Albert Camus was born on November 7, 1913, in Mondovi, Algeria. He was the son of Lucien Camus, a French father, and Catherine Camus, of Spanish descent. His family was of modest means. Camus' father died in combat during World War I, after which Camus lived with his mother and her new husband, a childhood friend of his father. Camus studied philosophy and literature at the University of Algiers, where he was influenced by the works of Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche. Camus' early works include novels such as "The Stranger" and "La Peste." He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957 for his incisive and moving exploration of the absurd condition of human existence and his powerful engagement with the political issues of his time.

Camus died in a car accident on January 4, 1960, just a few months after receiving the Nobel Prize. His works continue to be widely read and studied, and he is remembered as one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century.