

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Young Readers Invited to Enter Writing Contest

State Winners Will Advance for National Competition

Student submissions to Letters About Literature (LAL), a national writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target, are now being accepted. To enter, young readers write a letter to an author, past or present, describing how that author's work somehow changed the student's view of the world or of himself/herself. The contest, which focuses on reader response and reflective writing, has three competition levels: Level 1 for students in grades 4-6; Level 2 for students in grades 7 and 8; and Level 3 for students in grades 9-12. Winners on the state level each receive a cash award as well as a \$50 Target GiftCard. Six national finalists and their parents will travel to Washington, DC, courtesy of Target, where the finalists will read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2007. The national winners also receive a \$500 Target GiftCard.

Panels of judges appointed by the Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library will select the top finalists' essays for the state on each of the three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8, and Level III, grades 9 - 12. Deadline for entries is December 8, 2006. Copies of the 2007 contest guidelines and application form can be found at www.hplct.org/cfb/Lettersaboutlit.htm.

State first place winners advance to national competition and receive cash prizes of \$100 plus a \$50 Target GiftCard; second and third place winners receive \$50 and \$25 prizes. Awards will be presented during a ceremony at the Connecticut State Capitol in June.

Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its national reading initiative, “Ready. Sit. Read!,” which is aimed at fostering a love of reading among children at an early age. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. For information about its activities and national reading promotion networks, visit www.loc.gov/cfbook.

For more information about this and other Connecticut Center for the Book programs, please call 860.695.6320 or visit www.hplct.org/cfb.

The Hartford Public Library provides strategic programs that respond to citizens’ real needs and interests. The library offers programs for parenting, literacy and language development; programs for technical literacy and competency; and programs for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The Hartford Public Library also provides a cultural and artistic forum that reflects the city’s diverse and vibrant community. For more information call (860) 695-6295.