

FOUR: REALLY SPECIAL!

Leonora Carrington (Britain, 1919) Surrealism

Surrealist stories: *The House of Fear* (1989, illustrated by Max Ernst), *The Seventh Horse*. Surrealist novels: *Down Below* (1983), *The Hearing Trumpet* (1991)

19. Visit http://www.mujerpalabra.net/conoce_a/pages/leonora_carrington.htm and write about what you find out about her (in English! The page is in Spanish, but--).



20. If you want to read the beginning of one of her stories:

http://www.mujerpalabra.net/secundaria/pages/lecturas/leonora_inicio_astheyrode.htm

Some students read a longer passage in Spanish

http://www.mujerpalabra.net/secundaria/pages/lecturas/leonora_cuandoiban.htm and then continued it and made pictures.

21. You can see their amazing work in

http://www.mujerpalabra.net/secundaria/pages/tuspalabras/leonora/5dibujos_5textos.htm

Tom Robbins (The USA, 1936) Magic US Realism

Novel *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* (1976) and film (1994), with Uma Thurman

22. Why do you think Sissy Hankshaw has to hitchhike all the **time**?

23. Underline the most interesting ideas in the following explanations:

Quotes by Tom Robbins:

On Writing Books. My approach to writing is intuitive, not analytical, which is one of the things that makes it hard to talk about. Because I'm not a formula writer, every time I start a book it's beginning all over again. I don't know how to write a novel, I couldn't tell you how to write a novel, it's a new adventure every time I begin one, and I like it that way. I rarely have even the vaguest sense of plot when I begin a book, what I usually begin with is about three--things, themes, concepts, ideas, that are completely unrelated. Well, everything is related, but I'm not aware of the relationships, the connections are not present in my mind. And then ... a character or two will show up, frequently a woman, and I will put that character in a scene, and it's like putting that character in a little boat and pushing it out into the water, and then I literally follow that character out of that scene and into the next, one scene begetting the next.

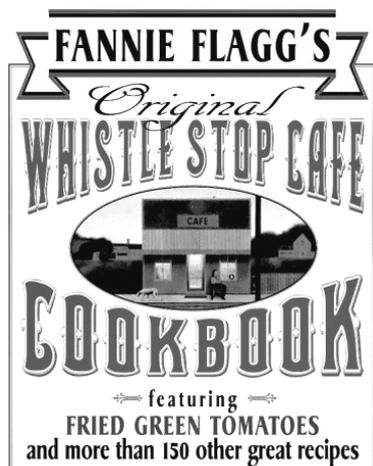


On Life. How can you read the newspapers every day or watch TV news and not see that the world is simultaneously most tragically serious and ridiculously funny? If I have learned anything in my life, it is that there is no wisdom without playfulness. All that the truly wise teachers I have met have in common is a kind of childlike playfulness that seems to go hand in hand with enlightenment.

Fanny Flag (The USA, 1944)

Novel and film: *Fried Green Tomatoes (1991)*

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe



Before *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, Fannie Flagg was a famous character actress wishing she had more time to write. This changed when she attended a writer's workshop featuring her favorite author, Eudora Welty. Embarrassed by her lack of education and her dyslexia, Flagg hid in the persona of a twelve-year-old girl in the short story *Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man*. She won the workshop contest and the story became her first novel. With some success as a writer, she turned to a story dear to



An actress that became a writer...

her heart: *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*. (<http://www.enotes.com/fried-green/14482>)

Fanny Flag was a waitress in the film *Crazy in Alabama* (1999), the protagonist's mum in *My Best Friend is a Vampire* (1988), and nurse Wilkins in *Grease* (1978).

24. Translate the text above, please.

25. Would you become a writer?

J. D. Salinger (The USA, 1919)

Novel: *The Catcher in the Rye (1951)*

26. Underline the ideas you like that these secondary students have written.

Letters to J.D. Salinger (<http://members.aol.com/jdsletters/guest.html>)

Apr 13, 2004. 15:06: Dear J. D. Salinger, There's no one who I would want to sit down and converse with more than you. Simply put. -Kevin

Apr 14, 2004. 14:16: Dear J. D. Salinger, In class we read your book, The Catcher in the Rye. To tell you the truth I didn't read it totally, I only read possibly up to chapter 14. Other than that I did not really get to experience your "abilities" the English teachers ramble on about during class. Even though I must say enjoyed reading your book since it was about life, and was written in the choppy conversational way of talking realistically. -Daniel Miller

Apr 14, 2004. 14:18: Dear J. D. Salinger, I read your book the catcher in the rye, and i thought it was pretty good. Especially for a book we read in school, most of the time they are boring and not very interesting at all. I found your book to intriguing and the character of holden caulfield was very interesting. He was a disturbed person it seemed, at times, while at other times he would seem perfectly normal. I think the fact that he goes crazy or something is a clear sign that he had problems, though. It was cool to follow the story throughout the book and see how holden felt about school and the people around him, i know at times school can seem pointless and stuff to me just like it did to holden. I also liked to see how holden wanted to do something important with his life rather than just be a lawyer or some guy trying to make lots of money. The last thing i liked about your book was all the symbolism, like the ducks in the pond and the hat and that kind of stuff. It was a good story, and i enjoyed reading it. -A student.

27. Which of these writers had you read?

28. Which did you enjoy now or which are you interested in reading now?

29. Which English-speaking writers have you read?

30. Which would you like to read?