

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE IN ILLINOIS

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](mailto: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.

\*Need some tips to get started? Not sure how to write a personal letter?

Visit [https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center\\_for\\_the\\_book/letters.html](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/letters.html).  
Read winning letters from past competitions and access the Letters About Literature Teaching Guide.

# Letters About Literature in Illinois Entry Form for 2022

POSTMARK DEADLINE: December 15, 2021

**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: [iscomps@ilsos.gov](mailto:iscomps@ilsos.gov). In subject line include: LAL, competition level (1, 2 or 3), school name and city.



**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**

**Complete this page 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Librarian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All correspondence will be sent via email – please print legibly

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

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR INDIVIDUALS**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

ISL Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Finalist     Semi-Finalist     Honorable Mention     Participant    Completed: \_\_\_\_\_