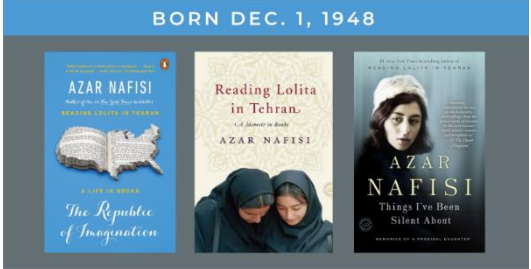


TCCL Celebrates: December Authors


Click on the author's name to find titles by them in our catalog. Read a little bit about each author, then follow the link to learn more about them in our Biography in Context database. To access this database, simply login with your last name and TCCL card number.

[Azar Nafisi](#): "Nafisi was fired from the University of Tehran, where she taught literature, because she refused to wear a veil. From 1995 to 1997 she set up weekly secret meetings with seven female students to discuss literature. *Reading "Lolita" in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* is the story of Nafisi, her students, and the books that they discussed during those meetings. The book has been translated into more than ten languages and is in its fifteenth printing." From [Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

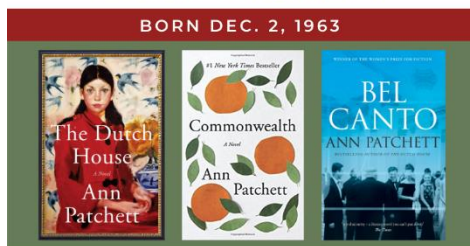
- happy birthday -
AZAR NAFISI
BORN DEC. 1, 1948



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Azar Nafisi.



- happy birthday -
ANN PATCHETT



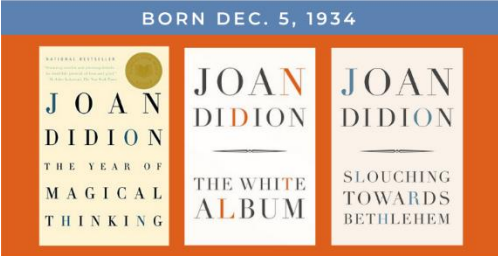
Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Ann Patchett.




[Ann Patchett](#): "Ann Patchett is the author of such award-winning novels *The Patron Saint of Liars* and *Bel Canto*. Patchett's power as an author seems to derive from her unusual ability to make believable the voices of a sweeping array of characters, running the gamut from a Catholic nun to an African-American blues drummer to a gay magician." From [Authors and Artists for Young Adults](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

[Joan Didion](#): "Joan Didion uses her immediate milieu to envision, simultaneously, the last stand of America's frontier values pushed insupportably to their limits and the manifestations of craziness and malaise which have initiated their finale. And while her novels invite a feminist critique, her understanding of sexual politics is beyond ideology. Each of her major characters struggles with a demonic nihilism which is corroding the individual, the family, and the social organism." From [Contemporary Novelists](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

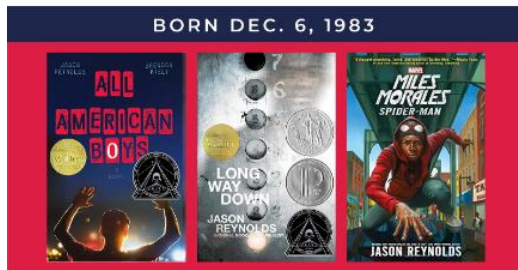
- happy birthday -
JOAN DIDION
BORN DEC. 5, 1934



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Joan Didion.



- happy birthday -
JASON REYNOLDS



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve titles by
Jason Reynolds.



[Jason Reynolds](#): "Jason Reynolds is a poet and novelist whose infectious enthusiasm for the written and spoken word--and for the young readers for whom he writes--has made him an award-winning author and an in-demand speaker across the United States. Kayla Randall, writing for the *Washington City Paper*, described Reynolds as 'all tattoos and dreads in a black t-shirt,' adding, 'He speaks his truth and maybe yours, too.' Reynolds, who admitted that he had never read an entire book from start to finish until he was nearly 18, writes for children who usually do not always see their own lives reflected in the books they are given to read." From [Contemporary Black Biography](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

Jason Reynolds is also the 2021 recipient of the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, which gives formal recognition, on behalf of the Tulsa County community, to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for young adults. Jason Reynolds will accept the award on Thursday May 6, 2021 at 7 p.m. Learn more [here](#).

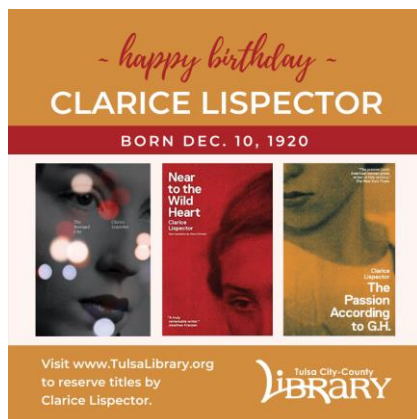
- happy birthday -
PEARL CLEAGE



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve titles by
Pearl Cleage.



[Pearl Cleage](#): "Pearl Cleage is a multifaceted writer of essays, short stories, and poems, as well as a performance artist and the author of award-winning plays. In her collection of essays *Deals with the Devil: And Other Reasons to Riot* (1993), she describes herself as a 'womanist' and a 'third generation black nationalist.' The purpose of her writing, she says, is often 'to expose the point where racism and sexism meet.'" From [Notable Black American Women](#). Read the full piece [here](#).



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve titles by
Clarice Lispector.

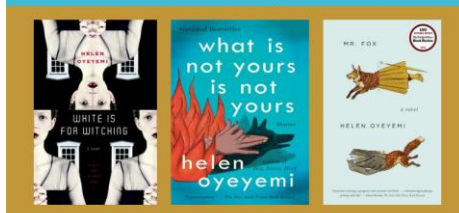


[Clarice Lispector](#): "Clarice Lispector, one of the major Latin American writers of the twentieth century. ... Lispector composed her modernist narratives, which often examine the link between literature and philosophy, in a stream-of-consciousness, interior-monologue style. Acknowledged as one of the premiere writers of experimental fiction in the 1960s, Lispector wrote poetic prose obsessively concerned with capturing the perfectly nuanced word and with expanding the possibilities and range of language, often through paradox." From [Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors](#). Read the full piece [here](#).


Helen Oyeyemi: "Helen Oyeyemi is a Nigerian-born British writer who burst onto the international literary scene at age 19 with the publication of her debut novel, *The Icarus Girl*, in 2005. Since then Oyeyemi has published four more novels and a collection of short stories, establishing herself as a major young talent in contemporary fiction. Distinguished by the author's lyrical prose and elements of magical realism, Oyeyemi's work explores themes of identity, alienation, and madness through the lens of the African diasporic experience." From [Contemporary Black Biography](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

- happy birthday -
HELEN OYEYEMI

BORN DEC. 10, 1984




Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Helen Oyeyemi.




- happy birthday -
EMILY DICKINSON

BORN DEC. 10, 1830



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Emily Dickinson.




Emily Dickinson: "If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire ever can warm me, I know *that* is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know *that* is poetry. These are the only ways I know it. Is there any other way?' A rhetorical question, for Emily Dickinson, the lyric poet sometimes known as the New England mystic, knew there was no other way. She spent her life creating an opus of 1,775 poems, only ten of which were published in her lifetime. She knew what made poetry, otherwise she could never have kept writing in the face of such public indifference." From [Authors and Artists for Young Adults](#). Read the full piece [here](#).


Naguib Mahfouz: "Naguib Mahfouz is widely regarded as Egypt's finest writer. While his works remained largely unknown in English-speaking countries for most of the twentieth century, the author has nevertheless been viewed by many critics outside the Middle East as the exemplar of Arabic literature. Mahfouz was suddenly cast into the limelight in the West on October 13, 1988, when he became the first Arab writer to be honored with the Nobel Prize for literature." From [Authors and Artists for Young Adults](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

- happy birthday -
NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

BORN DEC. 11, 1911



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org to reserve titles by Naguib Mahfouz.



- happy birthday -
JANE AUSTEN



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve copies of titles
written by Jane Austen.



[Jane Austen](#): "Austen's fiction dwells exclusively on social relations among the landed gentry and rural professionals of her own social class. Her wry depictions of gentlemen and gentlewomen in pursuit of fortune, romance, and love were popular in her day, and continue to be widely read and enjoyed. ... In her attention to the details of daily life, Austen's affection for the society she represented is obvious. As an artist, however, her attitude toward that society was ultimately ironic and critical." From [Authors and Artists for Young Adults](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

[Sandra Cisneros](#): "As the first Hispanic-American to receive a major publishing contract, Sandra Cisneros has provided a voice for she who had had none before, the Hispanic-American woman--or to use Cisneros' favored word--the chicana. 'I'm trying to write the stories that haven't been written. I feel like a cartographer. I'm determined to fill a literary void,' Cisneros told Jim Sagel of *Publishers Weekly*. In doing so, she speaks out against racism, sexism, poverty, and shame." From [Contemporary Hispanic Biography](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

- happy birthday -
SANDRA CISNEROS



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve copies of titles
written by Sandra Cisneros.



[Tomas Rivera](#): "Tomás Rivera overcame extreme obstacles to become a prominent academic. The son of migrant agricultural laborers, Rivera was subjected to an interrupted and dislocated early education. Nevertheless, Rivera became a highly respected scholar and university administrator. He also acquired an impressive readership for his creative stories and character sketches. As the first Mexican American to serve as chancellor in the University of California system, Rivera set a high standard for academic professionalism and personal achievement." From [Dictionary of Hispanic Biography](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

- happy birthday -
TOMÁS RIVERA




Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve copies of titles
written by Tomás Rivera.




[Donna Tartt](#): "Donna Tartt has written three novels concerning murders. Her first, *The Secret History*, the story of murderous college students at an elite Ivy league school, was a sensation. ... After this tremendous debut, Tartt was silent for ten years. But in 2002, she reemerged with her second novel, *The Little Friend*, the story of twelve-year-old Harriet Cleve Dufresnes, who is intent on avenging the murder of her older brother. ... Tartt ended an eleven-year hiatus with *The Goldfinch*, a nearly 800-page epic that earned her the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2014." From [Authors and Artists for Young Adults](#). Read the full piece [here](#).

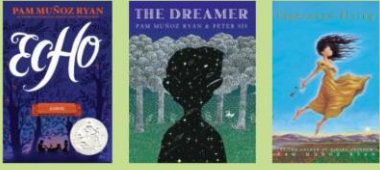
- happy birthday -
DONNA TARTT
BORN DEC 23, 1963




Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve titles by
Donna Tartt.



- happy birthday -
PAM MUÑOZ RYAN
BORN DECEMBER 25, 1951



Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org
to reserve copies of titles
written by Pam Muñoz Ryan.



[Pam Muñoz Ryan](#): "A native of California's San Joaquin Valley, Ryan was an avid reader and a frequent visitor to her local library by the time she moved to a new neighborhood the summer before fifth grade. "It was through books that I coped and fit in," she recalled on her home page. "I became what most people would consider an obsessive reader." Ryan did not try her hand at writing until she was working on her master's degree and a colleague wondered if she would coauthor a book for adults." The rest is history. From [Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors](#). Read the full piece [here](#).