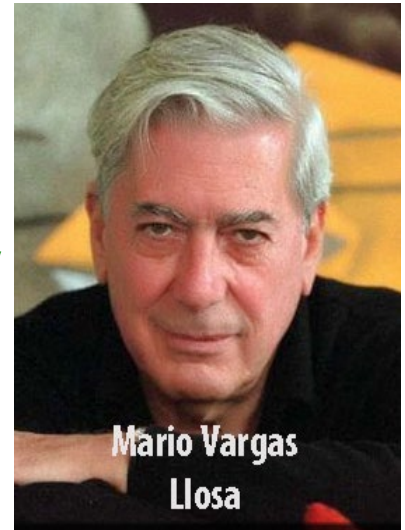


The Nobel Prize for Literature 2010 has crowned Mario Vargas Llosa's career.

...for "his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt and defeat"



1. _____ the literary status and international recognition of Mario Vargas Llosa and, this award is the culmination of a literary life that rose to fame in 1963 with the publication of his novel *The Time of the Hero*. He has written several books that include novels, short stories, plays, literary criticism, and a prolific production of journalistic writings. Vargas Llosa once described literature as the passion of his life. He has always been committed to social change and Peru, which is evident in his novels, plays, and essays.
2. _____ for the first 10 years of his life he lived in Cochabamba, Bolivia, with his mother and grandparents. He returned to Peru, however, in 1946 when his parents, who had divorced shortly before his birth, were reunited.
3. _____ (1950-52) and Colegio Nacional San Miguel de Piura (1952). By the time he was 16 he was working part-time for several Lima tabloids, covering crime stories principally. His first book, *Los Jefes*, a collection of short stories, was published in 1958, when he was 22.
4. _____ Literature and Law at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Vargas Llosa married Julia Urquidi. Vargas Llosa had several jobs at the same time to earn a living. In 1959 he received the Javier Prado Scholarship and traveled to Spain where he obtained a PhD from the Complutense University of Madrid. He then moved to Paris where he became a prolific writer. While living in Europe, he worked as a Spanish teacher, journalist and broadcaster for radio and television.
5. _____ where he described his painful experience at the military academy. He was soon acclaimed as one of the leading figures of the Latin American literature boom alongside Julio Cortazar, Carlos Fuentes and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In 1964 he returned to Peru and divorced Julia Urquidi. The experience of his marriage with Julia Urquidi was the basis for his most internationally popular and autobiographical novel, *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* (1977).
6. _____ In the following years Vargas Llosa continued to produce striking works such as *The Green House*, *Conversation in the Cathedral*, *Captain Pantoja and the Special Service* and *The War of the End of the World* which became a best seller in Spanish-speaking countries.
7. _____ Vargas Llosa has been politically active throughout his career. In 1990 Vargas Llosa became the candidate for president of a center-right coalition called the Democratic Front (Fredemo).
8. _____ Since then he has written superb works such as *The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto*, *The Feast of the Goat*, *The Way to Paradise* and *The Bad Girl*.
9. _____ at prestigious universities such as Harvard, Oxford, Princeton, Columbia, Cambridge and Georgetown.

Other notable honors:

Leopoldo Alas Prize (1959), Rómulo Gallegos Prize (1967), National Critics' Prize (1967), Peruvian National Prize (1967), Critics' Annual Prize for Theatre (1981), Prince of Asturias Prize (1986) and Miguel de Cervantes Prize (1994).

Before reading

- Can you name some of Mario Vargas Llosa's books? Have you read any of them?
- What do you know about his life?

1. Read Mario Vargas Llosa's biography and put these phrases at the beginning of the correct paragraph.

- a. He has also been a Visiting Professor or Resident Writer ...
- b. He attended Leoncio Prado Military Academy ...
- c. Like many Latin American authors ...
- d. He was born in Arequipa in 1936 and ...
- e. After losing the Presidency in two close elections he returned to Europe ...
- f. While studying ...
- g. In 1965 he married Patricia Llosa, with whom he has three children ...
- h. Few writers from Latin America have achieved ...
- i. In 1963 he published his first novel *The Time of the Hero* ...

2. Read the text again and mark the statements T (true) or F (false).

- a. *The Time of the Hero* was his first publication.
- b. After his parents separated he was brought up by his mother and grandparents in Bolivia.
- c. While still a student, he worked as a journalist.
- d. He obtained his doctorate in Paris.
- e. The years Mario Vargas Llosa spent at Leoncio Prado proved to be difficult for him.
- f. The novel *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* is an autobiographical story about his second marriage.
- g. He isn't interested in politics.
- h. He has worked in several literary genres.

3. Look at the following words and phrases in the text. Read the whole paragraph carefully and work out the meaning of the words. Then check the words in the dictionary.

- a. to be committed (paragraph 1)
- b. tabloids (paragraph 3)
- c. to earn a living (paragraph 4)
- d. prolific (paragraph 4)
- e. to be acclaimed (paragraph 5)
- f. alongside (paragraph 5)
- g. striking (paragraph 6)

4. Discuss

- What is the best tribute we as Peruvians can pay to Mario Vargas Llosa?
- What side benefits will Peru and Latin America get thanks to this Prize?

To learn more about the Nobel Prize and the 2010 ceremony, read the banquet speech by Mario Vargas Llosa, watch some videos, photos, etc. visit the following web page: <http://nobelprize.org/>