

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

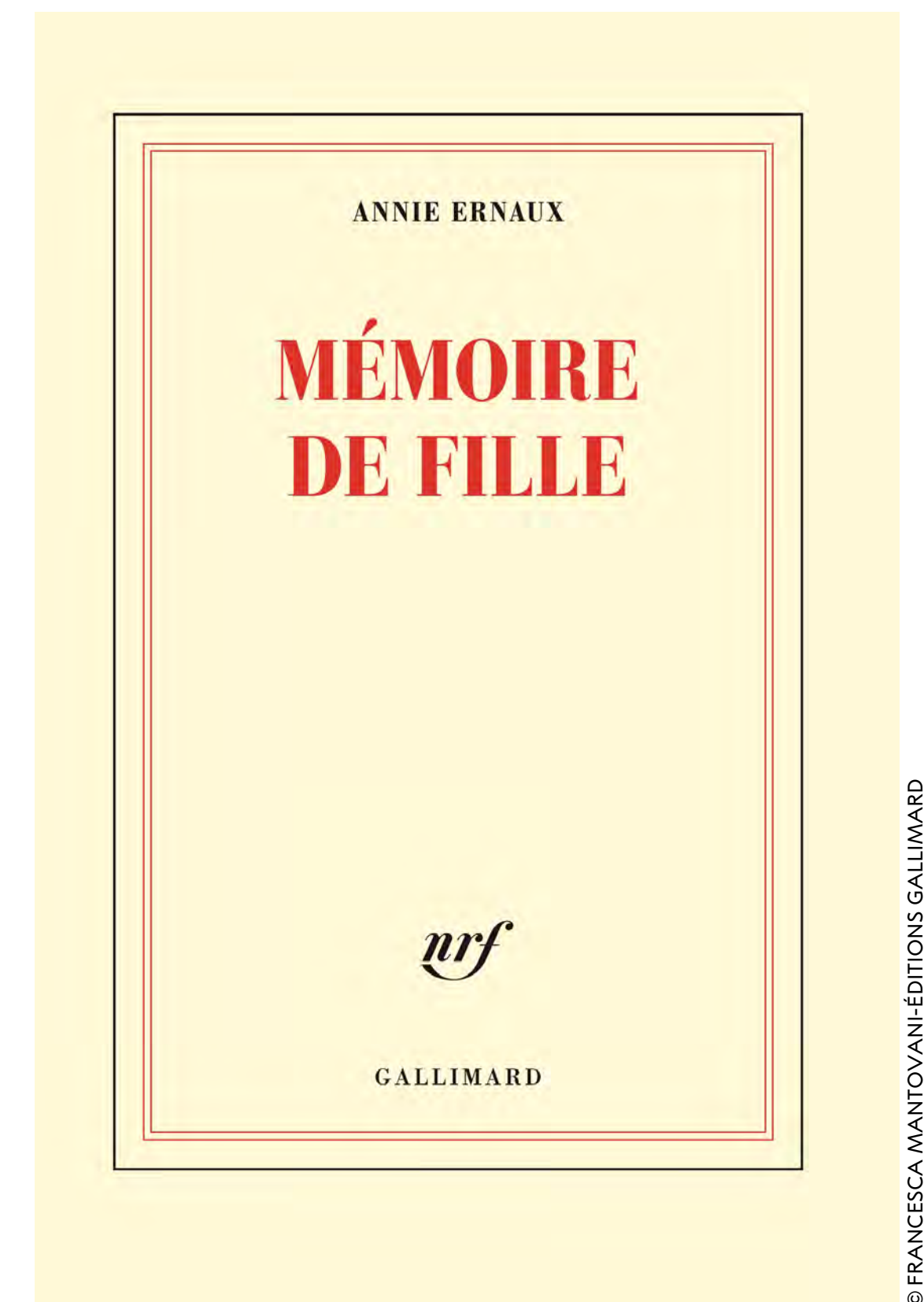
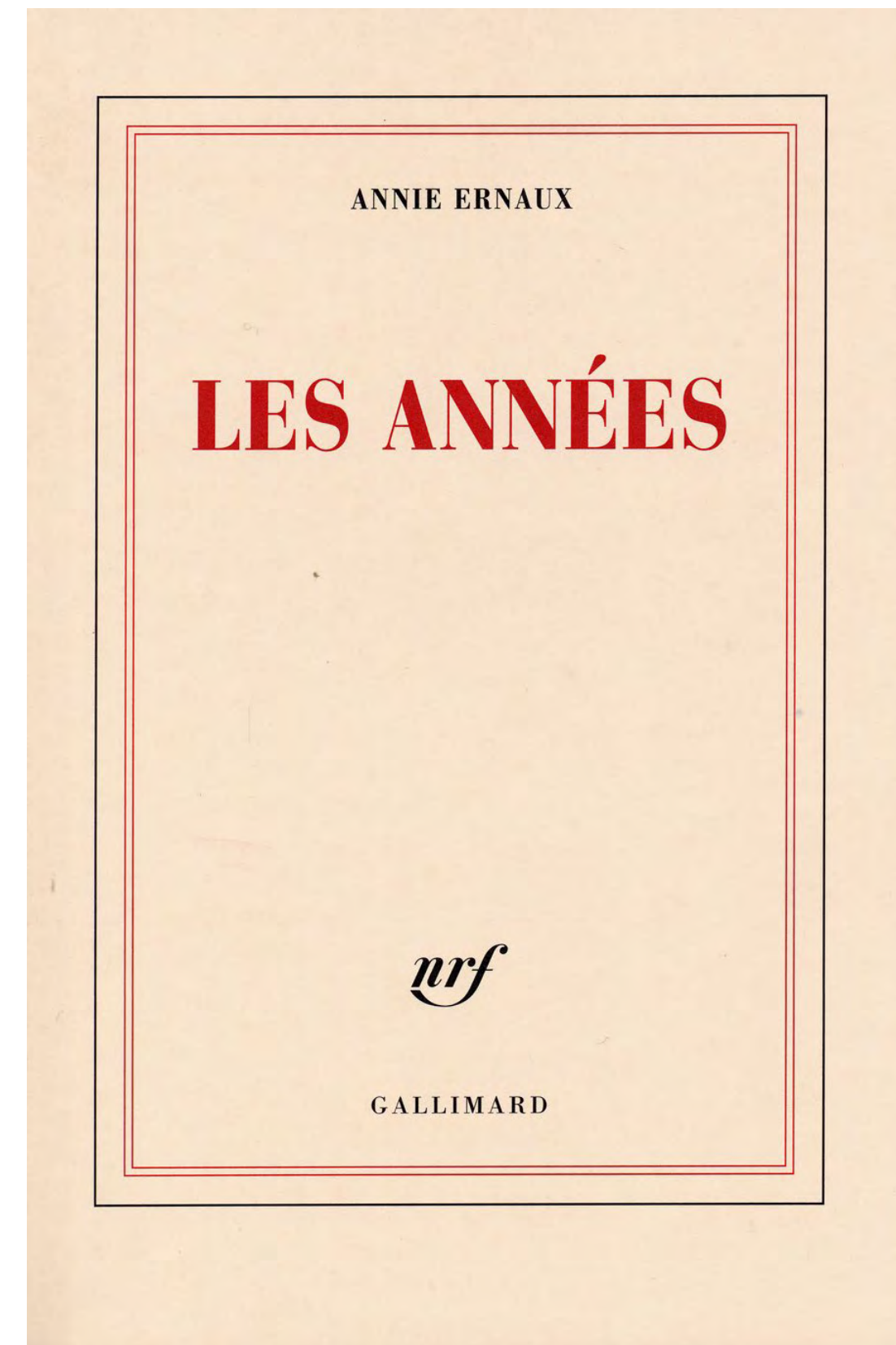
“The words should capture reality, but not explain how to experience it.”

“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