



LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

READ. BE INSPIRED. WRITE BACK **CALL FOR STUDENT ENTRIES**

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

26th 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 and 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: Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12

Deadline (All Competition Levels):

January 11, 2019

How to Enter in 7 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 than book report or fan letter.
3. Share specifics 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. Submit your submission online.

New this year is a submission portal. Students are asked to submit their entries electronically. Permissions will also be requested at that time. The electronic submission portal will be open on **November 1st**.

More information on the submission portal and instructions to come!

7. Download participation certificate at <http://www.read.gov/letters/>.

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 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.

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 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 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 will 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 idea? 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 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 the Affiliate Centers for the Book choose the top letters in each competition level for their state. Once the state's winning letters have been selected, 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 evaluate the first place winners and select National Winners and National Honor Winners.

Each state recognizes its semi-finalists and winners in various ways. In April 2017, Wisconsin held an awards ceremony in Green Bay in conjunction with the city's Untitled Town Book Festival.

Awards

Wisconsin Center for the Book Letters about Literature Awards include a framed certificate, books and financial awards of:

\$100 for First Place

\$50 for Second Place

\$25 for Honorable Mention

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 will receive a \$200 cash award

Check read.gov/letters for details on state awards and ceremonies

How to Submit on the Electronic Submission Portal

Opens November 1st.

More information to come!

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.