2026 Nobel Prize in Literature to Canadian writer Anne Carson

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News

On 8 Oct 2026 the Swedish Academy awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature to Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson (76), for a bold and inventive body of work whose playful engagement with the classical Greek tradition has reshaped contemporary literature. The prize is 12 million Swedish kronor.

Key facts

Laureate	Anne Carson – born 21 June 1950, Toronto, Canada
Profession	Professor of classics (ancient Greek), poet, translator
Key works	Eros the Bittersweet (1986), Autobiography of Red (1998), If Not, Winter – Sappho (2002), Nox (2010)
Earlier awards	T.S. Eliot Prize (2001 – first woman), Griffin Poetry Prize (twice), Princess of Asturias Award (2020)
Prize	SEK 12 million; presented in Stockholm on 10 Dec

Background

- Classical tradition: Carson translated and reworked the ancient Greek poet Sappho (of Lesbos) and the dramatist Euripides, in a unique mix of poetry, essay and drama.

- The Literature Nobel is chosen by the Swedish Academy and has been given since 1901. The previous Canadian winner was Alice Munro (2013, short stories).
- India's only Literature Nobel: Rabindranath Tagore – 1913, 'Gitanjali'; he was also Asia's first Nobel laureate.
- 2026 Nobel announcements: Chemistry – Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai (7 Oct); Literature – Anne Carson (8 Oct). Prizes are presented on 10 Dec, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary.
- Canada: capital Ottawa; largest city Toronto; official languages English and French.

Tamil Nadu link: like Greek, Tamil is a classical language – declared India's first classical language on 12 Oct 2004. A.K. Ramanujan introduced Sangam poetry (Kurunthogai, Purananuru) to the world through English translation.

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