



Picture: Neha Khan, Enbacksskolan in Tensta

**Nobel in Rinkeby and Tensta 2021  
– for the 33rd year**

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**“One of you can win the Nobel Prize!” This is what we tell the children in Rinkeby and Tensta, and we mean in, when we start our work every autumn. It all began in 1988 when cultural specialist Elly Berg and author Gunilla Lundgren made a booklet for Naguib Mahfouz together with Arabic-speaking children and their home language teachers in Stockholm. Every year since then, children and young people in Rinkeby have worked on the Nobel Prize by writing and illustrating a booklet for the Nobel laureate in literature. This year, the work is done in cooperation with teachers in Rinkeby and Tensta schools.**

Children from all over the world live in Rinkeby and Tensta: people say that over a hundred languages are spoken here, and thus an international literature prize is a great inspiration for us who work or live here. Many of the literature laureates speak several languages and have written some of their most important work in exile. We translate our booklets into the laureates’ mother tongue and we have met many laureates to present our work to them in person. In the past years, we have also made dioramas about the prizes. This year, the picture book artist Emma Virke guided the students in making portraits of the literature laureate and interpretations of his work in collage technique.

We work throughout the autumn term on this project, each year with new children and new teachers participating. This year, we have read excerpts from Abdulrazak Gurnah’s essay “Writing and Place”, as well as from his two novels “Paradise” and “The Last Gift”. The texts have raised questions, evoked images and called for reflection among the students.

Traditionally, the Nobel laureate visits Rinkeby library to be honored and celebrated. After his visit in 2010, literature laureate Mario Vargas Llosa wrote an article in Spanish newspaper El País: “Of the prodigious volume of things I did and saw during my recent eight days in Stockholm, few moved me as much as the afternoon I spent in Rinkeby.”

But neither last year nor this year, the Nobel laureates will not visit Stockholm. It does not stop us from honouring the Nobel laureate in literature. Feel free to visit [www.nobelirinkeby.se](http://www.nobelirinkeby.se) to read more about this year’s work, watch movies and search our archive!

*Annelie Drewsen och Gunilla Lundgren,  
authoresses and project managers*



Tensta, picture by Ilyas & Imran, Enbacksskolan

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# Nobel laureates that children in Rinkeby have honored and met 1988–2020

## **1988, Naguib Mahfouz, literature**

Mahfouz did not come to Sweden owing to his great age. The children met his two daughters at Mäster Olofsgården in the Old Town and presented our first booklet.

## **1992, Derek Walcott, literature**

We met Walcott at Mäster Olofsgården in the Old Town.

## **1993, Toni Morrison, literature**

We handed over the booklet at the Grand Hotel.

## **1994, Kenzaburo Oe, literature**

We handed over the booklet at the Grand Hotel.

## **1995, Seamus Heaney, literature**

The children met Heaney and presented the booklet at the Stockholm Public Library, Odenplan.

## **1996, Wisława Szymborska, literature**

The children presented the booklet at the Skansen open-air Museum to Szymborska's Swedish translator Anders Bodegård.

## **1997, Dario Fo, literature**

Fo came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **1998, José Saramago, literature**

Saramago came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **1999, Günter Grass, literature**

Grass came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2000, Gao Xingjian, literature**

Xingjian came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2001, V.S. Naipaul, literature**

We met Naipaul at the Stockholm International Library.

## **2002, Imre Kertész, literature**

Kertész came to the library in Rinkeby with his wife.

## **2003, J.M Coetzee, literature**

Coetzee came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2004, Elfriede Jelinek, literature**

Jelinek did not come to Sweden. The children presented the booklet to her Swedish translator Margareta Holmqvist together with Per Wästberg, Swedish Academy, at Rinkeby Library.

## **2004, Frank Wilczek, physics**

Wilczek came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2005, Harold Pinter, literature**

Pinter did not come to Sweden, for health reasons. Per Wästberg received the booklet at the library in Rinkeby

## **2005, Robert Auman and**

## **Thomas Schelling, economics**

Auman and Schelling came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2006, Orhan Pamuk, literature**

Pamuk came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2007, Doris Lessing, literature**

Lessing did not come to Sweden. Her daughter Jean Cowen and granddaughter came to Rinkeby library and received the booklet.

## **2007, Mario Capecchi, medicine**

Capecchi came to the library in Rinkeby.

## **2008, Jean M G Le Clézio, literature**

Le Clézio came to the library in Rinkeby with his family.

## **2009, Herta Müller, literature**

Müller came to Sweden but made few visits. Her Swedish translator Karin Löfdahl came to Rinkeby library and received the booklet.

**2009, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, chemistry**

Ramakrishnan came to the library in Rinkeby.

**2010, Mario Vargas Llosa, literature**

Vargas Llosa came to the library in Rinkeby.

**2011, Tomas Tranströmer, literature**

Tranströmer came to the library in Rinkeby with his family.

**2012, Mo Yan, literature**

Yan came to the library in Rinkeby.

**2013, Alice Munro, literature**

Munro did not come to Stockholm. Her daughter Jenny Munro came to Rinkeby library.

**2014, Patrick Modiano, literature**

Modiano came to the library in Rinkeby with wife, children and grandchildren.

**2015, Svetlana Alexievich, literature**

Aleksijevitj came to the library in Rinkeby.

**2016, Bob Dylan, literature**

Received his booklet through The Swedish Academy.

**2016, Jean Pierre Sauvage, chemistry**

Sauvage came to the library in Rinkeby with sin wife.

**2017, Kazuo Ishiguro, literature**

Ishiguro came to the library in Rinkeby with sin family.

**2018, Maryse Condé, literature**

Alternative winner. Condé came to Rinkeby with her husband.

**2018, Olga Tokarczuk, literature**

Tokarczuk visited Rinkeby in 2019, when she received the Nobel Prize.

**2019, Peter Handke, literature**

Handke did not come to Rinkeby, but received the booklet through The Nobel Prize Museum.

**2020, Louise Glück, literature**

None of the laureates came to Sweden. The booklet was sent to Glück and she replied by email.



Greetings from students at Askebyskolan