John Hoyer Updike (March 18, 1932 - January 27, 2009) was an American poet, novelist, short story writer, art critic, and literary critic. Updike published more than 20 novels and more than a dozen short story collections, as well as poetry, art criticism, literary criticism and children's books. Hundreds of his stories, reviews, and poems appeared in The New Yorker, starting in 1954. He also wrote regularly for the New York Review of Books. John Updike, American writer known for his careful craftsmanship and realistic but subtle depiction of American middle-class life. John Updike. American author. Article. John Hoyer Updike was an American writer, poet, literary critic and novelist. He was born on 18th March 1932 in Reading, Pennsylvania. Updike was the only child of Wesley Russell Updike, a mathematics teacher and an aspiring writer Linda Grace Hoyer. John Updike was popular for many of his previous books but he rose to great eminence with his novel Rabbit Run™ that was published in 1960. This book gave birth to one of the most famed American characters of the 20th century; Harry (Rabbit) Angstrom.