



# Nobel Prize in Literature 2020

## Why in News

The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2020** has been awarded to the **USA poet Louise Glück** "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

- **Established by Alfred Nobel in 1895**, the Nobel Prize in Literature is **one of six awards** that also span physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, peace and economic sciences.
  - For 2020, Nobel Prizes for **Chemistry**, **Physics** and **Medicine** have already been announced.
- The **Nobel Prize** comes with **a medal** and a **prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor**.

## Key Points

- Glück, born 1943 in New York, lives in Massachusetts and is also professor of English at Yale University.
- Her poetry **focuses** on the painful reality of being human, dealing with themes such as **death, childhood, and family life**.
- She is the **fourth woman** to win the prize for literature **since 2010**, and only the **16<sup>th</sup>** since the **Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901**.
  - The **last American** to win was **Bob Dylan** in **2016**.
- Glück won the **Pulitzer Prize** in 1993 for her collection **The Wild Iris** and the **National Book Award** in 2014.
- **Criticism of Last year's Winner:**
  - Choice of Austrian novelist **Peter Handke** led to wide criticism.
  - Handke was a known supporter of the Serbs during the **1990s Yugoslav war** and spoke at the funeral of former Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic, who was accused of genocide and other war crimes.
  - Last year also saw **Polish author Olga Tokarczuk** belatedly announced as the **winner of the 2018 literature prize** which had been suspended for a year after a sexual assault scandal and financial misconduct allegations rocked the **Swedish Academy**, which awards the annual Nobel Prize for Literature.

**Source: IE**