

## WHO WAS THOMAS WOLFE?

Asheville's Thomas Wolfe grew up to become a famous writer. He was born the youngest of eight children to William Oliver and Julia Wolfe on October 3, 1900. His father was a stonecutter who owned a monument shop. Tom's mother ran a boardinghouse called the Old Kentucky Home. Tom lived with his mother in the boardinghouse from age 6 to 15 years old.

While growing up in Asheville Tom attended a public school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He then went to a private school where he was encouraged to go to college by his favorite teacher. Tom went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for college, then to Harvard University for graduate school where he learned to write plays. After college he moved to New York City. His plays were never successful, so, he decided to write a book instead.

Thomas Wolfe's first novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*, was finished in 1929. The book was about a boy growing up in a small mountain town. People in Asheville thought the book was about them. They were so angry about the book that Tom could not go home again for almost eight years. When he returned in 1937, he received a warm welcome from people in Asheville who now wanted to be in his books.

Tom's writings about his life had made him famous. His other books, *Of Time and the River*, *The Web and the Rock*, and *You Can't Go Home Again* explore his adventures in New York City and Europe. Thomas Wolfe died at an early age in September 1938 and was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery in Asheville.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE – WHO WAS THOMAS WOLFE?

Circle the best answer to the following questions.

1. Thomas Wolfe was the \_\_\_\_\_ child in his family.  
A. oldest      B. third      C. middle      D. youngest
2. Thomas Wolfe's father was a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. stonecutter      B. salesman      C. schoolteacher      D. builder
3. Thomas Wolfe's mother ran a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hotel      B. salesman      C. boardinghouse      D. school
4. Thomas Wolfe went to college at \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. UNC-Chapel Hill      C. Harvard University  
B. New York University      D. UNC-Asheville
5. After Thomas Wolfe finished school he moved to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Baltimore      B. Raleigh      C. Miami      D. New York City
6. Thomas Wolfe's book about Asheville was called \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. *Of Time and the River*      C. *Old Kentucky Home*  
B. *Look Homeward, Angel*      D. *You Can't Go Home Again*
7. Asheville felt \_\_\_\_\_ about *Look Homeward, Angel*.  
A. angry      B. nervous      C. happy      D. excited
8. Thomas Wolfe died in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 1938      B. 1929      C. 1965      D. 1936