

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE TEXAS

A Reading and Writing Promotion Program from the Texas Center for the Book

Call For Student Entries!

The Texas Center for the Book at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission invites students in grades 4 through 12 to enter.

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 or your world.

Enter One of the Three Competition Levels

Level 1: Grades 4–6

Level 2: Grades 7–8

Level 3: Grades 9–12

Deadlines are early winter, and winners are announced in the fall.

How To Enter

1. Select a book that you have read and about which you have strong feelings.
2. Imagine sitting down with the author of that work and sharing your personal thoughts. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation rather than book report or a fan letter.
3. Share specific 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 letter and submit online.

Visit Texas Center for the Book's website:

- Letters About Literature page
- Updated deadlines and online submission link
- Participation certificates
- Educator teaching guides



www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook

Assessment

All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Round 1: Entries are evaluated for basic eligibility and by how well they address the audience and the purpose/theme of the contest. The judges ask these questions: Is the essay in letter format, and does it address the author of the work? Does the essay address the contest theme of how an author's work changed the reader's view of self or the world? Is personal reflection evident in the letter? Entries that are book summaries or fan letters will be eliminated. Entries that are not in letter format and are written about the author, rather than to the author, will be eliminated. Letters that meet the criteria above will advance to Round 2.

Round 2: Entries are evaluated for grammar and writing. Judges ask: Is the essay written in a clear and organized way with specific details to support the essay's main ideas? Does the essay express ideas creatively, communicating a unique or powerful point of view? These letters are evaluated with the Letters About Literature rubric, which examines all five criteria (addresses audience and theme, grammar,

structure, content and expression), and they receive a numerical score. Letters that are formulaic, without evidence of a writer's voice, will be eliminated. Single-paragraph letters and those with significant grammatical errors will also be eliminated. Letters that meet the criteria above will advance to Round 3 and 4 level judging.

Round 3 and 4: Letters that advance past the first and second round are evaluated by a day of live and in-person judging at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; entries are evaluated with the Letters About Literature rubric, which examines all five criteria (addresses audience and theme, grammar, structure, content and expression) and receive a numerical score.

The top 10-20 entries in each level are then evaluated again with the Letters About Literature rubric, which examines all five criteria (addresses audience and theme, grammar, structure, content and expression) and receive a numerical score.

Seasonal Guide

(Dates Subject to Change)

Fall

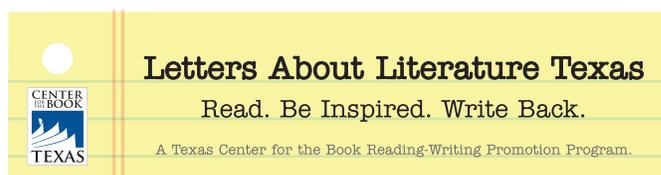
Teach simple curriculum by Halloween

Winter

- Deadlines for entries (early December)
- Three rounds of judging take place online and at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (January-February)
- Finalists are submitted for final round of judging (late February)

Spring

- State winners chosen (March)
- Texas first place winners are invited to attend Texas Library Association Annual (TLA) Conference for awards ceremony
- Awards Ceremony is held during Texas Association of School Librarians Meeting at TLA (April)



Awards

Winners receive \$100 and travel assistance to a special awards ceremony at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference.

