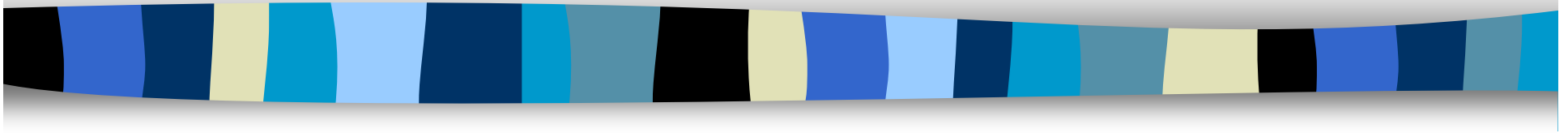
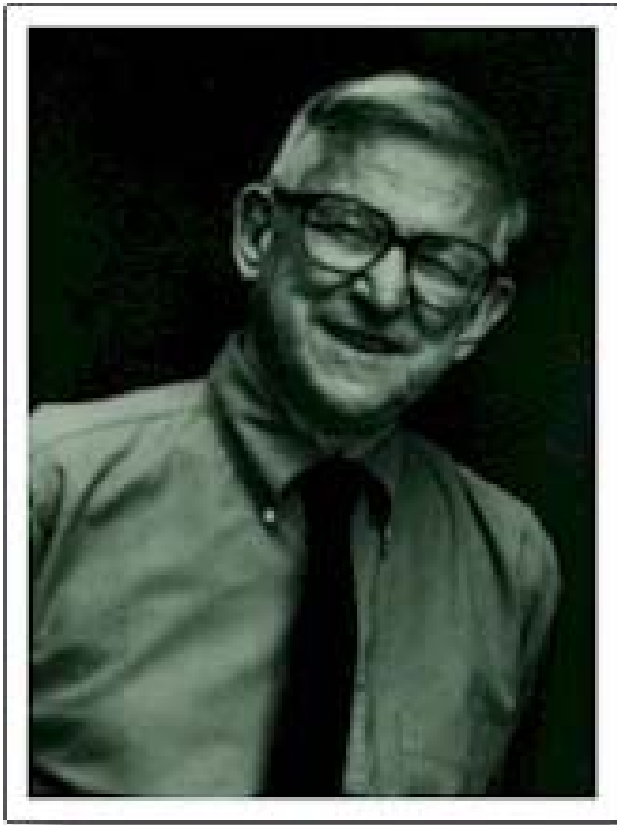


Robert Cormier



Presented by: John Rozycki

Background



- Born in 1925 in French Hill, a French Canadian neighborhood in Leominster Massachusetts
- Attended St. Celia's Parochial Grammar School where he began writing
- Attended Fitchburg State College where he wrote his first published article



Background (cont.)

- Wrote commercials for a local radio station for a short time before working for *The Fitchburg Sentinel* for 23 years as an editor and writer winning three major journalism awards
- Married in 1948 sending his four children to parochial school
- Later wrote short stories for popular magazines such as *McCall's* and the *Saturday Evening Post*
- Didn't Become a full-time writer until the 70's
- Wrote three moderately successful books before The Chocolate War launched him into a lucrative career in Y.A. literature



Selected Books and Point of Entry

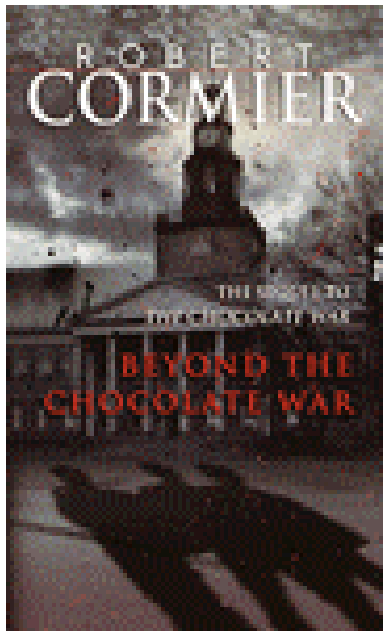
- The Chocolate War (1975)
- Beyond the Chocolate War (1986)
- Fade (1991)
- An unique brand of “realism” that includes
 - Non-traditional narrative structures
 - Personal Experiences
 - Aspects of the use and the abuse of power
 - Unusual endings

The Chocolate War



- Uses 13 different narrators
- Takes place in the French-Canadian town of Monument, MA at a catholic parochial school - Trinity High
- Inspired by Cormier's son own refusal to participate in his parochial school's chocolate sale
- Brother Leon and Archie both abuse their power
- Realistic in that good doesn't always triumph over evil as shown by a surprise ending similar to Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*

Beyond The Chocolate War



- Again contains a jumpy narrative
- Again takes place in the French-Canadian town of Monument at Trinity High
- Archie and Obie abuse their power
- Contains an unusual and ambiguous ending that again weighs in on the battle between good and evil

Fade



- Another unusual narrative structure focusing on three people to tell the tale of the “fade”
- Stated that this was his most autobiographical of all his novels
- Once again the book takes place in the fictional French-Canadian town of Monument
- Both he and Paul Moreaux were 13 in 1938 and became writers
- All of the “faders” abuse their power in some way
- Another unhappy ending dealing with the evil that the “fade” can bring



Conclusion

- “When I write I write to the the fullest of my ability and I usually have an interesting and intelligent person in mind with whom I can be subtle. That person often turns out to be 14 years old, but that reader can also be 45.”

- Robert Cormier