



THE
OX-BOW
INCIDENT

by
Walter Van Tilburg Clark

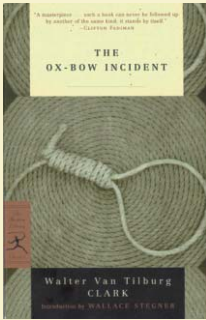
ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO

SPRING 2005

City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Presented by the Chicago Public Library and Bank of America
through the Chicago Public Library Foundation

Bank of America





The Ox-Bow Incident by Walter Van Tilburg Clark is the latest selection for One Book, One Chicago. Previous selections for the citywide book club include *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, *The Coast of Chicago* by Stuart Dybek and *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez.

ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO



Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I invite you to participate in the eighth One Book, One Chicago presented by the Chicago Public Library. One Book, One Chicago encourages all Chicagoans to read the same book at the same time and then discuss it with their friends and neighbors.

This spring, we have selected *The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. Set in the American West in 1885, Clark's powerful novel grapples with universal questions of justice and morality. One Book, One Chicago will culminate during National Library Week, April 10-16, 2005, with free programs at the Library and book discussions throughout the city.

You can find a copy of *The Ox-Bow Incident* at your neighborhood Chicago Public Library or local bookstore. Please join one of the many book discussions planned for libraries, bookstores, museums and coffeeshops in April. Whether you read and discuss this book with family or friends or attend one of the special events, I am sure you will find the experience enriching and thought-provoking.

Thank you for participating in One Book, One Chicago.

Sincerely,

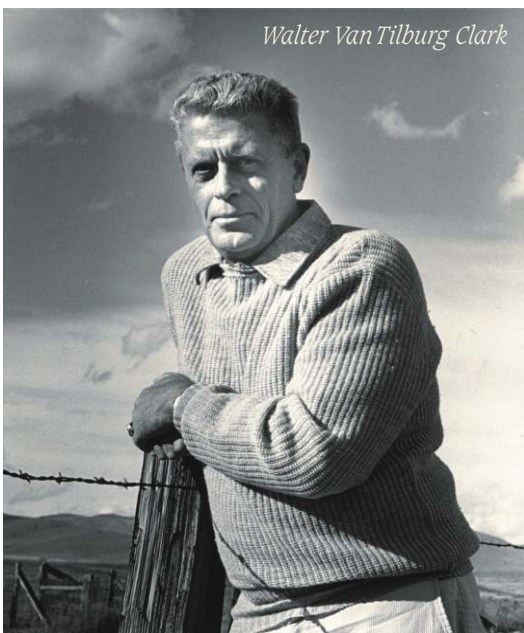
Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago

THE OX-BOW INCIDENT

by Walter Van Tilburg Clark

“Law is more than the words that put it on the books; law is more than any decisions that may be made from it; law is more than the particular code of it stated at any one time or in any one place or nation; more than any one man, lawyer or judge, sheriff or jailer, who may represent it. The true law, the code of justice, the essence of our sensations of right or wrong, is the conscience of society. It has taken thousands of years to develop, and it is the greatest, the most distinguishing quality which has evolved with mankind.”

—Davies in *The Ox-Bow Incident*



SPECIAL EVENTS

Steppenwolf Theatre eReading

Monday, April 11, 6p.m.
Chicago Public Library
Harold Washington Library Center
400 S. State St.
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium

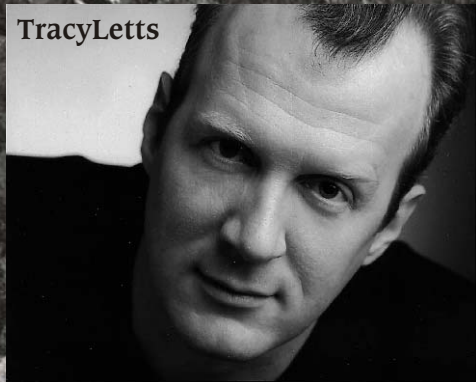
Steppenwolf Theatre Company ensemble members Terry Kinney and Tracy Letts will read selections from *The Ox-Bow Incident*. Kinney is a co-founder of Steppenwolf Theatre Company and has appeared in HBO's *Oz* and *The Laramie Project*. Letts, an actor and playwright, was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for his play, *Man From Nebraska*.

Terry Kinney



Steppenwolf

Tracy Letts



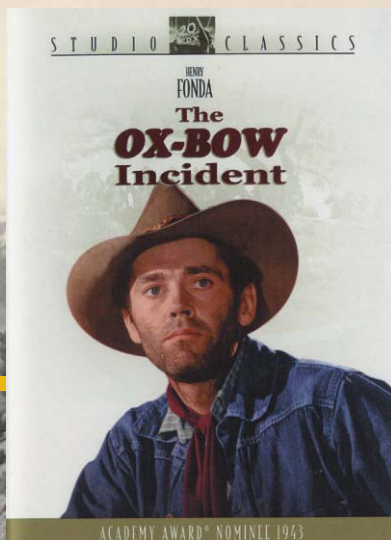
Film Screenings of
The Ox-Bow Incident

Tuesday, April 12, 6 p.m.
Chicago Public Library
Harold Washington Library Center
400 S. State St.
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium

Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.
Sulzer Regional Library
4455 N. Lincoln Ave.
Woodson Regional Library
9525 S. Halsted St.

For the most up-to-date
schedule, please visit
chicagopubliclibrary.org.
For more information,
please call (312) 747-1194.

Except where noted, all
programs are free and
open to the public.



Film Screenings

SPECIAL EVENTS

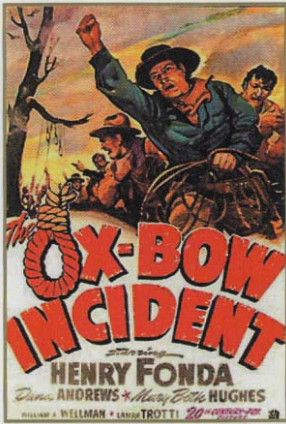
The following events are sponsored by DePaul's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. For more information, please call (773) 325-7840.

Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 13, 6-7:30 p.m.

DePaul University
Student Center, Room 120
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.

Join a panel of distinguished DePaul faculty from literature, history, ethics, sociology, and political science who will explore the issues and themes in Clark's *The Ox-Bow Incident*. Where does individual responsibility begin? Why does Edmund Burke's well-known statement, "All that is necessary for evil to succeed is that good men do nothing," provide perspective on the novel's timeless appeal?



Film Screening and Lecture

Wednesday, April 20, 6-8 p.m.

DePaul University
Student Center, Room 120
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.

Join the DePaul community in viewing the critically acclaimed film adaptation of *The Ox-Bow Incident* starring Henry Fonda and Anthony Quinn. A short multi-media lecture will open the evening, exploring how Clark's novel demythologizes romantic notions of the Old West. A discussion will follow the film screening.

Read *The Ox-Bow Incident* at DePaul University

Enroll in "Chicago's One Book: Issues and Perspectives"

The centerpiece of this interdisciplinary, graduate-level course will be Walter Van Tilburg Clark's *The Ox-Bow Incident*. DePaul University invites adults to take this opportunity to read the city's book selection in a setting that reaches beyond the limits of a book discussion group. This 10-week course meets on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 30 (Prerequisite: Bachelor's Degree). For more information, including course tuition, please visit the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program Web site at www.depaul.edu/~mals or call (773)325-7840.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK CLUBS

Join us for a discussion of The Ox-Bow Incident during April. Book discussions are arranged chronologically.

Saturday, April 2, 11 a.m.
Chicago Lawn Branch
6120 S. Kedzie Ave.
(312) 747-0639

Saturday, April 2, 11 a.m.
Humboldt Park Branch
1605 N. Troy St.
(312) 744-2244

Saturday, April 2, 11 a.m.
Edgewater Branch
1210 W. Elmdale Ave.
(312) 744-0718

Saturday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.
Rogers Park Branch
6907 N. Clark St.
(312) 744-0156

Saturday, April 2, 2 p.m.
South Shore Branch
2505 E. 73rd St.
(312) 747-5281

Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m.
Albany Park Branch
5150 N. Kimball Ave.
(312) 744-1933

Monday, April 4, 7 p.m.
McKinley Park Branch
1915 W. 35th St.
(312) 747-6082

Saturday, April 9, 11 a.m.
Near North Branch
310 W. Division St.
(312) 744-0991

Saturday, April 9, 1 p.m.
Galewood-Mont Clare Branch
6969 W. Grand Ave.
(312) 746-5032

Monday, April 11, 11 a.m.
Near North Branch
310 W. Division St.
(312) 744-0991

Monday, April 11, 6:15 p.m.
Mayfair Branch
4400 W. Lawrence Ave.
(312) 744-1254

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Independence Branch
3548 W. Irving Park Rd.
(312) 744-0900

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Oriole Park Branch
7454 W. Balmoral Ave.
(312) 744-1965

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
North Austin Branch
5724 W. North Ave.
(312) 746-4233

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Beverly Branch
2121 W. 95th St.
(312) 747-9673

Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m.
Lincoln Belmont Branch
1659 W. Melrose St.
(312) 744-0166

Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Avalon Branch
8828 S. Stony Island Ave.
(312) 747-5234

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday, April 13, 7p.m.
WestLawnBranch
4020W.63rdSt.
(312)747-7381

Thursday, April 14, 5p.m.
ShermanParkBranch
5440S.RacineA ve.
(312)747-0477

Thursday, April 14, 7p.m.
CanaryvilleBranch
642W.43rdSt.
(312)747-0644

Thursday, April 14, 7p.m.
LincolnParkBranch
1150W.FullertonA ve.
(312)744-1926

Thursday, April 14, 7:30p.m.
HegewischBranch
3048E.130thSt.
(312)747-0046

Saturday, April 16, 10a.m.
PullmanBranch
11001S.IndianaA ve.
(312)747-2033

Saturday, April 16, 10:15a.m.
ThurgoodMarshallBranch
7506S.RacineA ve.
(312)747-5927

Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.
BezazianBranch
1226W.AinslieSt.
(312)744-0019

Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.
LincolnParkBranch
1150W.FullertonA ve.
(312)744-1926

Saturday, April 16, 11a.m.
BudlongWoodsBranch
5630N.LincolnA ve.
(312)742-9590

Saturday, April 16, 1p.m.
BlackstoneBranch
4904S.LakeParkA ve.
(312)747-0511

Saturday, April 16, 1p.m.
UptownBranch
929W.BuenaA ve.
(312)744-8400

Saturday, April 16, 3p.m.
MerloBranch
644W.BelmontA ve.
(312)744-1139

Monday, April 18, 1p.m.
Vodak/EastSideBranch
10542S.EwingA ve.
(312)747-5500

Tuesday, April 19, 7p.m.
Austin-IrvingBranch
6100W.IrvingParkRd.
(312)744-6222

Wednesday, April 20, 2p.m.
NorthtownBranch
6435N.CaliforniaA ve.
(312)744-2292

Wednesday, April 20, 7p.m.
JeffersonParkBranch
5363W.LawrenceA ve.
(312)744-1998

Thursday, April 21, 1p.m.
WhitneyM.Young,Jr.Branch
7901S.KingDr
(312)747-0039

Thursday, April 21, 6:30p.m.
LoganSquareBranch
3255W.AltgeldSt.
(312)744-5295

Thursday, April 21, 6:30p.m.
SouthChicagoBranch
9055S.HoustonA ve.
(312)747-8065

Thursday, April 21, 7p.m.
EdgebrookBranch
5331W.DevonA ve.
(312)744-8313

Thursday, April 21, 7p.m.
LincolnBelmontBranch
1659W.MelroseSt.
(312)744-0166

Saturday, April 23, 11a.m.
ManningBranch
6S.HoyneA ve.
(312)746-6800

Tuesday, April 26, 7p.m.
RödenBranch
6083N.NorthwestHwy
(312)744-1478

Tuesday, April 26, 7p.m.
WestBelmontBranch
3104N.NarragansettA ve.
(312)746-5142

Wednesday, April 27, 10a.m.
BrightonParkBranch
4314S.ArcherA ve.
(312)747-0666

Wednesday, April 27, 7p.m.
ArcherHeightsBranch
5055S.ArcherA ve.
(312)747-9241

Wednesday, April 27, 7p.m.
WoodsonRegionalLibrary
9525S.HalstedSt.
(312)747-6900

Thursday, April 28, noon
TalkingBookCenter
HaroldWashington
LibraryCenter
400S.StateSt.,5thFloor
(312)747-4001

Thursday, April 28, 6:30p.m.
DamenAvenueBranch
2056N.DamenA ve.
(312)744-6022

Thursday, April 28, 7p.m.
ScottsdaleBranch
4101W.79thSt.
(312)747-0193

Thursday, April 28, 6:30p.m.
JefferyManorBranch
2401E.100thSt.
(312)747-6479

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Museum of Contemporary Art

Puck's Café

Tuesday, April 12, 6p.m.

220 E. Chicago Ave.

Arrive early or stay late to explore the MC A galleries. Marshall Field's Free Tuesday Evenings from 5-8p.m. at the MC A are generously sponsored by Marshall Field's. The MC A is open 10a.m. to 8p.m. on Tuesdays. Call (312) 280-2660 for more information.

Borders Books & Music

Presented by The Great Books Foundation

Borders Beverly, 2210 W. 95th St., Wednesday, April 6, 7:30p.m.

State Street Borders, 150 N. State St., Wednesday, April 13, 6p.m.

Barnes & Noble

Presented by The Great Books Foundation

Barnes & Noble, Webster & Clybourn, Tuesday, April 19, 7:30p.m.

Barnes & Noble, Skokie Old Orchard, Tuesday, April 26, 7:30p.m.

Starbucks Book Clubs

Enjoy free coffee, pastries and a discussion of *The Ox-Bow Incident* at these Starbucks locations:

Tuesday, April 5

Noon, Washington & Clinton, 40 N. Clinton St.

7p.m., Piper's Alley, 210 W. North Ave.

Thursday, April 7

Noon, Lake & LaSalle, 180 N. LaSalle St.

7p.m., Edgewater, 1070 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

BOOK CLUB in a BAG

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO

Use your Chicago Public Library card to check out a tote bag filled with eight copies of *The Ox-Bow Incident*, resource guides and tips for your book club. Book Club in a Bag is available at:

Beverly Branch
2121 W. 95th St.

Douglass Branch
3353 W. 13th St.

Harold Washington
Library Center
Popular Library
400 S. State St., 1st floor

Rogers Park Branch
6907 N. Clark St.

Sulzer Regional Library
4455 N. Lincoln Ave.

Woodson Regional Library
9525 S. Halsted St.

For details, please call
(312) 747-1194



WALTER VAN TILBURG CLARK

THE AUTHOR

Nevada where his father was President of the University of Nevada from 1918-1938. His mother was a musician who graduated from Cornell and studied piano and composition at Columbia.

He earned his bachelor's degree in 1930 and his first master's in 1931 from the University of Nevada, with a thesis that retold the Tristram legend. His second thesis, from the University of Vermont, dealt with the Western poet Robinson Jeffers, whose dark poetry influenced Clark's work. His collection of poetry, *Ten Women in Gale's House and Shorter Poems*, was published in 1932 while he was a teaching assistant at the University of Vermont.

He married Barbara Frances Morse in 1933. They had two children, Robert Morse and Barbara Anne. He was teaching high school in Cazenovia, New York when he began writing short stories that would bring him national recognition, including five O. Henry Prizes from 1941-1945. His stories focused on the West's natural environment while exploring humanity's relationship to nature and the forces that govern the natural world.

When Clark began writing *The Ox-Bow Incident*, he had certain purposes in mind. He was struggling with what he felt was his inability to write convincing dialogue with the voice and cadence of everyday speech. He also wanted to break out of the limitations imposed by the popular or formula western story. In his introduction to a 1962 edition, Clark said that his purpose was to "not only write as much as I could in dialogue, but to find my way into a typical western story situation, with all the typical western story type people, and see if I couldn't make the people come to life and the situations say something that could still be heard."

When *The Ox-Bow Incident* was published in 1940, it received wide critical acclaim. The novel examines issues of justice, law and order, and the role of the bystander. In a 2001 *Explicator* review, Kenneth Hada wrote, "It is a novel with profound implications for people living together under law and in a free society." He said that the work raises questions that are pertinent today, such as "Should aggression be opposed by force? How shall an individual stand against tyranny? When is an individual or society to involve himself or itself in another's affairs? What exactly is the true nature of justice?"

Clark responded to critics who called it "a tough and complicated novel." He said that it is "complicated in terms of the number and variety of human motives at work in it." He went on to add: "Personal relationships and intentions seem to me what matter most. They are the real, and only real, foundations of all our institutions, including the legal and the political. When enough of them are good, the institutions will be good, and when too many of them are bad, which is to say selfish, the institutions, no matter what fine names we give them, will also be bad."

The New Yorker's Clifton Fadiman said *The Ox-Bow Incident* was his "unwavering choice for the year's finest first novel. It has many of the elements of an old-fashioned horse opera—monosyllabic cowpunchers, cattle rustlers, a Mae West lady, barroom brawls, shootings, lynchings, a villainous Mexican. But it bears about the same relation to an ordinary Western that *The Maltese Falcon* does to a hack detective story. Not too topnotch, not too fine, not too important, I think it's sort of what you might call a masterpiece."

The 1943 film adaptation starring Henry Fonda and directed by William Wellman was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture. The cast also includes Henry Morgan, Dana Andrews, William Eythe, Mary Beth Hughes and Anthony Quinn.

Clark's second novel, *The City of Trembling Leaves* (1945), is a semi-autobiographical account of a sensitive boy growing up in Reno, Nevada. His third novel, *The Track of the Cat* (1949), is about a Nevada cattle ranch threatened by a mountain lion. He also published a collection of his short stories, *The Watchful Gods* (1950), his final book. Although he continued to write and work on other novels, he did not publish again.

Clark held professorships at the University of Montana in Missoula, at San Francisco State College, and at the University of Nevada at Reno, where he served as writer-in-residence from 1962 until his death. He also held many visiting professorships including ones in the creative writing programs at Stanford University and the University of Iowa.

He edited the journals of Nevada pioneer Alfred Doten, which were published posthumously in 1973.

Clark died November 11, 1971, of cancer.

SOURCES:

- American National Biography Online*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
Clark, Walter Van Tilburg. *The Ox-Bow Incident*. New York: Time, Inc., 1962.
Contemporary Authors Online. The Gale Group, 2004.
Fadiman, Clifton. "Make Way for Mr. Clark," *The New Yorker*, October 12, 1940.
Hada, Kenneth. "Clark's The Ox-Bow Incident," *The Explicator*, Spring 2001.

THE OX-BOW INCIDENT

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Art Croft

narrator, posse member

Gil Carter

Croft's partner, posse member

Monty Smith

town bum, posse member

Canby

saloon owner and bartender

Moore

Drew's foreman, posse member

Bartlett

small rancher living in town, urged
posse formation, posse member

Jeff Arnsley

Kincaid's buddy, works for Drew,
posse member

Osgood

ineffectual, cowardly minister

Rose Mapen

Gil's former girlfriend

Drew

biggest ranch owner in area

Larry Kincaid

murder "victim"

Davies

town storekeeper, believed in justice
and law, posse member

Joyce

Davie's young helper

Greene

young man who reports Kincaid's
"murder," posse member

Bill Winder

staged driver with grudge against
railroads, posse member

Gabe Hart

Winder's helper, posse member

Risley
sheriff

Judge Tyler
local judge who is not
respected by them

Mapes

Risley's deputy, eager lyncher,
posse member

Sparks

African-American man, respected for
his deep faith, posse member

Ma (Jenny) Griener

woman who runs boarding house,
posse member

Major Tetley

Confederate veteran who assumes
posse leadership

Gerald Tetley

Major Tetley's sensitive and
intelligent son, posse member

Amigo

Tetley's Mexican cowhand, claims to
have seen rustlers, posse member

Carl Bartlett

son of old Bartlett, posse member

Nate Bartlett

son of old Bartlett, posse member

Frena Handel

woman in Bridger Wells
urging on the posse

Mark

Tetley's cowhand

Alex Small

stage coach driver

Jimmy Carnes

stage coach guard, shoots Art
in the shoulder

Swanson

Rose Mapen's cultured,
self-assured husband

Donald Martin

young man who bought
cattle from Drew

The Mex

Martin's helper; suspected of being a
notorious outlaw

Alva Hardwick

old, feeble-minded man traumatized
by the Civil War

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1** From the novel's opening, narrator Art Croft seems unsure about the rightness of joining the lynch mob, yet he does. What does this say about Croft's character? Is his reaction typical of human nature?
- 2** Do any characters or situations presented in the novel alter your ideas of how life was lived in America's "Old West"?
- 3** The female characters Frena, Rose and Magri each represent different examples of women's roles in the lynching. What motivates each of these women in her actions toward the men in the mob?
- 4** Are the Mexican characters, Juan and Amigo, and the African-American character, Sparks, genuine, three-dimensional characters or are they simply manifestations of cultural stereotypes?
- 5** The African-American character, Sparks, is almost saintly in his unselfish attitude and actions, yet he is regularly and offensively described by other characters as "the nigger" of the town as would have been common in the 19th century West. Would it weaken the novel to exclude use of the word "nigger"?
- 6** What motivates Davie to remain the voice of reason even when he sees that his arguments are being ignored?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 7 Tension is almost a tangible character throughout the novel and is one of the catalysts that lead to the tragedy. How does tension between characters build?
- 8 Major Tetry's anger and disappointment toward his son motivates him to bully his son into participating in the lynching, but what does the Major's reaction to his son's subsequent suicide say about his true feelings for him?
- 9 The victims of the lynching demonstrate a variety of emotions as they wait for dawn when they will be hanged. Do the reactions of each character seem authentic?
- 10 Several times before the actual lynching occurs it seems that the mob might disperse, yet each time they come back together. Is fear of being called a coward the only reason?
- 11 Are there situations in contemporary America that might force average people to have to make the type of ethical choice that faced the Ox-Bow lynch mob?
- 12 Two suicides occur in the aftermath of the lynching but we are given little input as to the reactions of the other mob participants. How do you believe the other characters will react to their horrific and tragic mistake?

FURTHER

READING

WORKSB YCL ARK

Novels

The City of Trembling Leaves.
New York: Random House, 1945.
(Republished as *Tim Hazard*. London:
William Kimber, 1951.)

The Ox-Bow Incident.
New York: Random House, 1940.

The Track of the Cat: A Novel.
New York: Random House, 1949.

Poetry

Christmas Comes to Hjalsen, Reno.
Reno: Reno Publishing House, 1930.

*Ten Women in Gale's House and
Shorter Poems.*
Boston: Christopher, 1932.

Short Stories

The Watchful Gods, and Other Stories.
New York: Random House, 1950.

Other

*Editor, The Journals of Alfred Doten,
1849-1903.*
Reno: University of Nevada Press,
3 vols., 1973.

WEB RESOURCES

Walter Van Tilburg Clark
[http://www.library.unr.edu/friends/
hallfame/clark.html](http://www.library.unr.edu/friends/hallfame/clark.html)
An introduction to the author's life and
an extensive bibliography from the
Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.

Walter Van Tilburg Clark
[http://www.litencyc.com/php/
people.php?rec=true&UID=897](http://www.litencyc.com/php/people.php?rec=true&UID=897)
An article on the author from the
online *Literary Encyclopedia*.


"The Ox-Bow Incident"
[http://www.litencyc.com/php/sworcs.ph
p?rec=true&UID=13855](http://www.litencyc.com/php/sworcs.php?rec=true&UID=13855)
An article on the novel from the online
Literary Encyclopedia.

History of the American West
[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/
award97/codhtml/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/)
Online resources from The Library of
Congress' American Memory website,
including many beautiful photographs.

A literary history of the American West
[http://www2.tcu.edu/depts/prs/amwest/
contents.html](http://www2.tcu.edu/depts/prs/amwest/contents.html)
An online version of a book, with a
chapter on the author's work. The
article on Clark begins on page 989.

"The Ox-Bow Incident"
[http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/etext/
lfs/felix24.htm](http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/etext/lfs/felix24.htm)
An essay by Robert Louis Felix from
Legal Studies Forum.

Frontier Justice
[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/
features/timeline/riseind/west/
justice.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/timeline/riseind/west/justice.html)
A section of the American Memory
Timeline, a resource for teachers from
the Library of Congress. Features two
interviews with people who witnessed
"frontier justice" in Texas in the 1870s.



In addition to Walter Van Tilburg Clark, her ear esome popular western writers and a brief description of their work.

Max Brand

Disliking the real West, he wrote many of his more than 215 westerns in Italy, often invoking European myth and legend. At least 27 of Brand's westerns have been made into films, including *Destry Rides Again*.

Benjamin Capps

His novels realistically treat the cultural conflicts between the Texas Plains Indians and the settlers who displaced them.

Willa Cather

Her writing depicts the harsh life of pioneering immigrant farmers who settled the prairies of the western United States in such novels as *OPioneers!* and *My Antonia*.

WESTERN
LITERATURE

A Selected List of Writers

Loren Estleman

Estleman writes both mysteries and Westerns and his works include *Journey of the Dead*, about the man who killed Billy the Kid.

Zane Grey

His eighty-nine books cover nearly every western topic, from range wars and railroad to Mormons and outlaws. More than forty have been made into films.

A.B.Guthrie

The Big Sky, considered his masterwork, begins a quintet that traces civilization's progress from 1830 to the early twentieth century amid the harsh beauty of the American West.

Tony Hillerman

Though a mystery writer, Hillerman was named one of the twenty-four best western authors by the Western Writers of America for his powerful sense of setting, usually the Navajo country of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

Dorothy Johnson

Raised in Montana, Johnson is celebrated for bringing a more sympathetic representation of women and Indians to the western. She is especially known for her short stories, one of which became the film, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Bells*.

Elmer Kelton

He was voted the Best Western Author of all time by the Western Writers of America for his works including *Buffalo Wagons*, *The Day the Cowboys Quit*, and *The Way of the Coyote*.

Louis L'Amour

In more than forty novels, L'Amour related the inter-twinings of three families.

Elmore Leonard

Leonard writes in many genres but began in westerns. Several were filmed, including *Hombre*, which was made into a film starring Paul Newman.

Cormac McCarthy

Celebrated for his beautiful prose style, McCarthy has set his often-violent novels, the most famous of which are *Blood Meridian* and *All the Pretty Horses* (Book One in *The Border Trilogy*), in eastern Tennessee and the American southwest.

Larry McMurtry

The Texas writer is especially known for his novels *The Last Picture Show* and *Lonesome Dove*.

Jack Schaefer

Best known for his first novel, the classic *Shane*.

Wallace Stegner

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Stegner is remembered for his short stories, and his many novels, including the western epics *Angle of Repose* and *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*.

Glendon Swarthout

Among his many well-respected novels is *The Shootist*, which won the Spur and was the basis for John Wayne's last movie.

Owen Wister

A Harvard graduate and lawyer, Wister moved to Wyoming in the 1880s and created the prototypical cowboy hero in *The Virginian*.



WESTERN
LITERATURE

For Younger Readers

TheAbernathyBoys

ByLauraJonesHunt
HarperCollins,2004

Ages9-12

Ridealongonanadventurewith
brothersBudandT empleastheyset
offonhorsebacksearchingforsome
dangerand excitementbeforeschool
starts.

BlackCowboy ,WildHorses

ByJuliusLester
IllustratedbyJerr yPinkney
Dial,1998

Ages8-12

Readaboutthetr ue-lifeadventuresof
aformerslavewhobecameacowboy
legendfortrackingwildmustangson
theTexasplains.

*TheCowboy'sHandbook:Howto
BecomeaHer ooftheWildW est*

ByTodCody
Dutton,1996

Ages9-12

Thisbookhasallofthehintsyou'll
needtoprepareforlifeonthe1800's
frontier.

*HannahMaeO 'Hannigan's
WildW estShow*

ByLisaCampbellErnst
Simon&Schuster ,2003

Ages3-6

Eventhoughshelivesinthebigcity
andnotinherUncleCoot'sranch,
HannahMaesharpensherropin'and
herdin'sskillsjustlikearealcowgirl.

Holes

By Louis Sachar
Frances Foster, 1998
Ages 10-14
Stanley Yelnats is falsely accused of stealing a pair of shoes and sent off to a camp in the west where he learns about friendship, suffering, and justice, in this modern classic.

*In the Days of the Vaqueros:
America's First True Cowboys*

By Russell Freedman
Clarion, 2001
Ages 10-14
As early as the 1400's these brave and rugged men roamed North America, and Freedman's master storyteller skills put you right by the campfire as you hear of their stories of lassoing and rodeos.

The Legend of Buddy Bush

By Sheila P. Moses
Margaret K. McElderry, 2004
Ages 11 and up
This multi-award winning book tells of Pattie Mae's uncle who is condemned to be lynched for a crime he didn't commit and is ultimately saved by the love of family.

Little Red Cowboy Hat

By Susan Lowell
Holt, 1997
Ages 5-9
Little Red and her grandma saddle up and chase the low-lobo off their ranch in this southwestern version of a favorite folktale.

The Rag and Bone Shop

By Robert Cormier
Delacorte, 2001
Ages 13 and up
Sit on the edge of your seat as you watch Trent interrogate Jason who starts to believe that he is responsible for the brutal murder of a young girl.

Why the West Was Wild

By Wayne Swanson
Annick, 2004
Ages 10-13
This book has it all, from cavalries and dance-hall girls, to buffaloes and boomtowns.

A Wild Cowboy

By Dana Kessimakis Smith,
illustrated by Laura Freeman
Jump at the Sun/Hyperion,
2004
Ages 2-5
Spend a rugged day with this "reallive buckaroo!"

Wild West

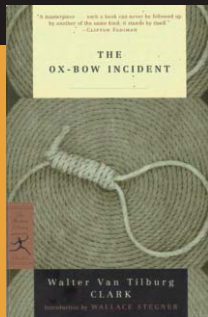
By Stuart Murray
DK, 2001
Ages 7 and up
This informative and entertaining book gives an eyewitness account of what life was like in the early days of the American West.

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