

LITCRIT CONCEPTS VOL 4: PRIZES

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Lit Crit Concepts author, Jennifer Bussey has been very involved in Literary Criticism since it was a very new contest. Her nationally published works include entries in: *Contemporary Authors*, *Poetry for Students*, *Encyclopedia of American Poetry - The Twentieth Century*, and *Literature of Developing Nations*. Bussey has been writing for Hexco Academic since 1999. With clients as far away as Barcelona, Spain, her works have also appeared on the web and in national magazines and newsletters, including *Focus on the Family*.

We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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bold=female author | underline=prominent author | ALL CAPS=ethnic or minority author (except in reference to Nobel winners)

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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

bold=female author | underline=prominent author | ALL CAPS=ethnic or minority author (except in reference to Nobel winners)

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Nationality

Now, let's take a look at the Nobel winners geographically. The following lists separate the winners by continent, and then grouped by country. Some authors were born in one country, but were citizens of another country when they won their prizes. They are grouped under their countries of residence, with their birth countries in parentheses.

Incidentally, <http://www.worldatlas.com/cntycont.htm> was used as the authority regarding which countries fall within which continents.

Africa (4 winners)

South African:

1991 - **Nadine Gordimer**

2003 - John M. Coetzee

Egyptian:

1988 - Naguib Mahfouz

Nigerian:

1986 - Wole Soyinka

Asia (6 winners)

Japanese:

1968 - Yasunari Kawabata

1994 - Kenzaburo Oe

Chinese:

2000 - Gao Xingjian

Indian:

1913 - Rabindranath Tagore

Israeli:

1966 - Shmuel J. Agnon (Poland)

Turkish:

2006 - Orhan Pamuk

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 3 Ways

Decades

Now, it's time to take a look at the Pulitzer Prizes. To clarify, these are unlike the Nobel Prizes in several ways. They are separated by genre, the awards go to works instead of to people (which means an author can receive the award more than once), and they are limited to works published in the United States during the prior year.

Let's start by breaking the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction down by decade. Pay attention to the authors grouped in each decade, and pay special attention to the time period. Because the prize goes to a work published the year prior, the historical setting can be very meaningful with these prizes.

As an aside, you should be aware that the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was originally called the Pulitzer Prize for Novel from 1917 to 1947. If you conduct any additional research, be sure to take this into account. On the Pulitzer Prize website, for example, the winners are separated accordingly.

1910s

1917 - No award
1918 - *His Family* by Ernest Poole
1919 - *The Magnificent Ambersons* by Booth Tarkington

1920s

1920 - No award
1921 - *The Age of Innocence* by **Edith Wharton**
1922 - *Alice Adams* by Booth Tarkington
1923 - *One of Ours* by **Willa Cather**
1924 - *The Able McLaughlins* by **Margaret Wilson**
1925 - *So Big* by **EDNA FERBER**
1926 - *Arrowsmith* by Sinclair Lewis
1927 - *Early Autumn* by Louis Bromfield
1928 - *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder
1929 - *Scarlet Sister Mary* by **Julia Peterkin**

1930s

1930 - *Laughing Boy* by Oliver La Farge
1931 - *Years of Grace* by **Margaret Ayer Barnes**
1932 - *The Good Earth* by **Pearl S. Buck**
1933 - *The Store* by T. S. Stribling
1934 - *Lamb in His Bosom* by **Caroline Miller**
1935 - *Now in November* by **Josephine Winslow Johnson**
1936 - *Honey in the Horn* by Harold L. Davis

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