

Unit 3 Have you read it?

A And the Booker goes to ...

The Man Booker Prize is one of the world's most important prizes for novels. It is as important for authors as the Oscars are for people in the film industry. To win this prize the book cannot be
5 more than one year old and the author must be a citizen of the Commonwealth or Ireland. Many winners come from Australia, Canada and South Africa.

The six judges are chosen each year from the
10 UK's greatest writers, critics and academics.

First they must read all the books publishers send in, which can be as many as 120! Then, in September, a shortlist of the six
15 best titles is made. Finally, in October, the winner is named.

The winner receives £50,000, while each author on the shortlist gets £2,500! The announcement
20 of the shortlist usually means a lot of publicity¹ and a sudden and enormous increase in book sales, especially for the winner.

In 2002 a Canadian called Yann
25 Martel won the Booker Prize for



Life of Pi, an adventure story about a young boy whose family own a zoo in India. When he is 16, his parents decide to take their animals to Canada. But during the journey the boat sinks and the boy is left alone on a lifeboat with a dangerous tiger. 30

Martel celebrated the 2002 announcement like a goal in a very important football match. He jumped in the air and his friends hugged him. "I was so persuaded that I would hear another
35 name and so when I heard mine, there was one or two seconds of complete shock. I was just really delighted²."

However, the Booker Prize is not popular with everyone. Some people are disappointed that
40 the same authors appear on the shortlist year after year. Others complain that the judges choose the most complicated, historical stories instead of the more
45 popular novels. But Yann Martel was a good winner because he was a new writer when he won. And many authors still hope to win the Booker one day! 50

→E 1 Questions on the text

Answer the questions. You don't have to write complete sentences.

- Why is the Booker Prize like the Oscars? The Booker Prize is as important to authors as the Oscars are to people in the film industry.
- Who can win the Booker? The author winning the Booker must be a citizen of the Commonwealth or Ireland and his/her book must not be more than one year old.
- How do the judges choose a winner? They read all the books sent in by publishers, make a shortlist and then choose the winner.
- How does the Booker Prize help the winner? The Booker Prize helps the winner as he or she wins £50,000 and also sells more books.
- Why don't some people like the Booker Prize? Some people don't like the Booker Prize because they say that the same authors appear on the shortlist every year, and that the judges choose the most complicated stories instead of the more popular novels.

¹ publicity [pʌb'lɪsəti] = Werbung • ² delighted [dɪ'laɪtɪd] = erfreut