

Ejercicios resueltos > True or false

Coetzee wins Nobel Prize - True or False

The 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature was won by the South African novelist J. M. Coetzee. This is wonderful news. Coetzee, 63, is unquestionably among the greatest living writers in English.

The Nobel has often been misapplied. It evaded Tolstoy, Chekhov, Joyce, Kafka and Nabokov. It was won, on the other hand, by Bjornstjerne Bjornson, José Echegaray, Rudolf Eucken and others now wholly forgotten. In many cases, the judges seem to have been influenced by political, rather than literary, factors. But in choosing Coetzee, the judges have got it right and ignored the fact that Coetzee has many things to say that do not sit comfortably with liberal political assumptions.

His books deal with difficult, painful matters -betrayal, the abuse of power, the nature of evil, our cruel treatment of animals- and ultimately they express deep scepticism over whether or not any of us are capable of true empathy with others. Coetzee presents these unwelcome truths with a rigour and purity that cannot be ignored.

Coetzee was born in Cape Town in 1940 and trained as a computer scientist, coming to London in the Sixties to work for IBM, a period recollected in a superb autobiographical novel. He then became a professor of literature in the United States, initially using his computing skills for verbal analysis of writers, before returning to Cape Town in the early Seventies, where he has continued to teach and publish literary criticism. His first fiction, *Dusklands*, was published in 1974, followed by *In The Heart Of The Country* and *Waiting For Barbarians*, which swiftly won him international recognition.

Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

✗ Many years ago Tolstoy was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature

✗ Coetzee has not yet written any book based on his life

Explicación: Para la primera afirmación el parrafo relevante es:

"The Nobel has often been misapplied. It evaded Tolstoy, Chekhov, Joyce, Kafka and Nabokov"

La respuesta es falsa ya que entre los autores que no recibieron el premio Nobel se incluye a Tolstoy.

Mientras que para la segunda es:

"Coetzee was born in Cape Town in 1940 and trained as a computer scientist, coming to London in the Sixties to work for IBM, a period recollected in a superb autobiographical novel."

El último párrafo nos ofrece datos de la vida de Coetzee y nos afirma que escribió una novela autobiográfica sobre el período en que vivía en Londres en los años 60. Por lo tanto, sí que ha escrito sobre su vida y la afirmación es falsa.