

## Albert Camus (1913-1960)

- Born Nov. 7, 1913 in Mondovi, French Algeria
- Father was a French soldier who was killed in 1914 in the First Battle of the Marne
- Raised in poverty by an illiterate mother (cleaning woman) and grandmother
- Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1930, interrupting his studies
- Began writing in 1932, at the age of 19; began a life-long commitment to the theater
- Admitted to the University of Algiers (1933) on scholarship as a part-time student
- Briefly joined the Algerian Communist party in 1934
- After receiving the equivalent of a BA in philosophy (1935), took various jobs until becoming a political journalist with a newspaper in Algiers
- Volunteered for service in the French army but was rejected on medical grounds
- Published an essay on the conditions of Muslims in Algeria that caused him to lose his job and move to Paris, hoping to work as a journalist on a leftist press, but returned to Algeria after the German invasion
- 1942: Finding the political situation difficult for him in Algeria, he returned to France, where he became active in the Resistance and was the editor of *Combat*, an underground resistance newspaper published during the Nazi occupation of France.
- 1943: Recurrence of TB, so he moved to a small farm near Chambon-sur-Lignon, where he began work on *La Peste*, published 1947.
- Received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957.
- Died in an automobile accident in 1960