

Prize-winning literature

During most nine week terms AP Lit students will be required to choose a NOVEL from the major prize winners of the last ten years. Reading from the past ten years is important because you need to have some contemporary literature in your experience before college; reading from the prize winners is our best guarantee of quality, circumventing gratuitous cursing and other gratuitous attention-getting devices, and not wasting your time with a beach read. Dozens of prize winners are announced each year; I can't possibly read them all (until I retire!) *so let the buyer beware*. Read some excerpts online, read some reviews from intelligent people, mind your parents' values and caveats, and choose carefully. Sadly, "contemporary literature," even prize-winning literature, sometimes means "full of a shocking lack of Christian values." Once you've carefully chosen a book, if you find that it is unacceptable, see me.

Here are links to the acceptable prize lists. Remember, you are looking for **NOVELS** (or "long fiction").

The Nobel Prize in Literature

Use the well-organized links on the right side bars to read "prose" excerpts, hear the authors read from their works, and hear their acceptance speeches.

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/

The Man Booker Prize in Fiction formerly The Booker Prize)

This British prize awards "the best book of the year" as judged by the Brits. Click on the year for info about the book and the "short list" for that year. You may read the winner, or one of the short-listed titles. (Do NOT choose Vernon God Little from 2003. Already dealt with that one.) You may follow the backward links for news releases, etc.

<http://www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/archive>

The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Use the search engine for "category," choose "Fiction 1948 to present," then click on the links to read about the winner and the short-list. You may read the winner or from the short-listed titles. THESE ARE NOT ALL NOVELS; some are short story collections, etc., so you have to READ about it to know that you are choosing a NOVEL. <http://www.pulitzer.org/>

The PEN/Faulkner Award

Named for William Faulkner, who used his Nobel Prize funds to create an award for young writers, and affiliated with PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists), the international writers' organization, the PEN/Faulkner Award was founded by writers in 1980 to honor their peers, and is now the largest juried award for fiction in the United States.

<http://www.penfaulkner.org/affWinners02.htm>

All Awards at One Site

The folks at Powells.com, an online bookstore, have handily gathered all the award-winning lists on their site. WARNING: You may only choose one of the awards listed above! So when you go to this handy site, ONLY look at Nobel, Man Booker, Pulitzer, and PEN/Faulkner lists. Just follow the navigation bar on the left to the appropriate prizes, and use the links to help you learn about the books. <http://powells.com/prizes/prizes.html>