

Letters About Literature

a National Writing Contest for Young Readers



sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in cooperation with participating state centers for the book

Letters About Literature supports Common Core State Standards.

LAL guidelines promote CCSS across all grade levels.

Select and Reflect!

- What did you learn about yourself either *while reading* or *after reading* this author's work?
- What elements within the book—the author's characters or setting or style of writing, for example—touched you emotionally or influenced your thoughts?
- What insights about the world did this book reveal to you?

Write a persuasive letter stating your opinion and supporting that opinion with specific details.

- Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author.
- *Correspond, don't compliment!* Your letter should inform rather than flatter the author.
- *Do not summarize the book's plot!* The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected you and why it did so. Only YOU can explain that unique relationship you experienced while reading the book.
- Use clear and relevant details to explain how the author's story affected you, what you learned and felt and understood that you didn't prior to reading the author's work.

Grade Level	Text Types & Purposes	Production & Distribution of Writing
4	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1 - Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.</p>	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.5 With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.</p>
7	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1 - Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p>	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.4 Same as grade level 4.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.5 Same as grade level 4.</p>
11	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</p>	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 Same as grade level 4.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5 Same as grade level 4.</p>