Guy, Rosa,

in full ROSA CUTHBERT GUY (b. Sept. 1, 1925/28, Trinidad, West Indies), African-American writer whose fiction for young adults usually concerns family conflicts and the realities of life in the urban American ghetto as well as life in the West Indies.

After immigrating to the United States with her family in 1932, Guy grew up in New York City's Harlem. During World War II, Guy was active in the American Negro Theatre. She became a writer and studied at New York University. In the late 1940s, with other young black writers, she formed the Harlem Writers' Guild.

Her first novel, Bird at My Window (1966), is set in Harlem and deals with social forces that foster the demoralization of black men; the work also examines the relationship between the black mother and her children. Children of Longing (1970), which Guy edited, contains accounts of firsthand experiences and of the aspirations of black teens and young adults. After publication of these works, Guy traveled in the Caribbean, living in Haiti and Trinidad. Her subsequent novels, such as The Friends (1973) and Ruby (1976), reflect West Indian and Haitian cultures. Still later works include The Disappearance (1979), A Measure of Time (1983), New Guys Around the Block (1983), Paris, Pee Wee, and Big Dog (1984), My Love, My Love; or, The Peasant Girl (1985, on which the successful 1990 Broadway musical There Is an Island was based), And I Heard a Bird Sing (1987), The Ups and Downs of Carl David III (1989), Billy the Great (1991), and The Music of Summer (1992). The Sun, the Sea, a Touch of the Wind (1995), a novel for adults, centres on an American artist who reexamines her troubled past while living in Haiti.