

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

2017	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Poetry Children's Book	INSIDE THE WAVE Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine Reservoir 13 In the Days of Rain Inside the Wave The Explorer	Helen Dunmore Gail Honeyman Jon McGregor Rebecca Stott Helen Dunmore Katherine Rundell	<i>Bloodaxe Books</i> <i>HarperCollins</i> <i>4th Estate</i> <i>4th Estate</i> <i>Bloodaxe Books</i> <i>Bloomsbury Children's Books</i>
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	PURE Tiny Sunbirds Far Away Pure Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas	Andrew Miller Christie Watson Andrew Miller Matthew Hollis	<i>Sceptre</i> <i>Quercus</i> <i>Sceptre</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i>
	Poetry Award Children's Book Award	The Bees Blood Red Road	Carol Ann Duffy Moira Young	<i>Picador</i> <i>Marion Lloyd Books</i>
2010	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	OF MUTABILITY Witness the Night The Hand that First Held Mine The Hare with Amber Eyes Of Mutability Out of Shadows	Jo Shapcott Kishwar Desai Maggie O'Farrell Edmund de Waal Jo Shapcott Jason Wallace	<i>Faber & Faber</i> <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
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
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
2003	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award	THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME Vernon God Little The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon DBC Pierre Mark Haddon	<i>Jonathan Cape</i> <i>Faber & Faber</i> <i>Jonathan Cape</i>

	Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	Orwell: The Life Landing Light The Fire-Eaters	DJ Taylor Don Paterson David Almond	<i>Chatto & Windus Faber & Faber Hodder Children's</i>
2002	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	SAMUEL PEPYS: THE UNEQUALLED SELF The Song of Names Spies Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self The Ice Age Saffy's Angel	Claire Tomalin Norman Lebrecht Michael Frayn Claire Tomalin Paul Farley Hilary McKay	<i>Viking Review Faber & Faber Viking Picador 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 Scholastic Picador Viking Weidenfeld & Nicolson 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 Egmont Hamish Hamilton Hamish Hamilton Fourth Estate 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 Bloomsbury Viking Chatto & Windus Allen Lane The Penguin Press 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 Hodder Children's Books Faber & Faber Sceptre HarperCollins 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 Hamish Hamilton Bloomsbury Viking Picador Faber & Faber</i>
1996	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award	THE SPIRIT LEVEL THE TULIP TOUCH The Debt to Pleasure Every Man for Himself Thomas Cranmer: A Life	Seamus Heaney Anne Fine John Lanchester Beryl Bainbridge Diarmaid MacCulloch	<i>Faber & Faber Hamish Hamilton Picador Duckworth Yale University Press</i>

	Poetry Award	The Spirit Level	Seamus Heaney	Faber & Faber
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 First Novel Novel Biography Poetry Beefeater Children's Novel	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Behind the Scenes at the Museum The Moor's Last Sigh Gladstone Gunpowder The Wreck of the Zanzibar	Kate Atkinson Kate Atkinson Salman Rushdie Roy Jenkins Bernard O'Donoghue Michael Morpurgo	<i>Doubleday/Black Swan</i> <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	AN ARTIST OF THE FLOATING WORLD	Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>Faber & Faber</i>
	First Novel	Continent	Jim Crace	<i>Heinemann</i>
	Novel	An Artist of the Floating World	Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>Faber & Faber</i>
	Biography	Gilbert White	Richard Mabey	<i>Century Hutchinson</i>
	Poetry	Stet	Peter Reading	<i>Secker & Warburg</i>
Children's Novel	The Coal House	Andrew Taylor	<i>Collins</i>	
1985	BOOK OF THE YEAR	ELEGIES	Douglas Dunn	<i>Faber & Faber</i>
	First Novel	Oranges are not the only Fruit	Jeanette Winterson	<i>Pandora Press</i>
	Novel	Hawksmoor	Peter Ackroyd	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Biography	Hugh Dalton	Ben Pimlott	<i>Jonathan Cape</i>
	Poetry	Elegies	Douglas Dunn	<i>Faber & Faber</i>
Children's Novel	The Nature of the Beast	Janni Howker	<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	A Parish of Rich Women	James Buchan	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Novel	Kruger's Alp	Christopher Hope	<i>Heinemann</i>
	Biography	T S Eliot	Peter Ackroyd	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Short Story	Tomorrow is our Permanent Address	Diane Rowe	
	Children's Novel	The Queen of the Pharisees' Children	Barbara Willard	<i>Julia MacRae</i>
1983	First Novel	Flying to Nowhere	John Fuller	<i>Salamander Press</i>
	Novel	Fools of Fortune	William Trevor	<i>Bodley Head</i>
	Joint Biography	Vita	Victoria Glendinning	<i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i>
		King George V	Kenneth Rose	<i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i>
	Children's Novel	The Witches	Roald Dahl	<i>Jonathan Cape</i>
1982	First Novel	On the Black Hill	Bruce Chatwin	<i>Jonathan Cape</i>
	Novel	Young Shoulders	John Wain	<i>Macmillan</i>
	Biography	Bismarck	Edward Crankshaw	<i>Macmillan</i>
	Children's Novel	The Song of Pentecost	W J Corbett	<i>Methuen</i>
1981	First Novel	A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Novel	Silver's City	Maurice Leitch	<i>Secker & Warburg</i>
	Biography	Monty: The Making of a General	Nigel Hamilton	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Children's Novel	The Hollow Land	Jane Gardam	<i>Julia MacRae</i>
1980	Novel and Book of the Year	How Far Can You Go?	David Lodge	<i>Secker & Warburg</i>
	Biography	On the Edge of Paradise:	David Newsome	<i>John Murray</i>
	Children's Novel	A C Benson the Diarist		
		John Diamond	Leon Garfield	<i>Kestrel</i>
1979	Novel	The Old Jest	Jennifer Johnston	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Autobiography	About Time	Penelope Mortimer	<i>Allen Lane</i>
	Children's Novel	Tulku	Peter Dickinson	<i>Victor Gollancz</i>
1978	Novel	Picture Palace	Paul Theroux	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Biography	Lloyd George: The People's Champion	John Grigg	<i>Methuen</i>
	Children's Book	The Battle of Bubble & Squeak	Philippa Pearce	<i>Andre Deutsch</i>
1977	Novel	Injury Time	Beryl Bainbridge	<i>Duckworth</i>
	Biography	Mary Curzon	Nigel Nicolson	<i>Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i>
	Children's Book	No End to Yesterday	Shelagh Macdonald	<i>Andre Deutsch</i>
1976	Novel	The Children of Dymouth	William Trevor	<i>Bodley Head</i>
	Biography	Elizabeth Gaskell	Winifred Gerin	<i>OUP</i>
	Children's Book	A Stitch in Time	Penelope Lively	<i>William Heinemann</i>
1975	Novel	Docherty	William McIlvanney	<i>Allen & Unwin</i>
	Autobiography	In Our Infancy	Helen Corke	<i>Cambridge University Press</i>

	First Book	The Improbable Puritan: A Life of Bulstrode Whitelock	Ruth Spalding	<i>Faber & Faber</i>
1974	Novel	The Sacred & Profane Love Machine	Iris Murdoch	<i>Chatto & Windus</i>
	Biography Joint Children's Books	Poor Dear Brendan How Tom Beat Captain Najork & His Hired Sportsmen	Andrew Boyle Russell Hoban & Quentin Blake	<i>Hutchinson Jonathan Cape</i>
	First Book	The Emperor's Winding Sheet The Life & Death of Mary Wollstonecraft	Jill Paton Walsh Claire Tomalin	<i>Macmillan Weidenfeld & Nicolson</i>
1973	Novel Biography	The Chip Chip Gatherers CB: A Life of Sir Henry Campbell- Bannerman	Shiva Naipaul John Wilson	<i>Andre Deutsch Constable</i>
	Children's Book	The Butterfly Ball & The Grasshopper's Feast	Alan Aldridge & William Plomer	<i>Jonathan Cape</i>
1972	Novel	The Bird of Night	Susan Hill	<i>Hamish Hamilton</i>
	Biography	Trollope	James Pope-Hennessy	<i>Jonathan Cape</i>
	Children's Book	The Diddakoi	Rumer Godden	<i>Macmillan</i>
1971	Novel	The Destiny Waltz	Gerda Charles	<i>Eyre & Spottiswoode</i>
	Biography	Henrik Ibsen	Michael Meyer	<i>Hart-Davis</i>
	Poetry	Mercian Hymns	Geoffrey Hill	<i>Andre Deutsch</i>