CALL FOR ENTRIES!

The New Mexico State Library invites students in grades 4 through 12 to enter the New Mexico annual LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE WRITING COMPETITION!

Polish up your reflective writing skills and write a letter to an author—living or dead—explaining how his or her work changed your view of yourself or your world.

THREE COMPETITION LEVELS:
Level 1: Grades 4, 5 and 6
Level 2: Grades 7 and 8
Level 3: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Entry Deadline (all competition levels): January 11, 2021

HOW TO ENTER:
Review the official contest rules for entry details, specifically #6 through #9.

1. Select a book that you have read and about which you have strong feelings or which has changed your view of yourself or the world.
2. Imagine sitting down with the author of this work and sharing your personal thoughts. Your letter should be reflective, personal and sincere, like a private conversation, not a book report or a fan letter.
4. Keep in mind that this is a reflective writing contest and that means you need to think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the author’s words as well as the impact of those words upon you.
5. Type your letter. Use your first name ONLY in the signature.
6. Complete the entry form (see the next page) and staple it to the top of the first page of your letter.
7. Complete the permission form (see https://lettersaboutliterature.nmculture.org/) for all entries age 13 or under as of November 1, 2020.
8. Enclose your letter and the required form(s) in a letter-sized envelope. TEACHERS’ NOTE: Please mail class sets in one large flat envelope 9” x 11” (or larger).
9. Indicate the competition level on the envelope—Level 1, or Level 2 or Level 3—depending on your grade. If you are submitting for more than one level, use a separate envelope for each level.
10. Mail your entry to:
   New Mexico Letters About Literature
   New Mexico State Library
   1209 Camino Carlos Rey
   Santa Fe, NM 87507

11. Alternatively you may submit your entry electronically at NM.LAL@state.nm.us
   • Microsoft Word or PDF documents only will be accepted electronically.
   • Entry form and signed permission form for all entries age 13 or under as of November 1, 2020 are required for all electronic submissions and both must be sent as separate attachments.

AWARDS:
Winners in all three competition levels will be recognized at an awards ceremony and cash prizes will be awarded. The State Library will announce all finalists and winners and will publish the three winning letters on its website in April 2021. The awards ceremony will be held in Santa Fe in early May 2021. Due to COVID-19 please be advised that scheduling and venue for the awards ceremony are subject to change.
State winners in each competition level will receive a $200 cash award; second place winners a $100 cash award; third place winners a $50 cash award; and honorable mention writers a $25 award.
New Mexico Letters About Literature - Entry Form for 2020-21

Please complete the form and send it with your letter (see above).

Full Name ___________________________________________ Age _______ Grade _______

Literary Work Title ________________________________________________________________

Literary Work Author _____________________________________________________________

FOR CLASS ENTRIES

School / Library _________________________________________________________________

School Mailing Address _________________________________________________________

Teacher Name _________________________________________________________________

Teacher Phone Number ______________________ Email Address ______________________

Teacher/ Librarian Signature (required) _________________________________________

FOR INDIVIDUALS - Fill out ONLY if you are submitting a letter individually.

Mailing Address _______________________________________________________________

Phone Number ______________________ Email Address ______________________

Parent/Guardian Signature (required) ___________________________________________

For those entrants under the age of 13 on or before November 1, 2020, a permission to participate form must also accompany the entry form.