

# NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Naguib Mahfouz was born in 1911 and died in 2006. He was an Egyptian novelist and winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature. He is considered as the father of modern Arabic literature and is popular throughout the Arab world. Many of his books were about Egyptian nationalism. He said politics "is the very axis of our thinking".

Mahfouz came from a lower middle-class Muslim family in Cairo, the youngest of seven children. He had a very strict Islamic upbringing. He later wondered how "an artist would emerge from that family". Mahfouz was an avid reader and spent his early years with his head buried in books. His interests included traditional Arab literature and Western classics and detective stories.

He graduated in philosophy from the University of Cairo and decided to be a professional writer. He got a job in the Ministry of Culture, where he stayed until 1972, as a movie censor. While working as a civil servant, Mahfouz wrote 34 novels, 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts and five plays. Many of his works were made into Arabic-language movies.

Mahfouz was not a stranger to controversy. Many Arab countries banned his books because of his support of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. He also supported Salman Rushdie after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini condemned the author to death. Mahfouz received many death threats, and he survived an assassination attempt in 1994. He is the only Arabic-language writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

246 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 9.8

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. novelist   | a. centre     |
| 2. popular    | b. come out   |
| 3. axis       | c. well-liked |
| 4. upbringing | d. author     |
| 5. emerge     | e. keen       |
| 6. avid       | f. childhood  |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 7. censor         | g. disputes            |
| 8. civil servant  | h. writings            |
| 9. works          | i. government official |
| 10. controversy   | j. examiner            |
| 11. condemned     | k. killing             |
| 12. assassination | l. sentenced           |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. He is considered as the father | a. censor                         |
| 2. He said politics "is the very  | b. classics and detective stories |
| 3. Mahfouz came from a lower      | c. into Arabic-language movies    |
| 4. his head buried                | d. to controversy                 |
| 5. Arab literature and Western    | e. middle-class Muslim family     |
| 6. movie                          | f. attempt in 1994                |
| 7. Many of his works were made    | g. axis of our thinking"          |
| 8. Mahfouz was not a stranger     | h. in books                       |
| 9. Many Arab countries banned     | i. of modern Arabic literature    |
| 10. he survived an assassination  | j. his books                      |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Naguib Mahfouz was born in \_\_\_\_\_ 2006. He was an Egyptian novelist and winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature. He \_\_\_\_\_ father of modern Arabic literature and is \_\_\_\_\_ Arab world. Many of his books were about Egyptian nationalism. He said politics "\_\_\_\_\_ thinking".

Mahfouz came from \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim family in Cairo, the youngest of seven children. He had a very strict Islamic upbringing. He later wondered how "an artist would emerge from that family". Mahfouz \_\_\_\_\_ and spent his early years with his head \_\_\_\_\_. His interests included traditional Arab literature and Western \_\_\_\_\_ stories.

He \_\_\_\_\_ from the University of Cairo and decided to be a professional writer. He got a job in the Ministry of Culture, where he stayed until 1972, \_\_\_\_\_. While working \_\_\_\_\_, Mahfouz wrote 34 novels, 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts and five plays. Many of his \_\_\_\_\_ into Arabic-language movies.

Mahfouz was not a \_\_\_\_\_. Many Arab countries banned his books \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. He also supported Salman Rushdie after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini \_\_\_\_\_ to death. Mahfouz received many death threats, and he survived \_\_\_\_\_ in 1994. He is the only Arabic-language writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Naguib Mahfouz was born in 1911 and *died / dead* in 2006. He was an Egyptian novelist and winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature. He is considered *as / was* the father of modern Arabic literature and is popular *thought / throughout* the Arab world. Many of his books were about Egyptian nationalism. He said politics "is the very *axis / axe* of our thinking".

Mahfouz came from a lower middle-class Muslim family in Cairo, the youngest of seven children. He had a very *strict / strictly* Islamic upbringing. He later wondered how "an artist would emerge from that family". Mahfouz was an *amid / avid* reader and spent his early years with his head *buried / bury* in books. His interests included traditional Arab literature and Western *classics / classical* and detective stories.

He graduated in philosophy from the University of Cairo and decided to be a professional writer. He got a job in the Ministry of Culture, where he *stayed / staid* until 1972, as a movie *sensor / censor*. While working as a civil servant, Mahfouz wrote 34 novels, 350 short stories, *dozens / dozen* of movie scripts and five plays. Many of his *workings / works* were made into Arabic-language movies.

Mahfouz was not a *stronger / stranger* to controversy. Many Arab countries banned his books because of his support of Egypt's *peace / piece* treaty with Israel. He also supported Salman Rushdie after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini condemned the author to *dead / death*. Mahfouz received many death threats, and he *survival / survived* an assassination attempt in 1994. He is the only Arabic-language writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

## SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

### *Paragraph 1*

1. an Egyptian lontevsi
2. the father of odermn Arabic literature
3. pualopr throughout the Arab world
4. He said iliotcps "is the very axis of our thinking"

### *Paragraph 2*

5. Mahfouz came from a lower emldi-class Muslim family
6. the useytong of seven children
7. Mahfouz was an avid raeder
8. edcvtteei stories

### *Paragraph 3*

9. He graduated in ishphlyoop
10. a movie oersnc
11. dnzseo of movie scripts
12. his okwrs

### *Paragraph 4*

13. Mahfouz was not a reagnsrt to controversy
14. Many Arab countries bnaend his books
15. death tetsrah
16. he survived an assassination pttmeta

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) Khomeini condemned the author to death. Mahfouz received many death threats, and he survived
- ( ) Mahfouz was not a stranger to controversy. Many Arab countries banned his books because of his
- ( ) Islamic upbringing. He later wondered how "an artist would emerge from that family". Mahfouz was an avid
- ( ) support of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. He also supported Salman Rushdie after Iran's Ayatollah
- ( ) the Arab world. Many of his books were about Egyptian nationalism. He said politics "is the very axis of our thinking".
- ( ) servant, Mahfouz wrote 34 novels, 350 short stories, dozens of movie
- ( ) traditional Arab literature and Western classics and detective stories.
- ( ) an assassination attempt in 1994. He is the only Arabic-language writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ( ) Mahfouz came from a lower middle-class Muslim family in Cairo, the youngest of seven children. He had a very strict
- ( ) in the Ministry of Culture, where he stayed until 1972, as a movie censor. While working as a civil
- ( ) scripts and five plays. Many of his works were made into Arabic-language movies.
- ( ) Nobel Prize for Literature. He is considered as the father of modern Arabic literature and is popular throughout
- ( ) He graduated in philosophy from the University of Cairo and decided to be a professional writer. He got a job
- ( **1** ) Naguib Mahfouz was born in 1911 and died in 2006. He was an Egyptian novelist and winner of the 1988
- ( ) reader and spent his early years with his head buried in books. His interests included

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. literature Arabic modern of father the

---

2. Many nationalism Egyptian about were books his of

---

3. lower class Mahfouz a - family from middle Muslim came

---

4. Islamic He a strict upbringing had very

---

5. years head books early his in his with buried spent

---

6. servant , Mahfouz wrote While working 34 as a civil novels

---

7. - were language made movies into his Arabic works

---

8. Mahfouz not stranger controversy was a to

---

9. books his banned countries Arab Many

---

10. 1994 survived assassination in he an attempt

---



## **NAGUIB MAHFOUZ DISCUSSION:**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. What do you know about Naguib Mahfouz?
2. Would you like to have met Naguib Mahfouz?
3. What would you like to know about Naguib Mahfouz and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **NAGUIB MAHFOUZ DISCUSSION:**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. What did you learn from this text about Naguib Mahfouz?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Naguib Mahfouz?
3. What would his answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## NAGUIB MAHFOUZ SURVEY:

Write five questions about Naguib Mahfouz in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Naguib Mahfouz. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. NAGUIB MAHFOUZ POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Naguib Mahfouz. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Naguib Mahfouz. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he did every day and what he thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Naguib Mahfouz. Ask him three questions about his life. Tell him how important he is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Naguib Mahfouz expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. novelist   | a. author     |
| 2. popular    | b. well-liked |
| 3. axis       | c. centre     |
| 4. upbringing | d. childhood  |
| 5. emerge     | e. come out   |
| 6. avid       | f. keen       |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 7. censor         | g. examiner            |
| 8. civil servant  | h. government official |
| 9. works          | i. writings            |
| 10. controversy   | j. disputes            |
| 11. condemned     | k. sentenced           |
| 12. assassination | l. killing             |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. He is considered as the father | a. of modern Arabic literature    |
| 2. He said politics "is the very  | b. axis of our thinking"          |
| 3. Mahfouz came from a lower      | c. middle-class Muslim family     |
| 4. his head buried                | d. in books                       |
| 5. Arab literature and Western    | e. classics and detective stories |
| 6. movie                          | f. censor                         |
| 7. Many of his works were made    | g. into Arabic-language movies    |
| 8. Mahfouz was not a stranger     | h. to controversy                 |
| 9. Many Arab countries banned     | i. his books                      |
| 10. he survived an assassination  | j. attempt in 1994                |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.