Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White invites students in grades 4-12 to enter Letters About Literature, a statewide writing competition offered by the Illinois State Library’s Illinois Center for the Book.

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

**ENTRY POSTMARK DEADLINE:**

**COMPETITION LEVELS**
- Level 1: Grades 4-6
- Level 2: Grades 7-8
- Level 3: Grades 9-12

**HOW TO ENTER**

- **READ.** Select a fiction or nonfiction book that you have read and about which you have strong feelings. It might be a book that helped you through a difficult time or it might be a book that simply touched your heart or inspired you.
- **REFLECT.** Think before you write. 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 letter format. It should include a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name or signature.
  - **PERSUADE.** Write a personal letter to the author, stating how reading his or her book changed you. Be personal but also persuasive.
  - **SUPPORT.** This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how the author influenced you. Include your ideas with specific details, including details from the book itself. Write honestly, from your own perspective.
  - **SHARE.** Imagine sitting down with the author of this book and sharing your personal thoughts and reaction to the book.
- **ENTRY FORM.** Your letter must be accompanied by a completed entry form. This information is used to contact winners, so be sure the entry form is complete and legible. Letters without an entry form will be discarded.
- **MAIL.** Staple the required entry form to the front of your letter. Write your competition level on the outside of your envelope. Mail your entry via the USPS by the postmarked deadline to:
  - Letters About Literature
  - Competition Level (Indicate Level 1, 2 or 3 on the envelope.)
  - Illinois Center for the Book
  - 300 South Second St.
  - Springfield, IL 62701
  - OR
- **EMAIL.** Send your letter with the subject line: LAL, Competition Level (Indicate Level 1, 2 or 3), School Name and City. Also include an attached copy of the required entry form by the postmarked deadline to: islcomps@ilsos.gov.

**TEACHERS NOTES:**

- **EACH LETTER MUST** be accompanied by an entry form. Letters without an entry form will be disqualified.
- **TO SAVE TIME** completing entry forms for your class, complete the static information on one entry form. Make copies of that form and pass those copies out to your students to complete their personal information.
- Mail class sets in a flat envelope – 8 x 10 or larger.
- Use separate envelopes for different competition levels – Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3.

Letters About Literature in Illinois Entry Form for 2021

POSTMARK DEADLINE: December 15, 2020

Please indicate level:  ○ Level 1 – Grades 4-6  ○ Level 2 – Grades 7-8  ○ Level 3 – Grades 9-12

• All letters become the property of the Illinois Center for the Book.
• Please keep a copy as no letters will be returned.
• Runners-Up certificates will be sent to teacher/librarian or parent/guardian after judging.

Each letter must be accompanied by a completed entry form. Winners will be contacted using this information, so be sure the entry form is complete and legible. Letters without an entry form will be disqualified.

MAIL
• Mail class sets in a flat envelope – 8 x 10 or larger.
• Indicate the competition level – 1, 2 or 3 – on the envelope.
• Include a complete return address and mail to:

EMAIL
• Send letters and required forms to: islcomps@ilsos.gov.

Complete this form and staple it to the FRONT of your letter.

Student Name: _______________________________________________________ Age: ______ Grade: _______

Book Title: _________________________________________________________ Author: ________________________

FOR CLASS ENTRIES

School/Library: ________________________________________________________________________________

Street: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ ZIP: _______________

Teacher/Librarian Name: _________________________________________________________________________

Teacher/Librarian Email Address: __________________________________________________________________

FOR INDIVIDUALS

If you are submitting a letter individually, this section MUST be completed.

Student Name: _______________________________________________________ Age: ______ Grade: _______

Book Title: _________________________________________________________ Author: ________________________

Street: ________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ ZIP: _______________

Parent/Guardian Name: _________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Email Address: __________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________________________

All correspondence will be sent via email – please print legibly.

For ISL Use ONLY: LAL-________-_________________