

List of Nobel Laureates in Literature					
Year	Laureate	Country	Language(s)	Citation	Genre(s)
1901	Sully Prudhomme	France	French	"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"	poetry, essay
1902	Theodor Mommsen	Germany	German	"the greatest living master of the art of historical writing, with special reference to his monumental work, A History of Rome"	history, law
1903	Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson	Norway	Norwegian	"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"	poetry, novel, drama
1904	Frédéric Mistral	France	Provençal	"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"	poetry, philology
	José Echegaray	Spain	Spanish	"in recognition of the numerous and brilliant compositions which, in an individual and original manner, have revived the great traditions of the Spanish drama"	drama
1905	Henryk Sienkiewicz	Poland	Polish	"because of his outstanding merits as an epic writer"	novel
1906	Giosuè Carducci	Italy	Italian	"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"	poetry
1907	Rudyard Kipling	United Kingdom	English	"in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration that characterize the creations of this world-famous author"	novel, short story, poetry
1908	Rudolf Christoph Eucken	Germany	German	"in recognition of his earnest search for truth, his penetrating power of thought, his wide range of vision, and the warmth and strength in presentation with which in his numerous works he has vindicated and developed an idealistic philosophy of life"	philosophy
1909	Selma Lagerlöf	Sweden	Swedish	"in appreciation of the lofty idealism, vivid imagination and spiritual perception that characterize her writings"	novel, short story
1910	Paul von Heyse	Germany	German	"as a tribute to the consummate artistry, permeated with idealism, which he has demonstrated during his long productive career as a lyric poet, dramatist, novelist and writer of world-renowned short stories"	poetry, drama, novel, short story
1911	Maurice Maeterlinck	Belgium	French	"in appreciation of his many-sided literary activities, and especially of his dramatic works, which are distinguished by a wealth of imagination and by a poetic fancy, which reveals, sometimes in the guise of a fairy tale, a deep inspiration, while in a mysterious way they appeal to the readers' own feelings and stimulate their imaginations"	drama, poetry, essay
1912	Gerhart Hauptmann	Germany	German	"primarily in recognition of his fruitful, varied and outstanding production in the realm of dramatic art"	drama, novel
1913	Rabindranath Tagore	India	Bengali and English	"because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, by which, with consummate skill, he has made his poetic thought, expressed in his own English words, a part of the literature of the West"	poetry, novel, drama, short story, music
1914					
1915	Romain Rolland	France	French	"as a tribute to the lofty idealism of his literary production and to the sympathy and love of truth with which he has described different types of human beings"	novel
1916	Verner von Heidenstam	Sweden	Swedish	"in recognition of his significance as the leading representative of a new era in our literature"	poetry, novel
1917	Karl Adolph Gjellerup	Denmark	Danish	"for his varied and rich poetry, which is inspired by lofty ideals"	poetry
	Henrik Pontoppidan	Denmark	Danish	"for his authentic descriptions of present-day life in Denmark"	novel
1918					
1919	Carl Spitteler	Switzerland	German	"in special appreciation of his epic, Olympian Spring"	poetry
1920	Knut Hamsun	Norway	Norwegian	"for his monumental work, Growth of the Soil"	novel
1921	Anatole France	France	French	"in recognition of his brilliant literary achievements, characterized as they are by a nobility of style, a profound human sympathy, grace, and a true Gallic temperament"	novel, poetry
1922	Jacinto Benavente	Spain	Spanish	"for the happy manner in which he has continued the illustrious traditions of the Spanish drama"	drama
1923	William Butler Yeats	Ireland	English	"for his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation"	poetry
1924	Wladyslaw Reymont	Poland	Polish	"for his great national epic, The Peasants"	novel
1925	George Bernard Shaw	Ireland	English	"for his work which is marked by both idealism and humanity, its stimulating satire often being infused with a singular poetic beauty"	drama, literary criticism
1926	Grazia Deledda	Italy	Italian	"for her idealistically inspired writings, which with plastic clarity picture the life on her native island and with depth and sympathy deal with human problems in general"	poetry, novel
1927	Henri Bergson	France	French	"in recognition of his rich and vitalizing ideas and the brilliant skill with which they have been presented"	philosophy
1928	Sigrid Undset	Norway	Norwegian	"principally for her powerful descriptions of Northern life during the Middle Ages"	novel
1929	Thomas Mann	Germany	German	"principally for his great novel, Buddenbrooks, which has won steadily increased recognition as one of the classic works of contemporary literature"	novel, short story, essay
1930	Sinclair Lewis	United States	English	"for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humour, new types of characters"	novel, short story, drama
1931	Erik Axel Karlfeldt	Sweden	Swedish	"The poetry of Erik Axel Karlfeldt"	poetry
1932	John Galsworthy	United Kingdom	English	"for his distinguished art of narration, which takes its highest form in The Forsyte Saga"	novel
1933	Ivan Bunin	France	Russian	"for the strict artistry with which he has carried on the classical Russian traditions in prose writing"	short story, poetry, novel
1934	Luigi Pirandello	Italy	Italian	"for his bold and ingenious revival of dramatic and scenic art"	drama, novel, short story
1935					

1936	Eugene O'Neill	United States	English	"for the power, honesty and deep-felt emotions of his dramatic works, which embody an original concept of tragedy"	drama
1937	Roger Martin du Gard	France	French	"for the artistic power and truth with which he has depicted human conflict as well as some fundamental aspects of contemporary life in his novel cycle Les Thibault"	novel
1938	Pearl S. Buck	United States	English	"for her rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China and for her biographical masterpieces"	novel, biography
1939	Frans Eemil Sillanpää	Finland	Finnish	"for his deep understanding of his country's peasantry and the exquisite art with which he has portrayed their way of life and their relationship with Nature"	novel
1940	Not awarded				
1941					
1942					
1943					
1944	Johannes Vilhelm Jensen	Denmark	Danish	"for the rare strength and fertility of his poetic imagination with which is combined an intellectual curiosity of wide scope and a bold, freshly creative style"	poetry
1945	Gabriela Mistral	Chile	Spanish	"for her lyric poetry, which inspired by powerful emotions, has made her name a symbol of the idealistic aspirations of the entire Latin American world"	poetry
1946	Hermann Hesse	Switzerland	German	"for his inspired writings, which while growing in boldness and penetration, exemplify the classical humanitarian ideals and high qualities of style"	novel, poetry
1947	André Gide	France	French	"for his comprehensive and artistically significant writings, in which human problems and conditions have been presented with a fearless love of truth and keen psychological insight"	novel, essay
1948	T. S. Eliot	United Kingdom	English	"for his outstanding, pioneer contribution to present-day poetry"	poetry
1949	William Faulkner	United States	English	"for his powerful and artistically unique contribution to the modern American novel"	novel, short story
1950	Bertrand Russell	United Kingdom	English	"in recognition of his varied and significant writings in which he champions humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought"	philosophy
1951	Pär Lagerkvist	Sweden	Swedish	"for the artistic vigour and true independence of mind with which he endeavours in his poetry to find answers to the eternal questions confronting mankind"	poetry, novel, short story, drama
1952	François Mauriac	France	French	"for the deep spiritual insight and the artistic intensity with which he has in his novels penetrated the drama of human life"	novel, short story
1953	Winston Churchill	United Kingdom	English	"for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values"	history, essay, memoirs
1954	Ernest Hemingway	United States	English	"for his mastery of the art of narrative, most recently demonstrated in <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> , and for the influence that he has exerted on contemporary style"	novel, short story, screenplay
1955	Halldór Laxness	Iceland	Icelandic	"for his vivid epic power, which has renewed the great narrative art of Iceland"	novel, short story, drama, poetry
1956	Juan Ramón Jiménez	Spain	Spanish	"for his lyrical poetry, which in Spanish language constitutes an example of high spirit and artistic purity"	poetry
1957	Albert Camus	France	French	"for his important literary production, which with clear-sighted earnestness illuminates the problems of the human conscience in our times"	novel, short story, drama, philosophy, essay
1958	Boris Pasternak	Soviet Union	Russian	"for his important achievement both in contemporary lyrical poetry and in the field of the great Russian epic tradition"	novel, poetry, translation
1959	Salvatore Quasimodo	Italy	Italian	"for his lyrical poetry, which with classical fire expresses the tragic experience of life in our own times"	poetry
1960	Saint-John Perse	France	French	"for the soaring flight and the evocative imagery of his poetry, which in a visionary fashion reflects the conditions of our time"	poetry
1961	Ivo Andrić	Yugoslavia	Serbo-Croatian	"for the epic force with which he has traced themes and depicted human destinies drawn from the history of his country"	novel, short story
1962	John Steinbeck	United States	English	"for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humour and keen social perception"	novel, short story, screenplay
1963	Giorgos Seferis	Greece	Greek	"for his eminent lyrical writing, inspired by a deep feeling for the Hellenic world of culture"	poetry, essay, memoirs
1964	Jean-Paul Sartre	France	French	"for his work, which rich in ideas and filled with the spirit of freedom and the quest for truth, has exerted a far-reaching influence on our age"	novel, philosophy, drama, literary criticism, screenplay
1965	Mikhail Sholokhov	Soviet Union	Russian	"for his profoundly characteristic narrative art with motifs from the life of the Jewish people"	novel
1966	Shmuel Yosef Agnon	Israel	Hebrew	"for her outstanding lyrical and dramatic writing, which interprets Israel's destiny with touching strength"	novel, short story
	Nelly Sachs	Sweden	German		poetry, drama
1967	Miguel Ángel Asturias	Guatemala	Spanish	"for his vivid literary achievement, deep-rooted in the national traits and traditions of Indian peoples of Latin America"	novel, poetry
1968	Yasunari Kawabata	Japan	Japanese	"for his narrative mastery, which with great sensibility expresses the essence of the Japanese mind"	novel, short story
1969	Samuel Beckett	Ireland	English and French	"for his writing, which - in new forms for the novel and drama - in the destitution of modern man acquires its elevation"	novel, drama, poetry
1970	Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn	Soviet Union	Russian	"for the ethical force with which he has pursued the indispensable traditions of Russian literature"	novel
1971	Pablo Neruda	Chile	Spanish	"for a poetry that with the action of an elemental force brings alive a continent's destiny and dreams"	poetry
1972	Heinrich Böll	West Germany	German	"for his writing, which through its combination of a broad perspective on his time and a sensitive skill in characterization has contributed to a renewal of German literature"	novel, short story
1973	Patrick White	Australia	English	"for an epic and psychological narrative art, which has introduced a new continent into literature"	novel, short story, drama
1974	Eyvind Johnson	Sweden	Swedish	"for a narrative art, farseeing in lands and ages, in the service of freedom"	novel
	Harry Martinson	Sweden	Swedish	"for writings that catch the dewdrop and reflect the cosmos"	poetry, novel, drama
1975	Eugenio Montale	Italy	Italian	"for his distinctive poetry, which, with great artistic sensitivity, has interpreted human values under the sign of an outlook on life with no illusions"	poetry
1976	Saul Bellow	United States	English	"for the human understanding and subtle analysis of contemporary culture that are combined in his work"	novel, short story
1977	Vicente Aleixandre	Spain	Spanish	"for a creative poetic writing, which illuminates man's condition in the cosmos and in present-day society, at the same time representing the great renewal of the traditions of Spanish poetry between the wars"	poetry
1978	Isaac Bashevis Singer	United States	Yiddish	"for his impassioned narrative art which, with roots in a Polish-Jewish cultural tradition, brings universal human conditions to life"	novel, short story, memoirs
1979	Odysseas Elytis	Greece	Greek	"for his poetry, which, against the background of Greek tradition, depicts with sensuous strength and intellectual clear-sightedness modern man's struggle for freedom and creativeness"	poetry, essay
1980	Czesław Miłosz	Poland	Polish	"who with uncompromising clear-sightedness voices man's exposed condition in a world of severe conflicts"	poetry, essay
1981	Elias Canetti	United Kingdom	German	"for writings marked by a broad outlook, a wealth of ideas and artistic power"	novel, drama, memoirs, essay

1982	Gabriel García Márquez	Colombia	Spanish	"for his novels and short stories, in which the fantastic and the realistic are combined in a richly composed world of imagination, reflecting a continent's life and conflicts"	novel, short story, screenplay
1983	William Golding	United Kingdom	English	"for his novels, which with the perspicuity of realistic narrative art and the diversity and universality of myth, illuminate the human condition in the world of today"	novel, poetry, drama
1984	Jaroslav Seifert	Czechoslovakia	Czech	"for his poetry, which endowed with freshness, and rich inventiveness provides a liberating image of the indomitable spirit and versatility of man"	poetry
1985	Claude Simon	France	French	"who in his novel combines the poet's and the painter's creativeness with a deepened awareness of time in the depiction of the human condition"	novel
1986	Wole Soyinka	Nigeria	English	"who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence"	drama, novel, poetry
1987	Joseph Brodsky	United States	English and Russian	"for an all-embracing authorship, imbued with clarity of thought and poetic intensity"	poetry, essay
1988	Naguib Mahfouz	Egypt	Arabic	"who, through works rich in nuance - now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous - has formed an Arabian narrative art that applies to all mankind"	novel
1989	Camilo José Cela	Spain	Spanish	"for a rich and intensive prose, which with restrained compassion forms a challenging vision of man's vulnerability"	novel, short story
1990	Octavio Paz	Mexico	Spanish	"for impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterized by sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity"	poetry, essay
1991	Nadine Gordimer	South Africa	English	"who through her magnificent epic writing has - in the words of Alfred Nobel - been of very great benefit to humanity"	novel, short story, essay
1992	Derek Walcott	Saint Lucia	English	"for a poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment"	poetry, drama
1993	Toni Morrison	United States	English	"who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality"	novel
1994	Kenzaburō Ōe	Japan	Japanese	"who with poetic force creates an imagined world, where life and myth condense to form a disconcerting picture of the human predicament today"	novel, short story
1995	Seamus Heaney	Ireland	English	"for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past"	poetry
1996	Wisława Szymborska	Poland	Polish	"for poetry that with ironic precision allows the historical and biological context to come to light in fragments of human reality"	poetry
1997	Dario Fo	Italy	Italian	"who emulates the jesters of the Middle Ages in scourging authority and upholding the dignity of the downtrodden"	drama
1998	José Saramago	Portugal	Portuguese	"who with parables sustained by imagination, compassion and irony continually enables us once again to apprehend an elusory reality"	novel, drama, poetry
1999	Günter Grass	Germany	German	"whose frolicsome black fables portray the forgotten face of history"	novel, drama, poetry
2000	Gao Xingjian	France	Chinese	"for an oeuvre of universal validity, bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity, which has opened new paths for the Chinese novel and drama"	novel, drama, literary criticism
2001	V. S. Naipaul	United Kingdom	English	"for having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories"	novel, essay
2002	Imre Kertész	Hungary	Hungarian	"for writing that upholds the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric arbitrariness of history"	novel
2003	J. M. Coetzee	Australia	English	"who in innumerable guises portrays the surprising involvement of the outsider"	novel, essay, translation
2004	Elfriede Jelinek	Austria	German	"for her musical flow of voices and counter-voices in novels and plays that with extraordinary linguistic zeal reveal the absurdity of society's clichés and their subjugating power"	novel, drama
2005	Harold Pinter	United Kingdom	English	"who in his plays uncovers the precipice under everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms"	drama, screenplay
2006	Orhan Pamuk	Turkey	Turkish	"who in the quest for the melancholic soul of his native city has discovered new symbols for the clash and interlacing of cultures"	novel, screenplay, essay
2007	Doris Lessing	United Kingdom	English	"that epicist of the female experience, who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny"	novel, drama, poetry, short story, memoirs
2008	J. M. G. Le Clézio	France Mauritius	French	"author of new departures, poetic adventure and sensual ecstasy, explorer of a humanity beyond and below the reigning civilization"	novel, short story, essay, translation
2009	Herta Müller	Germany	German	"who, with the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose, depicts the landscape of the dispossessed"	novel, poetry
2010	Mario Vargas Llosa	Peru Spain	Spanish	"for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt, and defeat"	novel, short story, essay, drama, memoirs
2011	Tomas Tranströmer	Sweden	Swedish	"because, through his condensed, translucent images, he gives us fresh access to reality"	poetry, translation
2012	Mo Yan	China	Chinese	"who with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary"	novel, short story
2013	Alice Munro	Canada	English	"master of the contemporary short story"	short story
2014	Patrick Modiano	France	French	"for the art of memory with which he has evoked the most ungraspable human destinies and uncovered the life-world of the occupation"	novel
2015	Svetlana Alexievich	Belarus	Russian	"for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time"	history, essay
2016	Bob Dylan	United States	English	"for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition"	poetry, songwriting
2017	Kazuo Ishiguro	United Kingdom	English	"who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world"	novel