

THE  
NOBEL  
PRIZE

# LITERATURE PRIZE 2022

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Annie Ernaux

# The Nobel Prize in Literature

“the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction”



# The Literature prize 2022



Annie Ernaux  
Born: 1940, France

“for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory”

## Debut and breakthrough



Annie Ernaux made her debut in 1974 and has had a long and productive career as an author ever since.

## Style and narrative point of view



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

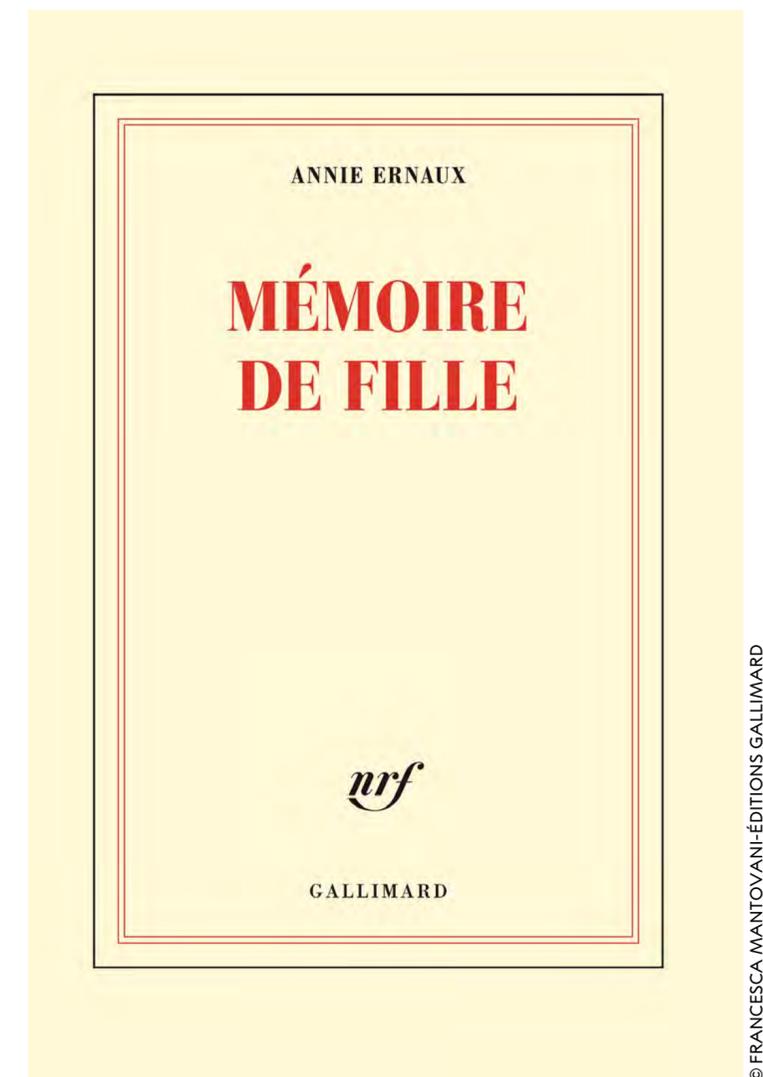
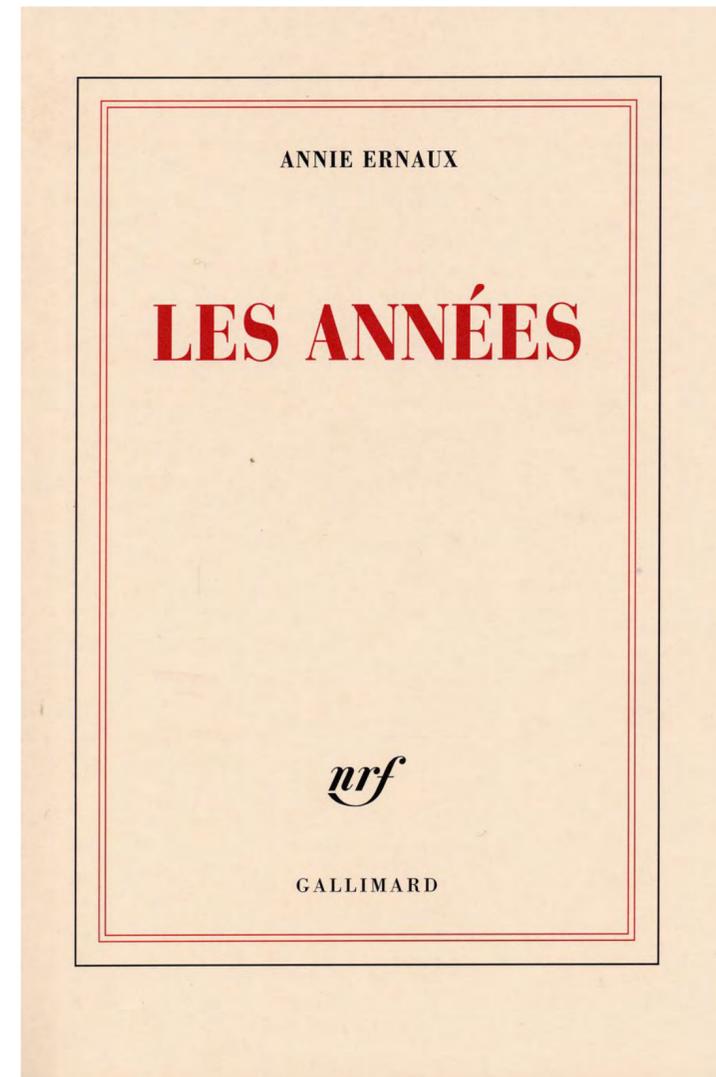
“The words should capture reality, but not explain how to experience it.”

“I turned all my intention to sport, hoping that my strenuous efforts or maybe even a fall might dislodge ‘that thing’, making it unnecessary for me to visit the woman in the 17th arrondissement. When Annick left me her skiing gear, which I couldn’t afford to hire, I would repeatedly tumble, imagining each time I did that I was inflicting the fall that would save me.”

*From Happening (2000),  
Seven Stories Press 2021, translated by Tanya Leslie*

## Recurring themes in Ernaux's writing

Annie Ernaux has been described as a brave author.



# Autobiography or fiction?



Autosociobiography and collective autobiography.

“Nothing is certain but her desire to be grown-up,  
and the absence of the following memory:

- that of the first time they said, before the photo of the baby on the cushion in a nightdress, and others, identical, oval-shaped and sepia, ‘That’s you’, forcing her to see herself in that other, shaped from chubby flesh, who’d lived a mysterious life in a time that no longer existed.”

From *The Years* (2008),  
Fitzcarraldo Editions 2017, translated by Alison L. Strayer



“I think that when we write,  
what is really important is that we  
need to read a lot.”

Annie Ernaux, Nobel Prize laureate in literature 2022

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FOR THE GREATEST  
BENEFIT TO  
HUMANKIND

Nobel Prize Lessons