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Preface

Welcome to LitCrit Concepts, Volume 4: Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes. I was once in your shoes (many, many, many, many years ago), and now, as a writer for Hexco, I am in the trenches with you every year, studying the reading selections and *The Handbook* to prepare for the year of UIL Literary Criticism. And every year, as I prepare questions for practice tests and invitationals, I scan the prize pages looking for good questions. What is considered a good question? One that is reasonable and addresses something that would add depth to your knowledge of literature. Whenever I write a question that is really hard (for instance, by a little-known writer), it is to separate the greatest from the great for scoring.

I want to help you prepare to be the greatest of the greatest of the great. Those eight or so questions on the test about the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes are not throw-aways. They could make the difference between placing or not. I want you to get *all* of those points.

That being said, there is nothing intrinsically inspiring about a lo-o-o-ng list of years, titles, and authors. It's hard to group information, and the lists themselves offer no context. Some of the names you recognize and can place in a time or movement, but it is easy for it all to blur together. The purpose of this book is to dissect the lists so the people and works have some meaning and context. That will not only help you remember the information when you're taking the test, but it will add more to your literary education than you realize. And here's a bonus: There will be times that it will help you with Terms, History, and possibly your Essay if the poet is someone who won a prize.

There's no downside, except the time you put into studying it. But you have to do that, anyway! This book should make it easier and more fun. There are worksheets and practice questions along the way to help nail the information down in your mind. Just so you know, this book covers the same information you find in the 11th edition of *A Handbook to Literature*, because that is what is required per the UIL website. That means that we are only learning about winners through 2007.

To help with learning and recall, I have used a few simple visual cues. Names in **bold** are female authors. Names in ALL CAPS are ethnic or minority authors, except in reference to Nobel winners. Those winners are global, so that really does not apply. Finally, names that are underlined are prominent authors in English literature. These are major players on the literary stage that you should definitely know. Sure, this is a bit subjective, but it's a good starting point. If you are feeling overwhelmed, my advice is to go through the book focusing mainly on the underlined winners. You will likely go through the book multiple times, so just try to add to your personal database each time. No need to drink out of the fire hose.

As always, we at Hexco would love to hear from you. What works or doesn't work? What do you wish there was more of? One way we measure our success is by yours, so speak up! Have fun studying and good luck in the competition!

–Jennifer Bussey

Nobel Prizes, Three Ways: Decades

Unlike the Pulitzer Prizes, the Nobel Prizes are not separated by genre, and they awarded to people (not works). The Nobel recognizes an author's body of work, contribution to the field of literature, or a particular work/series that warrants special recognition.

Let's break down this massive list of prizes in some ways that add meaning. This helps because, just like in science, you are studying your subject from multiple angles to reveal more about it. We'll start with a simple decade breakdown. Associate what you have learned about American history, world history, and literary history. The more you anchor new information to current knowledge, the easier it will be to pick up new information. For more information, Hexco's UIL LitCrit Concepts Vol. 1: History will help you get the big picture on the history information in *A Handbook to Literature*.

The Nobel Foundation releases a "prize motivation" statement for each winner, explaining why the winner won. These statements are included with the decade lists to tell a little more about each winner. And remember, women are in **bold**, major players are underlined.

1900s

1901 – René F.A. Sully-Prudhomme

"in special recognition of his poetic composition, which gives evidence of lofty idealism, artistic perfection and a rare combination of the qualities of both heart and intellect"

1902 – Theodor Mommsen

"the greatest living master of the art of historical writing, with special reference to his monumental work, A history of Rome"

1903 - Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson

"as a tribute to his noble, magnificent and versatile poetry, which has always been distinguished by both the freshness of its inspiration and the rare purity of its spirit"

1904 - Frédéric Mistral

"in recognition of the fresh originality and true inspiration of his poetic production, which faithfully reflects the natural scenery and native spirit of his people, and, in addition, his significant work as a Provençal philologist"

1904 - José Echegaray

"in recognition of the numerous and brilliant compositions which, in an individual and original manner, have revived the great traditions of the Spanish drama"

1905 - Henryk Sienkiewicz

"because of his outstanding merits as an epic writer"

1906 - Giosuè Carducci

"not only in consideration of his deep learning and critical research, but above all as a tribute to the creative energy, freshness of style, and lyrical force which characterize his poetic masterpieces"

1907 - Rudyard Kipling

"in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author"

Comprehensive List of Repeat Winners

Within each prize category, you have been able to see which writers won a particular prize more than once. You also need to have a full aerial view of which writers won different prizes during their careers. This is great question fodder, so be sure you have a handle on these super-overachievers.

Sinclair Lewis:

- 1930 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1926 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction- *Arrowsmith* (declined)

Eugene O'Neill:

- 1936 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1920 Pulitzer Prize for Drama - *Beyond the Horizon*
- 1922 Pulitzer Prize for Drama - *Anna Christie*
- 1928 Pulitzer Prize for Drama - *Strange Interlude*
- 1957 Pulitzer Prize for Drama - *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Pearl S. Buck:

- 1938 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1932 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction- *The Good Earth*

William Faulkner:

- 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1955 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *A Fable*
- 1963 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *The Reivers*

Ernest Hemingway:

- 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1953 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *The Old Man and the Sea*

John Steinbeck:

- 1962 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1940 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *The Grapes of Wrath*

SAUL BELLOW:

- 1976 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1976 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction - *Humboldt's Gift*