

**OFFICIAL RULES**  
**Letters About Literature Contest**  
**FINAL: July 17, 2018**

1. Letters About Literature is open to legal residents of the 50 United States, District of Columbia and U.S. territories.
2. Students must be in grades 7 through 12 during the 2018-2019 school year, and are 13 years of age or older as of 11/1/18.
3. The program year starts September 1, 2018 and concludes June 1, 2019.
4. Entries will be accepted online starting November 1, 2018
5. There will be two (2) Levels of Competition:
  - a. Level 1 for Grades 7 – 8
  - b. Level 2 for Grades 9 – 12
6. Students select a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, essay, or speech (not including song lyrics) that they have read and have strong feelings about.
7. Students submit a personal letter to the author of the literature he/she has selected. The letter should not be intended to flatter the author or summarize the piece of literature, rather the letter should aim to correspond with the author and convey the thoughts, feelings and/or ideas that they learned from the author's writing as well as how this has impacted their life. The entrant should write honestly and from their own perspective.
8. Submission will be no less than 400 words and no more than 800 words.
9. The entry should have NO return address on the letter. Include a date, greeting (including the name of the author), body of the letter, closing, and name or signature. Letters must include the title of the work(s) being discussed.
10. Entries should be submitted at the Letter About Literature 2018-2019 web site at <http://read.gov/letters> by the appropriate due date for the entrant's state. All information fields must be filled out in its entirety and submitted with the Entrant's Letter. The system is set up to accept class or individual entries.
11. TERMS OF USE: Each Entry (a) must be the original creation of the submitting student, (b) must be unpublished and cannot have been submitted in any other competition, (c) must not infringe upon or violate any rights of any third party; and by submitting an entry each student (and the student's parent/legal guardian if entrant is a minor) warrants and represents that his/her Entry fully and completely conforms to the stated requirements. No other form of participation other than as stated in these Official Rules is valid. Further, by submitting an Entry, student (and the entrant's parent/legal guardian) grants permission for the Library of Congress or affiliate State Center of the Book to post, and otherwise make use of, the Entry on the Internet as is consistent with these Official Rules, (as solely determined by the Library of Congress) and warrants and represents that he/she has properly secured, and has all right to grant such permission. The Library of Congress suggests that entrant keep a copy of their Entry. All entries become the sole property of the Library of Congress, and will not be acknowledged or returned. Limit one (1) Entry per person.
12. STATE LEVEL OF JUDGING: Entries will be judged at the State Level which will be determined by the geographic location of the entrant's home or school address as submitted, but not both. For the purposes of this program, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories will be considered States. Entries in each State will be judged against entries within their same State and Level of Competition by Representatives from the Affiliate State Centers for the Book or by other representatives identified by the Center for the Book whose decisions are final and binding in all judging matters related to the State Level of Judging.

13. NATIONAL LEVEL JUDGING: Once the top two (2) Entries from each State, one (1) per Level of Competition, have been determined, the National Level Judging will occur. Entries will be judged by Representatives from the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress whose decisions are final and binding. The one (1) entry in each Level of Competition (2 total) with the highest cumulative point score will be declared the National Winners. After the National Winners are determined, the next two (2) entries with the highest cumulative point score for each Level of Competition (4 total) will be declared the National Honorable Mention Winners. In case of a tie, tied Entries will be evaluated by a new judge according to original criteria, and tied Entry with highest cumulative score by new judge will be declared winner of the tie. National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners will be notified via phone or mail on or about 5/13/19
14. PRIZES: National Prize (1 per Level of Competition): \$2000 cash award. National Honorable Mention Prize (2 per Level of Competition): \$500 cash award. Expenses not specified herein are solely the responsibility of the winners. If the winners cannot accept their prize as stated, prize will be forfeited in its entirety and an alternate winner will be determined. National and National Honorable Mention prizes will be awarded in the name of, or to, winner's parent/legal guardian who must execute all documents and agree to all obligations and undertakings of winner, both on behalf of himself/herself and winner, or prize may be forfeited and an alternate winner will be determined. State Level winners' prizes will be shipped within 4-6 weeks of determination.
15. WINNER'S LIST: For the names of the winners, visit <http://read.gov/letters> after 6/1/19.
16. SPONSOR: Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, D.C. 20540 with Support from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Goodlettsville, Tennessee.