



To: West Virginia School Principals

From: Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in cooperation with the West Virginia Center for the Book

Date: November 30, 2012

Subject: **Letters About Literature** Writing Contest for Young Readers – Please Inform Your English Teachers

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Encourage your students to take the **Letters About Literature** writing challenge. Participating students will write personal letters to authors they admire or authors who have inspired them. The inspiring books can be fiction or nonfiction. Students' letters must be personal but persuasive, explaining how the author's work changed their views of themselves or the world.

Entrants must be at least 9 years old and fall into one of the following categories:

Level 1 — Grades 4-6

Level 2 — Grades 7-8

Level 3 — Grades 9-10

**Letters About Literature** awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each participating state center has its own panel of judges who select the top essayists in the state. State Winners will receive a cash award and advance to the national level judging. A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level to receive a \$1,000 cash award. The judges will also select one second place winner on each competition level to receive a \$150 cash award.

The 2013 Entry Guidelines accompany this correspondence.

Note that the submission deadline is Friday, January 11, 2013.

Please pass this information to your English teachers.