

23rd
Annual Writing
CONTEST

2015 - 2016

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE



In
Partnership

Center for the Book - Letters About Literature
with Humanities Tennessee

The 23rd annual writing contest for young readers is made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, with additional support from gifts to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the contest through its affiliate Centers for the Book, state libraries and other organizations.

Read.

Be inspired.

Write Back.

A Library of Congress National Reading
and Writing Promotion Program

Competition
Levels:

- Level 1 Grades 4 - 6
- Level 2 Grades 7 - 8
- Level 3 Grades 9 - 12

THEME

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

How to
Enter

READ

Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a poem or play you have read and about which you have strong feelings. (Sorry, no song lyrics!) It might be a book that helped you through a difficult time or it might be a book that simply touched your heart or inspired you.

REFLECT

Think before you write. How did this author's work 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 work?

Persuade

Write a personal letter to the author, stating how reading his or her work changed you. Be personal but also persuasive! Support your ideas with specific details, including details from the work itself. This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how an author influenced you.

WRITE

Write your entry in letter format.
Your name and complete return address (either school or home) must appear in the upper right corner of the first page of the letter.

SEND

Mail your letter with the required entry coupon by the deadline date.

Need some tips to get started? Not sure how to write a personal letter? Visit read.gov/letters to read winning letters from past competitions and to access the Letters About Literature Teaching Guide.