

## Sri Lankan anti-war thriller wins the Booker Prize

The Booker Prize has awarded its 2022 prize for the best UK-published novel to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka. The book, titled *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, is a fictional thriller. It is about the spirit of a dead war photographer called Maali. Maali is on a journey to let the living discover his hidden photos. The photos show the horrors of war in the writer's country.

Karunatilaka won £50,000 for his anti-war ghost story and was presented with an award at a ceremony. In his speech he said, "I hope it's written in a Sri Lanka that learns from its stories". He also said he hopes that in ten years it will be in the bookshop section next to the dragons and unicorns and not politics.

Head judge Neil MacGregor said the book "takes the reader on a rollercoaster journey through life and death". The judges reached the same decision on the winner. They said the theme of the shortlisted entries this year was "one question, and that is what's the point of an individual life?"

Making a star guest appearance was Dua Lipa. She spoke about her passion for reading and the importance of books in her life. The singer-songwriter said she had read all six shortlisted books and she "absolutely loved" *Seven Moons*. She recommends the books she reads on social media and that reading helps her to "understand emotions and feelings".

## Warm-up activities

Writers, photographers, songwriters, or someone else – who are your favourite types of artists?

If you were a judge in a competition, what kind of competition would it be?

Finish this sentence so that it is true for you – “Reading helps me to...”

Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- *a genre of fiction* (paragraph 1) t...
- *scary* (paragraph 1) h...
- *peace* (paragraph 2) a...
- *choice* (paragraph 3) d...
- *love* (paragraph 4) p...

What does the italicised word below mean – *area*, *floor*, or *shelf*?

- in the bookshop *section* next to the dragons

## Comprehension questions

1. What is the Booker Prize awarded for?
2. What kind of book is *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*?
3. What profession did the main character have in the book?
4. What is the prize for the winner?
5. Where in the bookshop does the author want his book to be?
6. What is the book compared to?
7. Do the book entries share a similar theme?
8. What is important to Dua Lipa?
9. Did Dua Lipa read all the Booker Prize entries?
10. What does Dua Lipa post on social media?

- A. Books.
- B. War photographer.
- C. A rollercoaster ride.
- D. Yes, they do.
- E. Recommended books.
- F. Fictional thriller.
- G. £50,000.
- H. Yes, she did.
- I. Next to the dragons and unicorns.
- J. Best UK-published novel.

### Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. guest          | A. loved      |
| 2. anti-          | B. with       |
| 3. absolutely     | C. of         |
| 4. the horrors    | D. of war     |
| 5. passion        | E. journey    |
| 6. bookshop       | F. war        |
| 7. presented      | G. appearance |
| 8. shortlisted    | H. for        |
| 9. importance     | I. entries    |
| 10. rollercoaster | J. section    |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. novel      | A. artist        |
| 2. reach      | B. get to        |
| 3. recommend  | C. story         |
| 4. songwriter | D. love          |
| 5. passion    | E. speak well of |

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. journey  | A. hide   |
| 2. discover | B. rest   |
| 3. writer   | C. reader |

## Missing grammar: articles

For each answer, use one of the four following: *a*, *an*, *the*, or the *zero article*.

The Booker Prize has awarded its 2022 prize for 1.\_\_\_\_\_ best UK-published novel to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka. The book, titled *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, is 2.\_\_\_\_\_ fictional thriller. It is about the spirit of 3.\_\_\_\_\_ dead war photographer called Maali. Maali is on a journey to let the living discover his 4.\_\_\_\_\_ hidden photos. The photos show the horrors of war in 5.\_\_\_\_\_ writer's country.

Karunatilaka won 6.\_\_\_\_\_ £50,000 for his anti-war ghost story and was presented with an award at 7.\_\_\_\_\_ ceremony. In his speech he said, "I hope it's written in 8.\_\_\_\_\_ Sri Lanka that learns from its stories". He also said he hopes that in 9.\_\_\_\_\_ ten years it will be in the bookshop section next to the dragons and unicorns and not 10.\_\_\_\_\_ politics.

Head judge Neil MacGregor said the book "takes 11.\_\_\_\_\_ reader on a rollercoaster journey through 12.\_\_\_\_\_ life and death". The judges reached 13.\_\_\_\_\_ same decision on the winner. They said the theme of 14.\_\_\_\_\_ shortlisted entries this year was "one question, and that is what's the point of 15.\_\_\_\_\_ individual life?"

Making 16.\_\_\_\_\_ star guest appearance was Dua Lipa. She spoke about her passion for reading and 17.\_\_\_\_\_ importance of books in her life. 18.\_\_\_\_\_ singer-songwriter said she had read all six shortlisted books and she "absolutely loved" *Seven Moons*. She recommends the books she reads on 19.\_\_\_\_\_ social media and that reading helps her to "understand emotions and 20.\_\_\_\_\_ feelings".

## Multiple choice vocabulary

The Booker Prize has 1.\_\_\_\_\_ its 2022 prize for the best UK-published novel to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka. The book, titled *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, is a 2.\_\_\_\_\_ thriller. It is about the spirit of a dead war photographer called Maali. Maali is on a journey to let the living 3.\_\_\_\_\_ his hidden photos. The photos show the horrors of war in the writer's country.

Karunatilaka won £50,000 for his anti-war ghost story and was 4.\_\_\_\_\_ with an award at a ceremony. In his speech he said, "I hope it's written in a Sri Lanka that learns from its stories". He also said he hopes that in ten years it will be in the bookshop 5.\_\_\_\_\_ next to the dragons and unicorns and not politics.

Head judge Neil MacGregor said the book "takes the reader on a rollercoaster journey through life and death". The judges 6.\_\_\_\_\_ the same decision on the winner. They said the theme of the shortlisted 7.\_\_\_\_\_ this year was "one question, and that is what's the point of an individual life?"

Making a star guest appearance was Dua Lipa. She spoke about her 8.\_\_\_\_\_ for reading and the importance of books in her life. The singer-songwriter said she had read all six shortlisted books and she "9.\_\_\_\_\_ loved" *Seven Moons*. She 10.\_\_\_\_\_ the books she reads on social media and that reading helps her to "understand emotions and feelings".

- |                   |               |                  |                  |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. A. awarded     | B. awards     | C. prizes        | D. prized        |
| 2. A. fiction     | B. fictional  | C. fictions      | D. fictionalized |
| 3. A. discover    | B. remove     | C. lifted        | D. covered       |
| 4. A. presents    | B. given      | C. gave          | D. presented     |
| 5. A. place       | B. section    | C. zone          | D. cashier       |
| 6. A. reached     | B. arrived    | C. went          | D. arrival       |
| 7. A. enters      | B. ends       | C. entries       | D. entrances     |
| 8. A. interest    | B. desire     | C. creation      | D. passion       |
| 9. A. fantastic   | B. absolutely | C. fantastically | D. absolute      |
| 10. A. recommends | B. reads      | C. realizes      | D. replies       |

## Spelling

Spell the words from the text correctly.

1. has **r a w d a e d** its 2022 prize      awa...
2. the spirit of a dead war **g p o r h o t r a h e p**      pho...
3. Maali is on a **y o r j e n u**      jou...
4. was **t e r e s p e n d** with an award      pre...
5. it will be in the **e t s i n c o** next to      sec...
6. on a **r l s e r l e r c a o t o** journey      rol...
7. the judges **e a e r c h d** the same decision      rea...
8. the theme of the **s n i e r e t** this year      ent...
9. her **i a s p o n s** for reading      pas...
10. she had read all six **h d t s r i l o s e t** books      sho...

### Fill-in punctuation

The text below is missing its capital letters, commas, full stops, apostrophes, and quote marks, and specifically 3 hyphens and 1 question mark.

the booker prize has awarded its 2022 prize for the best UK published novel to sri lankan author shehan karunatilaka the book titled *the seven moons of maali almeida* is a fictional thriller it is about the spirit of a dead war photographer called maali maali is on a journey to let the living discover his hidden photos the photos show the horrors of war in the writers country

karunatilaka won £50,000 for his anti war ghost story and was presented with an award at a ceremony in his speech he said I hope its written in a sri lanka that learns from it stories he also said he hopes that in ten years it will be in the bookshop section next to the dragons and unicorns and not politics

head judge neil macgregor said the book takes the reader on a rollercoaster journey through life and death the judges reached the same decision on the winner they said the theme of the shortlisted entries this year was one question and that is whats the point of an individual life

making a star guest appearance was dua lipa she spoke about her passion for reading and the importance of books in her life the singer songwriter said she had read all six shortlisted books and she absolutely loved *seven moons* she recommends the books she reads on social media and that reading helps her to understand emotions and feelings



## Cool-down activities

Discussion questions:

- Can you name a film that was a book first? Have you read the book?
- Do you have a favourite soundtrack? Why is it your favourite?
- What three artforms are you most passionate about?
- Do you ever recommend books, music, movies, or other types of art?
- Which artist or artform best represents your culture to the world?

CEFR B1 10 keywords revision list:

absolutely award discover entry fictional

passion present reach recommend section

Beginning with each letter below, think of a word that describes reading.

A	J	S
B	K	T
C	L	U
D	M	V
E	N	W
F	O	X
G	P	Y
H	Q	Z
I	R	

## Answers

### Page 2 Warm-up activities

a genre of fiction / thriller

scary / horrors

peace / anti-war

choice / decision

love / passion

section / area

### Page 3 Comprehension questions

1J, 2F, 3B, 4G, 5I, 6C, 7D, 8A, 9H, 10E

### Page 4 Match-up: phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Phrases 1G, 2F, 3A, 4D, 5H, 6J, 7B, 8I, 9C, 10E

Synonyms 1C, 2B, 3E, 4A, 5D

Antonyms 1B, 2A, 3C

### Page 5 Missing grammar

1. the 2. a 3. a 4. - 5. the 6. - 7. a 8. a 9. - 10. -

11. the 12. - 13. the 14. the 15. an 16. a 17. the 18. The 19. - 20. -

### Page 6 Multiple choice vocabulary

1A, 2B, 3A, 4D, 5B, 6A, 7C, 8D, 9B, 10A

### Page 7 Spelling

AWARDED, PHOTOGRAPHER, JOURNEY, PRESENTED, SECTION,  
ROLLERCOASTER, REACHED, ENTRIES, PASSION, SHORTLISTED

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20221020-booker-prize>

Thanks for using this lesson!