



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 from the Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library, as well as a \$50 Target GiftCard and advancement to the national level judging. There will be six national winners, two on each competition level. Each will receive a \$500 Target GiftCard and a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant for his or her community or school library. Additionally, the national honorable mention winners will each receive a \$100 Target GiftCard and a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant for the use of his or her library of choice. Selection of community or school libraries will be at the sole discretion of the Sponsor.

Panels of judges appointed by the Connecticut Center for the Book 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

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for entries is December 14, 2007. Copies of the 2008 contest guidelines and application form are posted at www.hplct.org/cfb/Lettersaboutlit.htm. Awards and certificates will be presented to all of Connecticut's finalists and winners during a ceremony at Hartford Public Library in June.

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

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.

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.