

Günter Grass obituary



- **1927:** Born in Baltic port of Danzig (now Polish city of Gdansk)
- **1944:** Joins ***Waffen-SS*** – combat arm of Hitler’s **SS** paramilitary force
- **1945-6:** Prisoner of war
- **1948-56:** Studies sculpture and painting in Düsseldorf and Berlin
- **1959:** Achieves worldwide fame with publication of ***The Tin Drum*** – first novel in anti-Nazi trilogy
- **1961:** Involves himself in politics, supporting Social Democrat Party
- **1990:** Opposes reunification, fearing united Germany would revert to aggressive nation-state
- **1999:** Awarded Nobel Prize for Literature
- **2006:** Reputation as moral authority suffers after revealing SS past in personal memoir
- **2012:** Poem, ***What Must Be Said***, sparks controversy for strong criticism of Israel
- **2015:** Dies aged 87 in Lübeck