

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 6

#178 Five prestigious awards: The Booker Prize

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Writing, like any other creative process, requires much hard work and great discipline. Some people believe that good writing is simply the result of stroke of inspiration. What are your personal experiences in creative writing?

Qt 2: Some people think that writing is a therapeutic process, and the writer gets rewarded in the very process of writing itself. No external recognition will be sought after. Do you know of any writer like that?

Qt 3: Good writing draws intelligent readers, and it should be properly recognized in terms of monetary rewards or an award. Do you agree with that?

Qt 4: While the Pulitzer Prize is only awarded to an American writer, the Booker Prize is reserved for the British. What do you know about the Booker Prize?

The answer to relevant question in the preceding set of exercises (Five prestigious awards: The Pulitzer Prize) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 3: Can you pronounce the word “Pulitzer” in the Pulitzer Prize? Do you say /'pʊlɪtsə/? Or /'pju:lɪtsə/? Or /'pʌlɪtsə/?

The first one /'pʊlɪtsə/ is generally perceived as the standard way of pronouncing the word “Pulitzer.” Given enough clarity in context, however, any one of the three would be understood. Attend SEE U workshops like “Speaking/Pronunciation Skills” and capitalize such good chances to learn about the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) from quality teachers.

Vocabulary

- criterion (noun): a standard by which you judge, decide about, or deal with something.
- ambition (noun): a strong desire for success, achievement, power, or wealth.
- fiction (noun): the type of book or story that is written about imaginary characters and events and not based on real people and facts.
- shortlist (verb): to put a list of people who have been judged the most suitable for a prize.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Also known as “the Man Booker Prize for Fiction,” the Booker Prize is Britain’s most prestigious literary award. It is awarded the most outstanding novelist of the year.

History of the Booker Prize

<https://thebookerprizes.com/fiction/history>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Watch the following video and sense the “quiet” excitement leading to the selection of the Booker Prize winner for 2019. The fanfare typically associated with the Oscars, however, is absent here:

The Booker Prize 2019 Shortlist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3Qq2oimQg4>

PART 4: Writing Practice

It is noted that the Booker Prize has a noble mission:

The prize, which launched in 1969, aims to promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom

In Hong Kong, we have a similar award subsidized by the government:

Since 1991, Hong Kong Public Libraries has organized bi-annually the "Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature". The Awards aims to commend local writers for their outstanding achievements and encourage them to continue creating quality Chinese literary works, as well as promote publication of these quality works by local publishers.

(Source: <https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/extension-activities/event-category/23482/hong-kong-biennial-awards-for-chinese-literature>)

Should good writing be aimed at a local readership? Or should it be addressed to an international one *sans* borders? Write briefly about your understanding of localism and internationalism. Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.