

2020 WYOMING LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

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

library.wyo.gov/letters

Contest entry postmark deadline: January 11, 2020
Entries will be accepted beginning November 1, 2019

The Wyoming Center for the Book at the Wyoming State Library invites students in grades 4-12 to enter Letters About Literature, a statewide writing competition. Students may compete in one of three levels: Level 1 for Grades 4-6, Level 2 for Grades 7-8, and Level 3 for Grades 9-12

First place winners at each competition level will receive a \$150 Amazon gift card, second place winners will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card, and third place winners will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. All winners and honorable mentions will receive a non-monetary award certificate.

HOW TO ENTER

READ: Select a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, play, essay, or speech you've read and have strong feelings about. It might be a work that helped you through a difficult time, or it might be one that simply touched your heart or inspired you. (Sorry, no song lyrics!)

REFLECT: 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 the format of a personal letter to the author. It should include a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name or signature. Write honestly, from your own perspective and reflect on how the author influenced you. This should be a personal letter, explaining how reading his or her work changed you. Support your ideas with specific details both from the book and from your life. This is NOT a fan letter, a book summary, or a letter about the author. Letters must be typed. Include your name, but do NOT include your address, email, or phone number on the letter — that will go on your entry form.

ENTRY FORM: Complete the entry form and staple it to the front of your letter. This information is used to contact winners, so be sure the entry form is complete and legible. Letters without a form will be discarded.

SEND: Mail your letter with the required entry form by the **January 11, 2020, postmark deadline** to:

Wyoming Letters About Literature
Wyoming State Library
2800 Central Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

TEACHERS' NOTES:

- Please DO NOT ASSIGN A PARTICULAR WORK to students. Allow students to choose a piece of literature that speaks to them personally.
- Each letter must be accompanied by an entry form. Letters without a form will be discarded.
- A teaching guide is available on the website at library.wyo.gov/letters.

OFFICIAL RULES

Wyoming Letters About Literature 2020 is open to students in grades 4-12 who attend school in Wyoming or, if submitting individually and not as part of a class, are legal residents of Wyoming. Students may not enter in more than one state's Letters About Literature contest. Students must be in grades 4 through 12 during the 2019-20 school year. There will be three (3) Levels of competition: a) Level 1 for Grades 4-6, b) Level 2 for Grades 7-8, and c) Level 3 for Grades 9-12 .

Entries must be postmarked between November 1, 2019 and January 11, 2020.

Students select a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, essay, play, or speech (excluding song lyrics) that they have read and have strong feelings about. They then write a personal letter to the author of their selected piece explaining how the work changed the student's view of themselves or their world.

Entries must include a date, greeting, body of the letter, closing, and name/signature. Entries must NOT include a return address, email address, or phone number on the letter; this contact information must be provided on the entry form.

Each entry (a) must be the original creation of the submitting student; (b) must be previously unpublished and cannot have been submitted to any other competition; (c) must not infringe upon or violate the rights of any third party; and, by the act of submission, warrants and represents that the student (and parent/legal guardian if student is a minor) fully and completely conforms to the stated requirements for entry.

If the entry is selected as a winner, the student's parent/legal guardian will be contacted for permission to publish the student's name, city/town, school, grade, and letter, and to use these items to promote the Wyoming Letters About Literature contest. All submitted entries become the sole property of the Wyoming State Library and will not be acknowledged or returned. Limit one (1) entry per student.

No other form of participation other than as stated in these Official Rules is valid.

ENTRY FORM

Complete this form, cut, and and staple to the FRONT of your letter. Please print legibly.

Student Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Title of Work _____ Author _____

FOR CLASS ENTRIES School/Library _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Teacher/Librarian Name & Signature (required) _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

FOR INDIVIDUALS *Fill out ONLY if you are submitting a letter individually. Otherwise, this section is optional.*

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name & Signature (required) _____

Email _____ Telephone _____