

COSTA BOOK AWARDS

The Book Awards were established by Whitbread in 1971 and encouraged, promoted and celebrated the enjoyment of reading. They became the Costa Book Awards in 2006.

There are six awards:

- Novel Award, First Novel Award, Biography Award, Poetry Award and Children's Book Award winners (£5,000 each)
- Book of the Year (selected from five winners above): £30,000
- Total prize fund is £55,000.

COSTA WINNERS 2006 – present

2016	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Poetry Children's Book	DAYS WITHOUT END Golden Hill Days Without End Dadland Falling Awake The Bombs That Brought Us Together	Sebastian Barry Francis Spufford Sebastian Barry Keggie Carew Alice Oswald Brian Conaghan	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Jonathan Cape Poetry</i> <i>Bloomsbury</i>
2015	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE LIE TREE The Loney A God in Ruins The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science 40 Sonnets The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge Andrew Michael Hurley Kate Atkinson Andrea Wulf Don Paterson Frances Hardinge	<i>Macmillan Children's Books</i> <i>John Murray</i> <i>Doubleday</i> <i>John Murray</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Macmillan Children's Books</i>
2014	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	H IS FOR HAWK Elizabeth is Missing How to be both H is for Hawk My Family and Other Superheroes Five Children on the Western Front	Helen Macdonald Emma Healey Ali Smith Helen Macdonald Jonathan Edwards Kate Saunders	<i>Random House</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Random House</i> <i>Seren</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>
2013	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE SHOCK OF THE FALL The Shock of the Fall Life After Life The Pike: Gabriele d'Annunzio, Poet, Seducer and Preacher of War Drysalter Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse	Nathan Filer Nathan Filer Kate Atkinson Lucy Hughes-Hallett Michael Symmons-Roberts Chris Riddell	<i>Borough Press (HarperCollins)</i> <i>Borough Press (HarperCollins)</i> <i>Doubleday</i> <i>Fourth Estate</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Macmillan Children's Books</i>
2012	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	BRING UP THE BODIES The Innocents Bring Up The Bodies Dotter of Her Father's Eyes The Overhaul Maggot Moon	Hilary Mantel Francesca Segal Hilary Mantel Mary Talbot and Bryan Talbot Kathleen Jamie Sally Gardner	<i>Fourth Estate</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Fourth Estate</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Picador</i> <i>Hot Key Books</i>
2011	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	PURE Tiny Sunbirds Far Away Pure Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas The Bees Blood Red Road	Andrew Miller Christie Watson Andrew Miller Matthew Hollis Carol Ann Duffy Moira Young	<i>Sceptre</i> <i>Quercus</i> <i>Sceptre</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Picador</i> <i>Marion Lloyd Books</i>
2010	BOOK OF THE YEAR	OF MUTABILITY	Jo Shapcott	<i>Faber & Faber</i>

	First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	Witness the Night The Hand that First Held Mine The Hare with Amber Eyes Of Mutability Out of Shadows	Kishwar Desai Maggie O'Farrell Edmund de Waal Jo Shapcott Jason Wallace	<i>Beautiful Books</i> <i>Headline Review</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Andersen Press</i>
2009	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	A SCATTERING Beauty Brooklyn The Strangest Man – The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius A Scattering The Ask and the Answer: Chaos Walking, Book Two	Christopher Reid Raphael Selbourne Colm Tóibín Graham Farmelo Christopher Reid Patrick Ness	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Tindal Street Press</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Faber and Faber</i> <i>Arete Books</i> <i>Walker Books</i>
2008	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE SECRET SCRIPTURE The Outcast The Secret Scripture Somewhere Towards the End The Broken Word Just Henry	Sebastian Barry Sadie Jones Sebastian Barry Diana Athill Adam Foulds Michelle Magorian	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Faber and Faber</i> <i>Granta</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Egmont Press</i>
2007	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	DAY What Was Lost Day Young Stalin Tilt The Bower Bird	A L Kennedy Catherine O'Flynn A L Kennedy Simon Sebag-Montefiore Jean Sprackland Ann Kelley	<i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Tindal Street Press</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Cape Poetry</i> <i>Luath Press Limited</i>
2006	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE TENDERNESS OF WOLVES The Tenderness of Wolves Restless Keeping Mum Letter to Patience Set in Stone	Stef Penney Stef Penney William Boyd Brian Thompson John Haynes Linda Newbery	<i>Quercus</i> <i>Quercus</i> <i>Bloomsbury</i> <i>Atlantic Books</i> <i>Seren</i> <i>David Fickling Books</i>

WHITBREAD WINNERS 1971 – 2005

2005	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	MATISSE: THE MASTER The Harmony Silk Factory the accidental Matisse: The Master Cold Calls The New Policeman	Hilary Spurling Tash Aw Ali Smith Hilary Spurling Christopher Logue Kate Thompson	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Harper Perennial</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Faber and Faber</i> <i>The Bodley Head</i>
2004	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	SMALL ISLAND Eve Green Small Island My Heart is My Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots Corpus Not the End of the World	Andrea Levy Susan Fletcher Andrea Levy John Guy Michael Simmons Roberts Geraldine McCaughrean	<i>Headline</i> <i>Headline</i> <i>Fourth Estate</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Oxford University Press</i>
2003	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME Vernon God Little The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Orwell: The Life Landing Light The Fire-Eaters	Mark Haddon DBC Pierre Mark Haddon DJ Taylor Don Paterson David Almond	<i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Hodder Children's</i>
2002	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award	SAMUEL PEPYS: THE UNEQUALLED SELF The Song of Names Spies Samuel Pepys: The Unequaled	Claire Tomalin Norman Lebrecht Michael Frayn Claire Tomalin	<i>Viking</i> <i>Review</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Viking</i>

Poetry Award	Self	Paul Farley	<i>Picador</i>
Children's Book Award	The Ice Age Saffy's Angel	Hilary McKay	<i>Hodder Children's</i>

NB: The structure of the Awards changed for the final time in 2002, and the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year reverted to the original format of being one of five categories, with its winner, like the others, selected by the category judges and competing for title of Whitbread Book of the Year.

2001	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	THE AMBER SPYGLASS The Amber Spyglass Something Like a House Twelve Bar Blues Selkirk's Island Bunny	Philip Pullman Philip Pullman Sid Smith Patrick Neate Diana Souhami Selima Hill	<i>Scholastic</i> <i>Scholastic</i> <i>Picador</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Bloodaxe</i>
2000	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	ENGLISH PASSENGERS Coram Boy White Teeth English Passengers Bad Blood The Asylum Dance	Matthew Kneale Jamila Gavin Zadie Smith Matthew Kneale Lorna Sage John Burnside	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Egmont</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Fourth Estate</i> <i>Cape Poetry</i>
1999	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	BEOWULF Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban White City Blue Music and Silence Berlioz, Volume 2 Beowulf	Seamus Heaney J K Rowling Tim Lott Rose Tremain David Cairns Seamus Heaney	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Bloomsbury</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Allen Lane The Penguin Press</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>

NB: The structure of the Awards changed once more in 1999 when the winner of the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year was selected by the final judging panel and then judged against the other four categories for overall Whitbread Book of the Year.

1998	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	BIRTHDAY LETTERS SKELLIG The Last King of Scotland Leading the Cheers Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes David Almond Giles Foden Justin Cartwright Amanda Foreman Ted Hughes	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Hodder Children's Books</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Sceptre</i> <i>HarperCollins</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>
1997	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	TALES FROM OVID AQUILA The Ventriloquist's Tale Quarantine Victor Hugo Tales from Ovid	Ted Hughes Andrew Norriss Pauline Melville Jim Crace Graham Robb Ted Hughes	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Bloomsbury</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Picador</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>
1996	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award	THE SPIRIT LEVEL THE TULIP TOUCH The Debt to Pleasure Every Man for Himself Thomas Cranmer: A Life The Spirit Level	Seamus Heaney Anne Fine John Lanchester Beryl Bainbridge Diarmaid MacCulloch Seamus Heaney	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Picador</i> <i>Duckworth</i> <i>Yale University Press</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>

NB: The structure of the Awards changed again in 1996 when the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year became an award in its own right (ie not judged against the other four categories) for the first time, with prize money of £10,000.

1995	BOOK OF THE YEAR	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE	Kate Atkinson	<i>Doubleday/Black Swan</i>
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	First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Beefeater Children's Novel	MUSEUM Behind the Scenes at the Museum The Moor's Last Sigh Gladstone Gunpowder The Wreck of the Zanzibar	Kate Atkinson Salman Rushdie Roy Jenkins Bernard O'Donoghue Michael Morpurgo	<i>Doubleday/Black Swan</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Heinemann/Mammoth</i>
1994	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	FELICIA'S JOURNEY The Longest Memory Felicia's Journey D H Lawrence: The Married Man Out of Danger Gold Dust	William Trevor Fred D'Aguiar William Trevor Brenda Maddox James Fenton Geraldine McCaughrean	<i>Viking</i> <i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Sinclair-Stevenson</i> <i>Penguin Poetry</i> <i>OUP</i>
1993	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	THEORY OF WAR Saving Agnes Theory of War Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life Mean Time Flour Babies	Joan Brady Rachel Cusk Joan Brady Andrew Motion Carol Ann Duffy Anne Fine	<i>Andre Deutsch</i> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Andre Deutsch</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Anvil Press</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
1992	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	SWING HAMMER SWING! Swing Hammer Swing! Poor Things Trollope The Gaze of the Gorgon The Great Elephant Chase	Jeff Torrington Jeff Torrington Alasdair Gray Victoria Glendinning Tony Harrison Gillian Cross	<i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Bloomsbury</i> <i>Hutchinson</i> <i>Bloodaxe Books</i> <i>OUP</i>
1991	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	A LIFE OF PICASSO Alma Cogan The Queen of the Tambourine A Life of Picasso Gorse Fires Harvey Angell	John Richardson Gordon Burn Jane Gardam John Richardson Michael Longley Diana Hendry	<i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Sinclair-Stevenson</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Julia MacRae</i>
1990	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	HOPEFUL MONSTERS The Buddha of Suburbia Hopeful Monsters A A Milne: His Life Daddy, Daddy AK	Nicholas Mosley Hanif Kureishi Nicholas Mosley Ann Thwaite Paul Durcan Peter Dickinson	<i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>The Blackstaff Press</i> <i>Victor Gollancz</i>
1989	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	COLERIDGE: EARLY VISIONS Gerontius The Chymical Wedding Coleridge: Early Visions Shibboleth Why Weeps the Brogan?	Richard Holmes James Hamilton-Paterson Lindsay Clarke Richard Holmes Michael Donaghy Hugh Scott	<i>Hodder & Stoughton</i> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Hodder & Stoughton</i> <i>OUP</i> <i>Walker Books</i>
1988	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	THE COMFORTS OF MADNESS The Comforts of Madness The Satanic Verses Tolstoy The Automatic Oracle Awaiting Developments	Paul Sayer Paul Sayer Salman Rushdie A N Wilson Peter Porter Judy Allen	<i>Constable</i> <i>Constable</i> <i>Viking</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>OUP</i> <i>Julia MacRae</i>
1987	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	UNDER THE EYE OF THE CLOCK The Other Garden The Child in Time Under the Eye of the Clock The Haw Lantern A Little Lower than the Angels	Christopher Nolan Francis Wyndham Ian McEwan Christopher Nolan Seamus Heaney Geraldine McCaughrean	<i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>OUP</i>
1986	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry	AN ARTIST OF THE FLOATING WORLD Continent An Artist of the Floating World Gilbert White Stet	Kazuo Ishiguro Jim Crace Kazuo Ishiguro Richard Mabey Peter Reading	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Heinemann</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Century Hutchinson</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i>

	Children's Novel	The Coal House	Andrew Taylor	<i>Collins</i>
1985	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Children's Novel	ELEGIES Oranges are not the only Fruit Hawksmoor Hugh Dalton Elegies The Nature of the Beast	Douglas Dunn Jeanette Winterson Peter Ackroyd Ben Pimlott Douglas Dunn Janni Howker	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Pandora Press</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Julia MacRae</i>

NB: The Whitbread Book of the Year was awarded for the first time in 1985 when the format of the Awards was changed. Prior to that, the Whitbread Literary Awards (as they were then called) were given as follows:

1984	First Novel Novel Biography Short Story Children's Novel	A Parish of Rich Women Kruger's Alp T S Eliot Tomorrow is our Permanent Address The Queen of the Pharisees' Children	James Buchan Christopher Hope Peter Ackroyd Diane Rowe Barbara Willard	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Heinemann</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Julia MacRae</i>
1983	First Novel Novel Joint Biography Children's Novel	Flying to Nowhere Fools of Fortune Vita King George V The Witches	John Fuller William Trevor Victoria Glendinning Kenneth Rose Roald Dahl	<i>Salamander Press</i> <i>Bodley Head</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i>
1982	First Novel Novel Biography Children's Novel	On the Black Hill Young Shoulders Bismarck The Song of Pentecost	Bruce Chatwin John Wain Edward Crankshaw W J Corbett	<i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Methuen</i>
1981	First Novel Novel Biography Children's Novel	A Good Man in Africa Silver's City Monty: The Making of a General The Hollow Land	William Boyd Maurice Leitch Nigel Hamilton Jane Gardam	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Julia MacRae</i>
1980	Novel and Book of the Year Biography Children's Novel	How Far Can You Go? On the Edge of Paradise: A C Benson the Diarist John Diamond	David Lodge David Newsome Leon Garfield	<i>Secker & Warburg</i> <i>John Murray</i> <i>Kestrel</i>
1979	Novel Autobiography Children's Novel	The Old Jest About Time Tulku	Jennifer Johnston Penelope Mortimer Peter Dickinson	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Allen Lane</i> <i>Victor Gollancz</i>
1978	Novel Biography Children's Book	Picture Palace Lloyd George: The People's Champion The Battle of Bubble & Squeak	Paul Theroux John Grigg Philippa Pearce	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Methuen</i> <i>Andre Deutsch</i>
1977	Novel Biography Children's Book	Injury Time Mary Curzon No End to Yesterday	Beryl Bainbridge Nigel Nicolson Shelagh Macdonald	<i>Duckworth</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i> <i>Andre Deutsch</i>
1976	Novel Biography Children's Book	The Children of Dynmouth Elizabeth Gaskell A Stitch in Time	William Trevor Winifred Gerin Penelope Lively	<i>Bodley Head</i> <i>OUP</i> <i>William Heinemann</i>
1975	Novel Autobiography First Book	Docherty In Our Infancy The Improbable Puritan: A Life of Bulstrode Whitelock	William McIlvanney Helen Corke Ruth Spalding	<i>Allen & Unwin</i> <i>Cambridge University Press</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>
1974	Novel Biography Joint Children's Books	The Sacred & Profane Love Machine Poor Dear Brendan How Tom Beat Captain Najork &	Iris Murdoch Andrew Boyle Russell Hoban &	<i>Chatto & Windus</i> <i>Hutchinson</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i>

	First Book	His Hired Sportsmen The Emperor's Winding Sheet The Life & Death of Mary Wollstonecraft	Quentin Blake Jill Paton Walsh Claire Tomalin	<i>Macmillan</i> <i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i>
1973	Novel Biography Children's Book	The Chip Chip Gatherers CB: A Life of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman The Butterfly Ball & The Grasshopper's Feast	Shiva Naipaul John Wilson Alan Aldridge & William Plomer	<i>Andre Deutsch</i> <i>Constable</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i>
1972	Novel Biography Children's Book	The Bird of Night Trollope The Diddakoi	Susan Hill James Pope-Hennessy Rumer Godden	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Macmillan</i>
1971	Novel Biography Poetry	The Destiny Waltz Henrik Ibsen Mercian Hymns	Gerda Charles Michael Meyer Geoffrey Hill	<i>Eyre & Spottiswoode</i> <i>Hart-Davis</i> <i>Andre Deutsch</i>