the Miles Franklin Award. *Dirtmusic*, published in 2001, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. The harsh climate of Western Australia forms the crux of the novel.

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