Pulitzer Prize Winning Novels/Fiction

The Pulitzer Prize, started by New York World publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), is awarded each year for books published the previous year. In 1948, the name of the category was changed from Novel to Fiction.

During some years (1917, 1920, 1941, 1946, 1954, 1957, 1964, 1971, 1974, and 1977) no award was given. This list does not contain all of the winners.

The book summaries are mostly by me, but some are taken from Wikipedia.com and Amazon.com.

PARENTS, IF A BOOK REQUIRES PARENTAL PERMISSION, PLEASE KNOW TO WHAT IT IS YOU ARE AGREEING. SOME OF THESE BOOKS CONTAIN EXTREMELY ADULT CONTENT. PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE BOOK’S CONTENT BEFORE YOU GIVE CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO READ IT. IF YOU CHOOSE A BOOK THAT NEEDS PARENTAL PERMISSION, PLEASE SEE THE HONORS LEVEL HANDOUTS PAGE OF MY WEBSITE FOR A PERMISSION SLIP.

1921 The Age of Innocence, by Edith Wharton
Newland Archer and May Welland have just announced their engagement to New York society, and the match seems perfect -- until Archer meets Countess Olenska, a sharp, beautiful woman in the midst of a divorce . . .

1928 The Bridge of San Luis Rey, by Thornton Wilder
In 1714 Peru, a bridge collapses, killing five people. A priest tells the stories of each victim.

1932 The Good Earth, by Pearl S. Buck
A poignant tale about the life and labors of a Chinese farmer during the sweeping reign of the country’s last emperor.

1937 Gone with the Wind, by Margaret Mitchell
Scarlett O’Hara, a true southern belle, lives through the Civil War by any means necessary.

1939 The Yearling, by Marjorie Rawlings
Young Jody Baxter is lonely in his isolated home in the Southern Florida scrub. When he discovers an abandoned fawn, he finds the companionship he was longing for, but with it come some unexpected problems.
1940 *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck
The book follows the Joad family for about nine months as they are driven from the place they’ve called home for generations and travel to California, only to find out that it is not the land of opportunity they expected.

1948 *Tales of the South Pacific*, by James Michener
Enter the exotic world of the South Pacific; meet the men and women caught up in the drama of a big war.

1952 *The Caine Mutiny*, by Herman Wouk
This is the story of ordinary men at sea during World War II, who are under the command of an extremely bad leader.

1953 *The Old Man and the Sea*, by Ernest Hemingway
This novel centers upon an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

1961 *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
Young Jem and Scout Finch live in the South, and watch while their father, a lawyer, defends an African-American man in court for a crime the man did not commit.

1981 *A Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole
In New Orleans in the 1960s, a thirtysomething slacker finally tries to get a job. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

1983 *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
Celie, an African-American woman, is treated extremely poorly by just about everyone. She eventually finds her self-esteem with the help of a blues singer named Shug. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

1986 *Lonesome Dove*, by Larry McMurtry
The story focuses on the relationship of several retired Texas Rangers and their adventures driving a cattle herd from Texas to Montana. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

1988 *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
A slave mother is consumed by the possibility that the daughter she thought was dead may have returned. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED
2000  *Interpreter of Maladies*, by Jhumpa Lahiri
The stories are about the lives of Indians and Indian Americans who are caught between the culture they have inherited and the "New World" they now find themselves in. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

The novel follows the lives of the title characters, a Czech artist named Joe Kavalier and a Brooklyn-born writer named Sam Clay—both Jewish—before, during, and after World War II. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

2006  *March*, by Geraldine Brooks
It is a parallel novel that retells Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women* from the point of view of Alcott's protagonists' absent father. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

2007  *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy
It is a post-apocalyptic tale describing a journey taken by a father and his young son over a period of several months across a landscape blasted years before by an unnamed cataclysm which destroyed civilization and most life on earth. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

2008  *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, by Junot Díaz
Oscar is a 300-pound-plus "lovesick ghetto nerd" with zero game (except for Dungeons & Dragons) who cranks out pages of fantasy fiction with the hopes of becoming a Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien. The book is also the story of a multi-generational family curse that courses through the book, leaving troubles and tragedy in its wake. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

2009  *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout
This is a "novel in stories," which means that it's a book of short stories that all together form a novel. It's the life of Olive, a seventh-grade math teacher in Maine. It tells of her marriage to an outgoing pharmacist, and of how she drives her son into therapy. The stories span thirty years, so we see Olive at many different points in her life. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED