Walter M. Miller, Jr. was a notable American science fiction writer, best known for his novel *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1959). Born in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, on January 23, 1923, and educated at the University of Florida, Miller began his writing career in the 1950s and spent most of his productive years publishing in the field of science fiction. His work often explores themes of apocalypticism, religion, and the uncertainty of human nature in post-apocalyptic societies.

Miller's first novel, *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1959), follows the story of Saint Leibowitz and his community over the centuries following a catastrophic event that led to a global collapse of civilization. The novel is a critique of human nature, faith, and the consequences of human actions. It was his only novel, although he contributed to other works, including short stories and essays, under his full name and the pseudonym Charles M. Wilson, the latter of which he used for his religious and political writings.

In 1959, Miller received the Nebula Award for Best Novel for *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. He was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 1978, and his work continues to be studied and referenced in academic circles. His contributions to the science fiction genre have secured his place as one of the most influential writers in the field, especially in the context of apocalyptic literature and the portrayal of complex human dynamics in a post-apocalyptic setting.