



THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF WORDS

Words are magical. They have the power to tell a story, to make you feel something you didn't expect, to convince, persuade and sway opinions. Words have the power to create understanding and meaning where there was none and they can be instigators of change. Chosen carefully, words have the power to uplift, invigorate, inspire and heal. They help you to express your greatest ideas, your deepest passion and your ultimate desire. South Africa Deluxe shares a glimpse into the lives of some of literature's greatest writers who set the standards for storytelling throughout the ages.

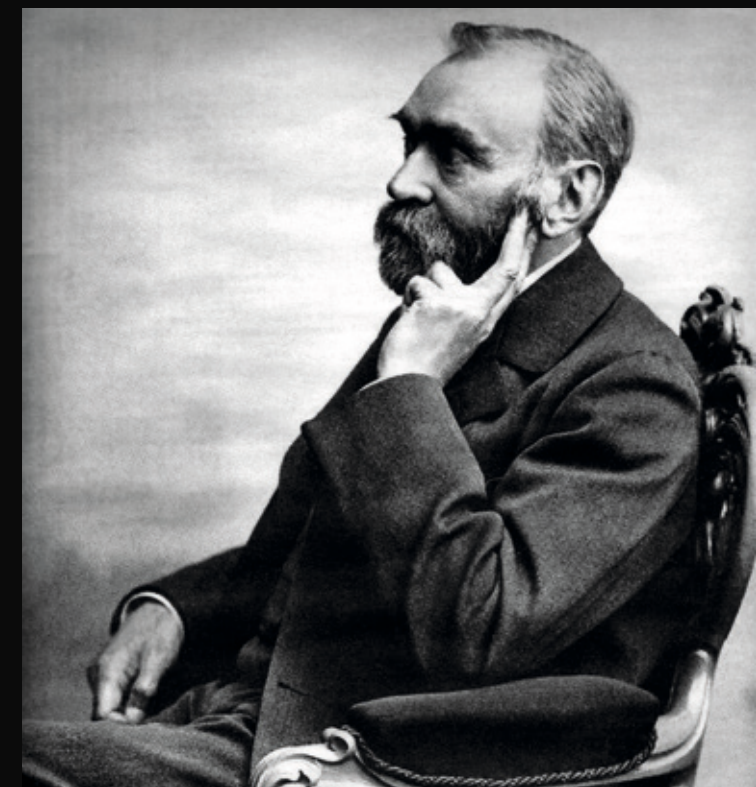
Nobel Prize in Literature

When Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament on 27 November 1895, he dedicated the largest portion of his fortune to the Nobel Prizes. The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to "the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction".

The Literature Laureate is announced in October of every year after the Nobel Committee for Literature has selected the Laureate through a majority vote. The nominations and the opinions written by the members of the Nobel Committee in Literature each year are kept secret for 50 years.

The Nobel Medal for Literature was designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg and represents a young man sitting under a laurel tree who, enchanted, listens to and writes down the song of the Muse. Each Nobel Diploma is a unique work of art, created by foremost Swedish and Norwegian artists and calligraphers. To date, there have been 105 Nobel Prizes in Literature awarded, however there is no guarantee that an award will be made every year. The statutes of the Nobel Foundation say, "If none of the works under consideration is found to be of the importance indicated in the first paragraph, the prize money shall be reserved until the following year. If, even then, the prize cannot be awarded, the amount shall be added to the Foundation's restricted funds." There have been seven occasions when the award was not made and most of these occurred during World War I and II.

A total of ninety-three men and twelve women have received the Nobel Prize in Literature. The first prize was awarded in 1901 to a Frenchman, Sully Prudhomme, (the pen-name of René François Armand 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." The first woman to receive the award was Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf in 1909, "in appreciation of the lofty idealism, vivid imagination and spiritual perception that characterize her writings." Since inception, only two people have declined the award – Boris Pasternak in 1958 and Jean Paul Sartre in 1964. Pasternak at first accepted, but then was caused to decline by Soviet Union authorities, Sartre declined because he consistently declined all official honours.





Nadine Gordimer

Nadine Gordimer, was recognised by the Nobel Literature Committee as a woman "who through her magnificent epic writing has - in the words of Alfred Nobel - been of very great benefit to humanity." She was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991. Born in Springs, South Africa on 20 November 1923, Gordimer is a novelist, short-story writer and political activist who uses stories focused on exile and alienation. She used her creative talent to highlight moral and racial inequalities in South Africa, particularly in the apartheid era. During that period, many of her works including *The Late Bourgeois World*, *A World of Strangers*, *July's People*, and *Burger's Daughter* were banned. Gordimer's expansive body of work has been published in forty languages and is widely read across the globe. She holds fifteen honorary degrees from Yale, Harvard and Columbia University in the United States of America, York, Oxford, and Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, in Belgium and the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand in South Africa. In addition to her honorary degrees, she has received 11 international awards for writing, including the Nobel Prize in Literature, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (France) and the Booker Prize for Fiction, where she was a joint winner for *The Conservationist*.

She is an Honorary Member American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Academy & Institute of Arts & Letters, as well as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and a Goodwill Ambassador UNDP, and is Vice President of International PEN. While she joined the African National Congress during the time it was banned, and has been a narrator of the changes in South Africa, post-apartheid, her focus more recently has been on HIV/AIDS causes. Gordimer says on writing, "What is the purpose of writing? For me personally, it is really to explain the mystery of life, and the mystery of life includes, of course, the personal, the political, the forces that make us what we are while there's another force from inside battling to make us something else."

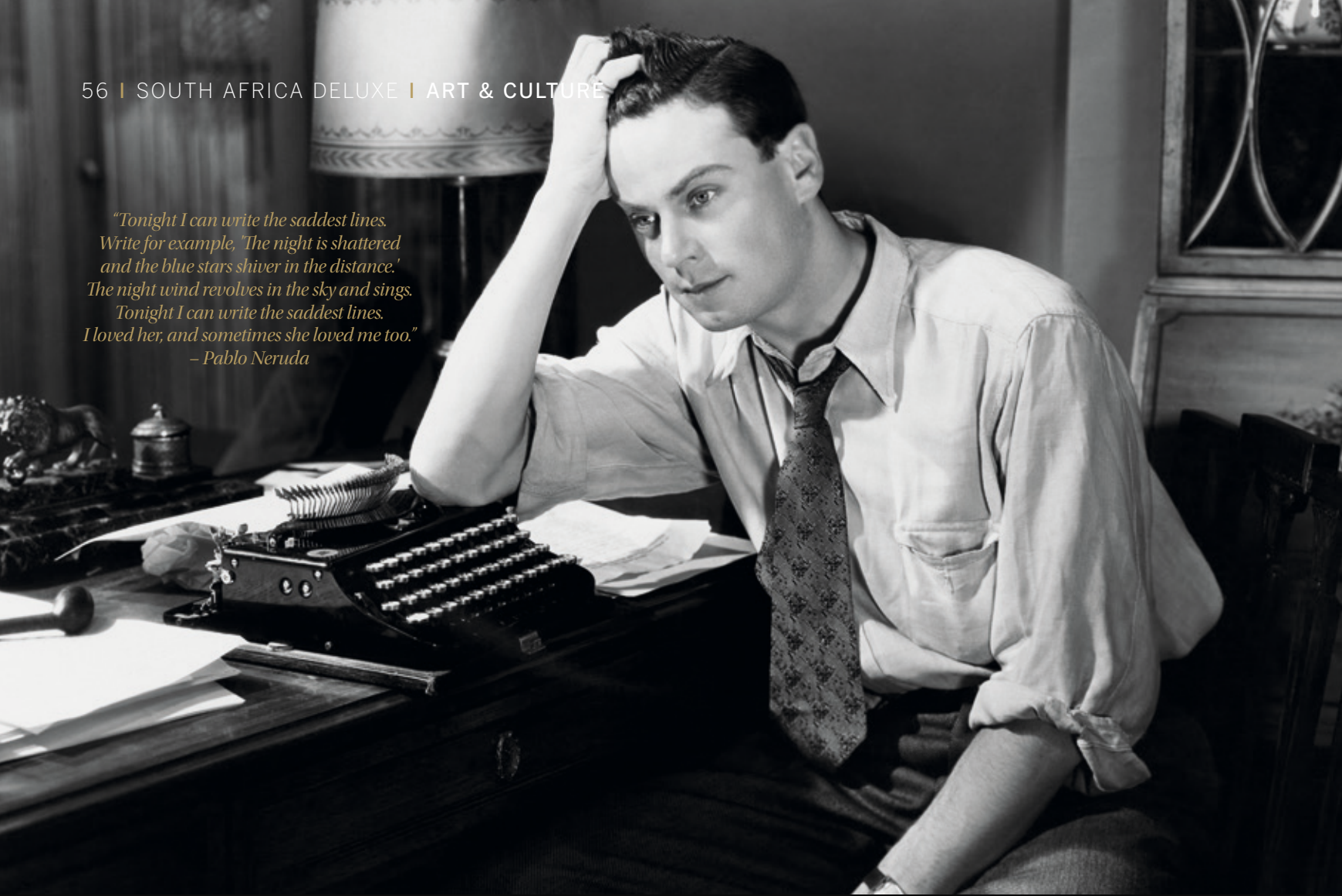
Pablo Neruda

Pablo Neruda, was born Neftalí Ricardo Reyes Basoalto, on 12 July 1904, in the town of Parral in Chile. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1971 "for a poetry that with the action of an elemental force brings alive a continent's destiny and dreams." At thirteen he began contributing articles to the daily "La Mañana", including his first poem. By age 16 he was contributing to the literary journal "Selva Austral" under the pen name of Pablo Neruda. His first book *Crepusculario* was published in 1923, which was followed a year later by *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada* which was to become one of his best-known and most translated works. From 1927 to 1935, Neruda was in charge of a number of honorary consulships which saw him travelling to Burma, Ceylon, Java, Singapore, Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Madrid. It was during this difficult period that he wrote his breakthrough collection of esoteric surrealist poems *Residencia en la tierra* (1933.) He was strongly affected by the Spanish Civil War and the murder of Garcia Lorca which saw him join the Republican movement first in Spain, then in France. While in France he began work on his collection of poems *España en el Corazón*. Later in 1937, he was recalled to Chile and his poems became orientated towards political and social matters. During his time as Consul General in Mexico, Neruda rewrote *Canto General* de Chile, transforming it into an epic poem consisting of 250 poems detailing the people, nature and historical destiny of the South American continent. 1943 saw Neruda return once more to Chile and in 1945 he was elected senator of the Republic. He also joined the Communist Party of Chile and protested against President González Videla's repressive policy against striking miners. He was forced to go into hiding until he managed to leave Chile in 1949. Neruda spent three years in exile in Europe before returning home in 1952.



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*"Tonight I can write the saddest lines.
Write for example, 'The night is shattered
and the blue stars shiver in the distance.'
The night wind revolves in the sky and sings.
Tonight I can write the saddest lines.
I loved her, and sometimes she loved me too."
– Pablo Neruda*

In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in Literature he remarked, "I return to the streets of my childhood, to the winters of South America, to the lilac gardens of Araucania, to the first girl I held in my arms, to the mud on the streets which knew no paving, to the Indians mourning-clad left to us by the Conquest, to a country, a dark continent seeking for the light. And if the beams from this festive hall cross land and sea to light up my past, they also light up the future of our American peoples, who are defending their right to dignity, to freedom and to life. I am a representative of these times and of the present struggles which fill my poetry." In his closing he said, "I render my thanks and return to my work, to the blank page which every day awaits us poets so that we shall fill it with our blood and our darkness, for with blood and darkness poetry is written, poetry should be written."

William Butler Yeats

William Butler Yeats was born on the 13 June 1865 in Dublin Ireland. Educated in London and Dublin, Yeats' first volume of verse appeared in 1887, but he was more known at the time for his dramatic production. His plays were frequently about Irish legends, and reflected his fascination with mysticism and spiritualism. He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923 "for his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation." Yeats grew up in a time when the power in Ireland was moving away from the minority Protestant Ascendancy – the political, economic and social domination of the country by a minority of great landowners, Protestant clergy and members of the professions, all of whom were members of the Established Church. Between the 17th century and the early 20th century, many were excluded, primarily the Roman Catholics, but also the Presbyterian and other Protestant denominations, and non-Christians faiths. If you were too poor, regardless of your faith, you were disenfranchised as well. In the 1890s, nationalism gained momentum and by the turn of the century, the Catholics became prominent. All of these socio-political changes had a profound effect on Yeats' poetry. He delved into Irish identity, focusing on folklore, legends and mysticism. In The Celtic Twilight published in 1893, he assembled a collection of lore and reminiscences from the West of Ireland. The collection's

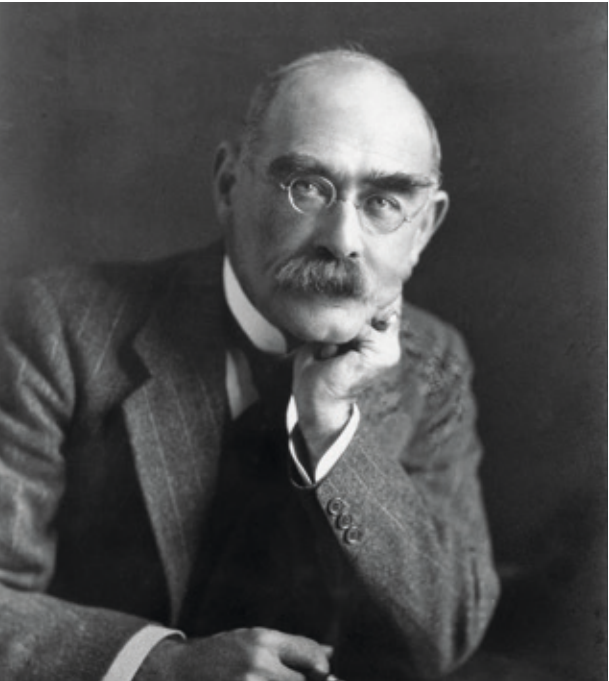
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*Out-worn heart, in a time out-worn,
Come clear of the nets of wrong and right;
Laugh, heart, again in the grey twilight,
Sigh, heart, again in the dew of the morn.
Your mother Eire is always young,
Dew ever shining and twilight grey;
Though hope fall from you and love decay,
Burning in fires of a slanderous tongue.
– William Butler Yeats, Into The Twilight*

final poem was entitled 'Into the Twilight' and it was this book and poem that gave the Irish Revival movement its nickname. After 1910, his poetry is imbued with stirring protests against the Nationalist movement which he deplored for its hatred and bigotry. It was in the post-award years that he came into his own, creating beautiful works such as The Wild Swans at Coole (1919), The Winding Stair and Other Poems (1933), and Last Poems and Plays (1940) which established him as one of the most outstanding and influential poets of the 20th century.

Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling once said, "I am, by calling, a dealer in words; and words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1907 "in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author." Born on 30 December 1865 in Bombay, British India, Kipling's formative years were spent joyfully taking in all of the exotic sights and sounds that India had to offer. When he was five, he and his younger sister Alice were sent to England to board with a foster family, the Holloway's in Southsea. Besides the Christmases spent with his aunt Georgiana ("Georgy"), and her husband in Fulham, London, he had few good memories of those years. He wrote of his time with the Holloway's in his autobiography stating, "I have known a certain amount of bullying, but this was calculated torture—religious as well as scientific." He would later draw on his childhood experiences as inspiration in his writing. When he was sixteen he returned to Lahore, in India where his parents were living at the time and worked as a reporter on the Civil and Military Gazette. He later worked for its sister paper the Pioneer in Allahabad. His early fame came when the poems and stories that he had written during his years as a journalist were collected and published as books. He returned to England in 1889 winning acclaim with Barrack-Room Ballads and further short stories. He married Carrie Wolcott in 1892 and they settled in Brattleboro, New England in the United States of America where he wrote Captains Courageous and The Jungle Books. The Kiplings returned to England in 1896 eventually settling in Rottingdean in Sussex, where he wrote Kim, Stalky & Co and the Just So Stories. Kipling became known as the People's Laureate and the Poet of the Empire. His poems 'Recessional' (1897) and 'The White Man's Burden' (1899) created much controversy, with many seeing them as propaganda for British Imperialism. Others saw warnings of the perils of empires. In 1898, the Kiplings travelled to South Africa for their winter holiday and stayed in 'The Woolsack' a house on Cecil Rhodes's estate at Groote Schuur. This annual tradition would continue until 1908. He was warmly received by many of the influential politicians in the Cape Colony, including Rhodes, Sir Alfred Milner and Leander Starr Jameson. On his return to England, Kipling wrote poems supporting the British cause in the Boer War. In 1900 he enjoyed a short stint as correspondent for the Friendship



newspaper in Bloemfontein which had been commandeered by Lord Roberts for the British troops. He also wrote articles published widely on his views on the conflict. Kipling also penned an inscription for the Honoured Dead Memorial (Siege memorial) in Kimberley. Kipling wrote prolifically, and received many honorary degrees and awards in his lifetime. Recently American scholar, Thomas Pinney, discovered more than 50 previously unpublished poems amongst family papers, archives of the Cunard Line and during renovations at a Manhattan house. The unpublished poems are included alongside more than 1300 of Kipling's poems in a three-volume 'Cambridge Edition of The Poems of Rudyard Kipling' released on 7 March 2013. ■ Lindsay Grubb



*"At two o'clock in the morning, if you
open your window and listen, You will
hear the feet of the Wind that is going to
call the sun. And the trees in the Shadow
rustle and the trees in the moonlight
glisten, And though it is deep, dark night,
you feel that the night is done."
– Rudyard Kipling*