

For children
(ask for a pencil at reception)



THE LIFE OF PATRICK WHITE



NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA

nla.gov.au

Who Was Patrick White?



Patrick White (1912–1990) is one of the best-known Australian authors. This year is the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

White was born in London on 28 May 1912. His father, Victor, came from a wealthy family of graziers who had been farming in New South Wales since 1826. His mother, Ruth, was also from a farming family. When Paddy, as he was known until early adulthood, was four months old, his parents returned to Australia and lived in Sydney.

When he was young, Paddy suffered from severe asthma attacks and so he spent a great deal of time on his own. Later, this time alone influenced the kind of characters he wrote about. When he was ten, he started boarding school in Moss Vale, where he began to write plays. Three years later, his parents sent him to another boarding school in England. He felt miserable there.

During his lifetime, White published 12 novels and around 30 short stories, as well as poems. He also wrote many plays and screenplays. In 2011, one of his novels, *The Eye of the Storm*, was made into a movie.

In 1977, the National Library of Australia asked White about collecting the drafts of his novels and plays but he said he didn't keep anything after his books were published. This wasn't true and, in 2006, 16 years after his death, White's papers were bought by the Library— drafts, notebooks, letters, photos, recipes and even his beanie and glasses. In 2007, there was a very exciting discovery among his documents at the Library— an unfinished novel called *The Hanging Garden*. This story is about two children who create an imaginary world in the garden of a house in Sydney during the Second World War. *The Hanging Garden* was published this year.

What would you write a story about?

What would you call your story? Write the title here.

ABOVE

Manoly Lascaris (1912–2003)

Knitted beanie with pom pom belonging to Patrick White

wool; 33 x 20.5 x 5 cm

Papers of Patrick White, 1930–2002

Manuscripts Collection, MS 9982, Series 21

National Library of Australia

Patrick White, the Animal Lover

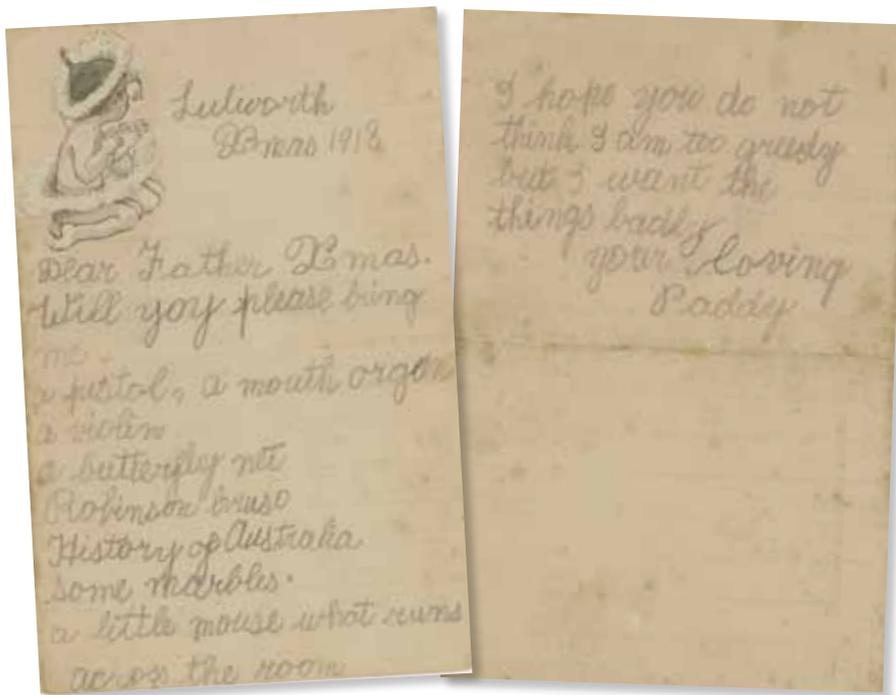
**Find all the animals in the exhibition.
They're in photos, paintings and on the walls.**

Draw the animals below.

What do you think was Patrick White's favourite animal?

What's your favourite animal in the exhibition?

Patrick White, the Child



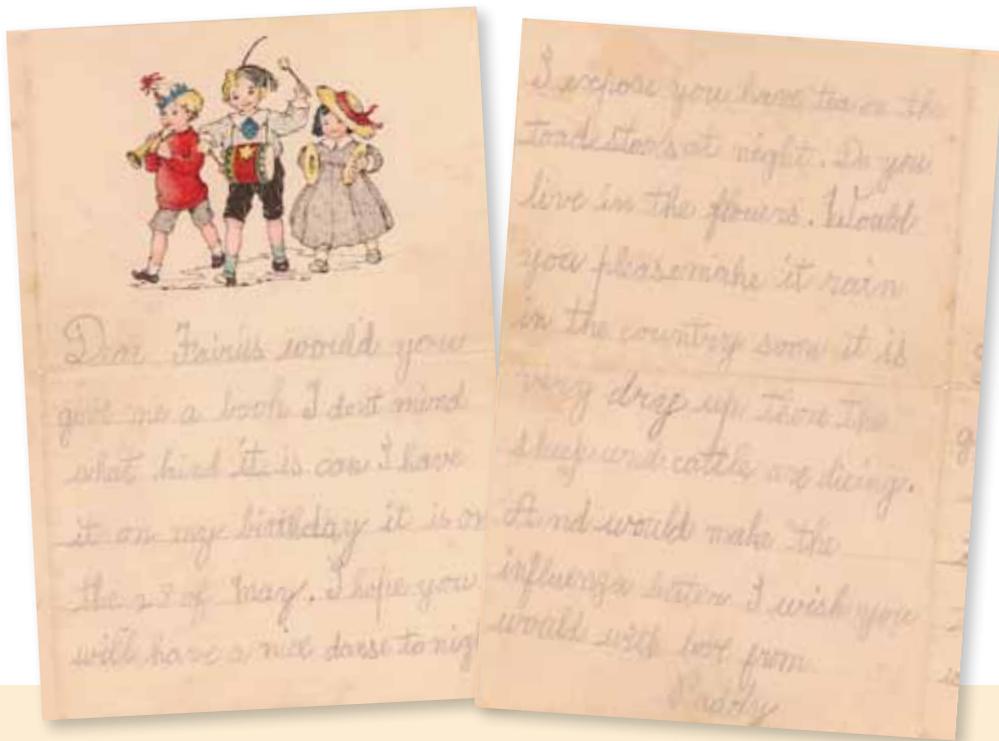
Patrick White wrote this wish list to Father Christmas when he was six years old.

Dear Father Xmas.
Will you please bring me
a pistol, a mouth organ
a violin
a butterfly net
Robinson Crusoe
History of Australia
some marbles.
a little mouse what runs
across the room
I hope you do not
think I am too greedy
but I want the
things badly
your loving
Paddy



Write your own wish list to Father Christmas. Include five things.

Are there any items on your list that Patrick White would never have heard of?



Dear Fairies would you give me a book I dont mind what kind it is can I have it on my birthday it is on the 28 of May. I hope you will have a nice danse to night. I expose you have tea on the toadstools at night. Do you live in the flowers. Would you please make it rain in the country soon it is very dry up there the sheep and cattle are dieing. And would make the influenza better I wish you would with love from Paddy

Patrick White wrote this letter when he was seven years old.

What date is his birthday?

What are the three things that he wishes for?

1

2

3



ABOVE
Patrick White (1912–1990)
Letter to the Fairies 1919
pencil
Donated by Manoly Lascaris, 1990
State Library of New South Wales

OPPOSITE PAGE
Patrick White (1912–1990)
Letter to Father Christmas 1918
ink
Donated by Manoly Lascaris, 1990
State Library of New South Wales

Patrick White, the Mad Hatter

When he was nine years old, Patrick White dressed as the Mad Hatter for a charity ball.

Who would you invite to a Mad Hatter's Tea Party?

What food would be there?



Complete the drawing with the characters you would invite to the tea party and the food you would eat.



Share your party pic!

Send us your finished drawing to win a \$60 voucher to spend at the NLA Bookshop. Provide your contact details with your entry.

Post your entry to

Education

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place, Canberra ACT 2600

OR

Scan your drawing and email it to education@nla.gov.au.

By entering you agree to allow the National Library to upload your artwork to its website. Go to nla.gov.au/education to see other people's entries and the winner (from 10 July). Entrants must be under 13 years.

Patrick White Dressed as the Mad Hatter for a Charity Ball (detail) 1920
gelatin silver print; 13.2 x 8.5 cm
University of New England and
Regional Archives, A1473, Album 18
University of New England

Your name:

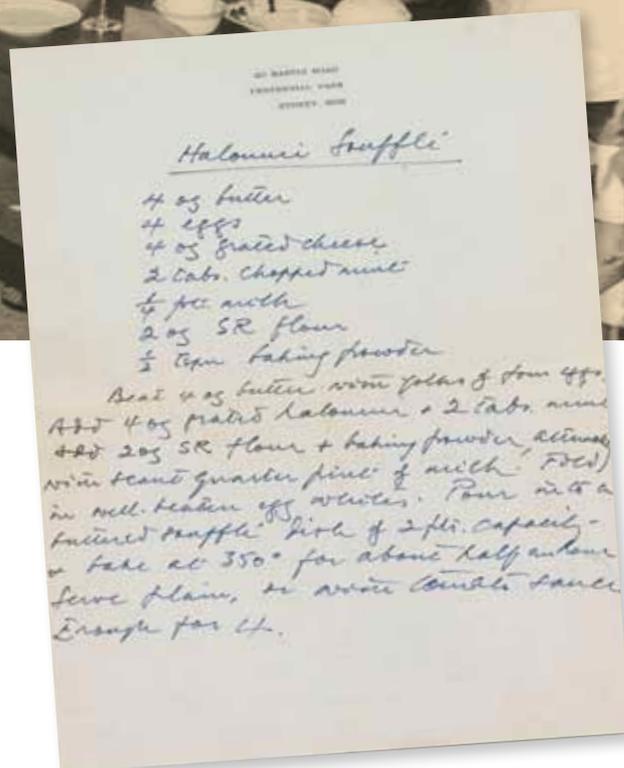
Your age:

Patrick White, the Cook

Patrick White loved to cook. As an adult, he often had elaborate dinner parties where he would show off his cooking skills.



William Yang (b. 1943)
Lunch at Kate's 1980
inscribed gelatin silver print
Papers of Patrick White, 1930–2002
Manuscripts Collection, MS 9982, Series 19
National Library of Australia



The National Library of Australia has some of Patrick White's original handwritten recipes in its collection.

There are two recipes on display in the exhibition. What recipes are they?

Patrick White
Recipe for haloumi soufflé
ink on Martin Road letterhead paper;
26 x 20.5 cm
Papers of Patrick White, 1930–2002
Manuscripts Collection, MS 9982, Series 22
National Library of Australia

TOP
William Yang (b.1943)
Patrick and Manoly, dining room, Martin Road 1978
inkjet print; 40.5 x 52.7 cm
Pictures Collection, nla.pic-vn5788023
National Library of Australia

Imagine you're having a special dinner party at your house.

Write a guest list for your dinner party inviting five famous Australians.
Why did you choose these five people?

What would you talk about with these famous Australians?

Imagine you are responsible for either a main course or a dessert.
Which course would you like to cook? What dish would you choose?

Search the internet or a library to find a recipe for your chosen dish.
Write your source (the website address or the book title and author).

Write the recipe. Don't forget to include the ingredients, the amounts you need and what you have to do.

Name of the dish

Ingredients

Steps

Draw your finished dish here

Patrick White, the Prize-winning Author

Patrick White is the only Australian writer to have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In 1973, White was given the award because of his contribution to literature. Each winner of the Nobel Prize receives a gold medal, a diploma and a large sum of money.

White used the money to set up his own yearly award, called the Patrick White Award, to celebrate writers who had not received enough recognition of their work.

The Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901 after Swedish scientist and inventor Alfred Nobel donated his fortune to establish a prize for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace.



Erik Lindberg (1873–1966)
Nobel Prize in Literature
awarded to *Patrick White* 1973
medal: 23 carat gold,
diploma: watercolour and ink;
medal: 0.5 x 6.5 cm (diam.),
diploma: 36.7 x 47.5 cm
Presented by Patrick White, May 1974
State Library of New South Wales

Is there someone who you think deserves a special prize for a great achievement?

Design and create your own special prize for this achievement.

The Life of Patrick White

Draw a line between the events in Patrick White's life and the years in which they occurred. You can find all the answers in the exhibition.

Patrick White ...

publishes his first novel, <i>Happy Valley</i>	1912
is born on 28 May in London, England, and his family moves back to Australia	1925
joins the Royal Air Force and serves in the Second World War	1939
moves to 'Dogwoods', a farm near Castle Hill, on the edge of Sydney, with his life partner, Manoly Lascaris	1940
dies in Sydney on 30 September, while living at Martin Road, Centennial Park, in Sydney	1948
is sent to boarding school in England	1973
wins the Nobel Prize in Literature	1990

Cast Your Vote!

Who is your favourite author?

Use the address, <http://bit.ly/HHLXc3>, to go to 'The Papers of Patrick White' on the Treasure Explorer website. Find the question 'Is your favourite author Australian?' and cast your vote.

Explore the webpage to find out more about the life of Patrick White.



Your Favourite Thing

Email education@nla.gov.au and tell us which item was your favourite in *The Life of Patrick White* exhibition.

COVER IMAGES

Paddy at 'Lulworth', Rushcutters Bay c. 1918
gelatin silver print
Papers of Patrick White, 1930–2002
Manuscripts Collection, MS 9982, Series 19
National Library of Australia

Axel Poignant (1906–1986)
Patrick White and His Cat Tom Jones c. 1956
silver gelatin print on fibre-based paper; 31 x 20.5 cm
Pictures Collection, nla.pic.an11618382
National Library of Australia

William Yang (b.1943)
Patrick White and Manoly Lascaris, Martin Road 1984 (detail)
gelatin silver print; 20.3 x 25.1 cm
Papers of Patrick White, 1930–2002
Manuscripts Collection, MS 9982, series 19
National Library of Australia



This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.