

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE IN ILLINOIS

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias invites students in grades 4-12 to enter Letters About Literature, a statewide reading and writing competition offered by the Illinois State Library's Illinois Center for the Book.

How did an author's work change your view of the world or yourself?

ANNUAL ENTRY
POSTMARK DEADLINE:



COMPETITION LEVELS

Level 1: Grades 4-6

Level 2: Grades 7-8

Level 3: Grades 9-12



READ. REFLECT. WRITE.



HOW TO ENTER

- ☐ **READ.** Select a book to read that sounds interesting to you. It might be a book to help you through a difficult time or one that simply touches your heart or inspires you.
- ☐ **REFLECT.** Think before you write. How did this author's book change you or your view of the world? How do you know it did? How and why are you different now than you were before you read this book?
- ☐ **WRITE.** Your entry should be written in letter format. It should include a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name or signature.
 - ☐ **SUPPORT.** Your letter should be reflective and tell how the author influenced you. Include your feelings and ideas with supportive details. What details did you find to be important? What are your personal responses to those things? Did they conflict with beliefs you previously had? What was provided in the book to change you or your thoughts? Describe the feeling or understanding you now have.
 - ☐ **SHARE.** Imagine sitting down with the author of this book. How would you share your personal thoughts and reaction to the changes their book has created in you? Write from this perspective. Be personal and write honestly from your heart.
- ☐ **ENTRY FORM.** Your letter **MUST** be accompanied by a completed and **LEGIBLE** entry form. Winners will be contacted using the information on the entry form. Letters without an entry form will be disqualified.
- ☐ **MAIL.** Staple the required entry form to the front of your letter. Write your competition level on the outside of your envelope. Mail your entry via the USPS by the postmark deadline to:
Letters About Literature
Competition Level (Indicate Level 1, 2 or 3 on the envelope.)
Illinois Center for the Book
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701 **OR**
- ☐ **EMAIL.** Send your letter and entry form with the subject line: **LAL, competition level** (Indicate level 1, 2 or 3), **teacher last name, school name** and **city**. Also include an attached copy of the required entry form by the postmark deadline to: islcomps@ilsos.gov.

TEACHERS NOTES:

- ☐ **EACH LETTER MUST** be accompanied by an entry form. Letters without an entry form will be disqualified.
- ☐ **TO SAVE TIME** when completing entry forms for your class, complete the static information on one entry form. Make copies of that form and distribute them to your students to complete their personal information.
- ☐ Mail class sets in a flat envelope – 8 x 10 or larger.
- ☐ Use separate envelopes for different competition levels – Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

*Need some tips to get started? Not sure how to write a personal letter?

Visit ilsos.gov/departments/library/center_for_the_book/letters.html

Read winning letters from past competitions and access the Letters About Literature Teaching Guide.

READ. REFLECT. WRITE.

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE IN ILLINOIS ENTRY FORM

ANNUAL POSTMARK DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15

Please indicate level: ☐ Level 1 – Grades 4-6 ☐ Level 2 – Grades 7-8 ☐ Level 3 – Grades 9-12

- All letters become the property of the Illinois Center for the Book.
- Please keep a copy as no letters will be returned.
- Runners-up certificates will be sent to the teacher/librarian or parent/guardian, if an individual entry, after judging.

Each letter **MUST** be accompanied by a completed and **LEGIBLE** entry form. Winners will be contacted and certificates will be printed using the information on the entry form. Letters without an entry form will be disqualified.

MAIL

- Staple the required entry form to the front of the letter.
- Include a complete return address and mail to: 

TEACHERS

- Mail class sets in a flat envelope – 8 x 10 or larger.
- Indicate the competition level – 1, 2 or 3 – on the envelope.

EMAIL

- Send letter and required entry form to: iscomps@ilsos.gov. In subject line, include: **LAL, competition level (1, 2 or 3), teacher last name, school name and city.**

**Letters About Literature
Competition Level (1, 2 or 3)**
(Indicate level 1, 2 or 3 on the envelope.)
Illinois Center for the Book
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701

Complete this form and staple the entire page to the **FRONT** of your letter.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

FOR CLASS ENTRIES

School/Library: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Teacher/Librarian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher/Librarian Email: _____

All correspondence will be sent via email – please print legibly

If you are submitting a letter individually, this section **MUST** be completed.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Street: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

All correspondence will be sent via email – please print legibly.

ISL Initials: _____ ☐ Finalist ☐ Honorable Mention ☐ Participant Completed: _____