LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Letters About Literature

Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.

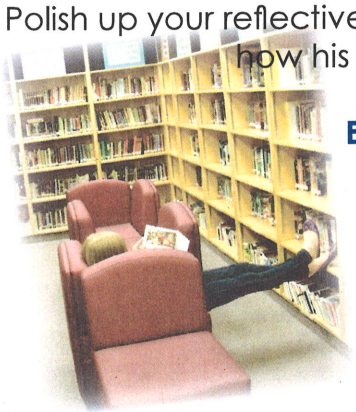
Center for the Book
New Hampshire State Library

CALL FOR STUDENT ENTRIES!

The Library of Congress invites students in grades 4 through 12 to enter the

25th Annual LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE WRITING COMPETITION

Polish up your reflective writing skills and write a letter to an author—living or dead—explaining how his or her work changed your view of yourself or your world.



ENTER ON ONE OF THE THREE COMPETITION LEVELS:

Level 1: Grades 4, 5 and 6
Level 2: Grades 7 and 8
Level 3: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Deadline (all competition levels): December 9, 2017

HOW TO ENTER IN 10 EASY STEPS!

1. Select a book that you have read and about which you have strong feelings.
2. Imagine sitting down with the author of this work and sharing your personal thoughts. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation rather than book report or a fan letter.
3. Share specific details both about the book and about your reaction to the book.
4. Keep in mind that this is a reflective writing contest and that means you need to think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the author's words.
5. Type your entry.
6. Complete the entry coupon (see page 2) and staple it to your entry.
7. Enclose the letter in a large, flat envelope 8" x 10" (or larger). Please do not use letter-sized envelopes. TEACHERS' NOTE: PLEASE MAIL CLASS SETS IN ONE LARGE ENVELOPE.
8. Indicate the competition level on the envelope—Level 1, or Level 2 or Level 3—depending on your grade. If you are submitting for more than one level, use a separate envelope for each level.
9. Mail your entry to: Letters About Literature
   Library of Congress
   101 Independence Ave. SE
   Washington, DC 20540-4921
10. Download participation certificate at http://read.gov/letters (available November 1, 2017)

Letters About Literature is a reflective writing competition sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and presented in association with affiliate State Centers for the Book with funding provided by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

TEACHERS: Please go to http://read.gov/letters to review the online teacher's resource page for specific tips and to download our free Teacher's Guide. Teachers should submit class sets in one envelope rather than submitting letters individually in single envelopes.

ASSESSMENT: All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Round 1: Audience. Is the essay in letter format and does it address the author of the work? Entries that are not in letter format and are written about the author, rather than to the author, will be eliminated.

Purpose. Does the essay address the contest theme of how an author's work changed the reader's view of self or the world? Is personal reflection evident in the letter? Entries that are book summaries or fan letters will be eliminated. Letters that meet these criteria advance to Round 2.

Round 2: Grammatical conventions. Is the essay written in a clear and organized way with specific details to support the essay's main ideas? Single-paragraph letters and those with significant grammatical errors will be eliminated.

Originality. Does the essay express ideas creatively, communicating a unique or powerful point of view? Letters that are formulaic without evidence of a writer's voice will be eliminated. Letters that meet these criteria advance to state-level judging.

Judges selected by affiliate Centers for the Book choose the top letters in each competition level for their state and coordinate recognition ceremonies and awards. The first-place state-level winners advance to the national-level judging.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress selects a panel of judges to award National Winners and National Honor Winners.

AWARDS

Each state recognizes and awards prizes to winning participants.
The Library of Congress will announce all National and National Honor Winners and will publish all state-level winners on its website.

National Winners in each competition level will receive a $1,000 cash award
National Honor Winners in each competition level will receive a $200 cash award
Check read.gov/letters for details on state awards and ceremonies

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS AND ENTRY COUPON

Entry Coupon: Each letter must be accompanied by an entry coupon. Staple the coupon to the last page of the letter. Affiliate Centers for the Book will contact State Winners using this information, so be sure entry coupons are complete and legible! Letters without a coupon will be eliminated.

Class Set of Letters: Teachers must submit their name and contact information with a list of the names of each student submitting a letter. This list does not take the place of entry coupons. Each student's letter must have its own entry coupon. Mail class sets in a flat envelope 8" x 10" or larger.

Ownership: All letters become the property of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Please keep a copy of your entries, as no letters will be returned.

Mailing Address:
Letters About Literature
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20540-4921

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS **Letters About Literature** **Entry Coupon for 2017-18**

Please complete the form, cut and staple to your letter

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Book / Story Title _____ Author _____

FOR CLASS ENTRIES

School / Library _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School / Library Phone _____ School / Library Email _____

Teacher / Librarian (signature required) _____ Email _____

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Fill out ONLY if you are submitting a letter individually. Otherwise, this section is optional.

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent's Signature (required) _____ Email _____ Phone _____