

S. Yizhar (1916-2006)

S. Yizhar was born in Rehovot, Israel, to a family of Russian immigrants who were members of the Zionist pioneer intelligentsia.

Yizhar is considered Israel's most illustrious writer, marked by his deep penetration into the Israeli soil and soul, and by his virtuosity in tapping and integrating all the ancient and modern layers of the Hebrew language into an extremely rich and profound medium of expression.

He published 17 works of fiction, including novels and short stories, six non-fiction books and six books for children.

Yizhar was awarded the Israel Prize in 1959 for his masterpiece, *Days of Ziklag*, a spacious epos describing two days in the life of combatants in the Israeli 1948 War of Independence.

Yizhar's work combines intense love to the County of Israel and its people with uncompromising criticism of all manifestations of militarism and violence.

Some of his late literary achievements, e.g. *At Sea* (1996) and *Discovering Elijah* (1999) were staged by Ruth Kanner's Theater group.

Yizhar's work has been published in 21 languages.