

Letters About Literature 2008

The Letters About Literature competition, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is presented annually in partnership with Target and state Centers for the Book. To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. The program has three competition levels: upper elementary (grades 4-6), middle school (grades 7 and 8), and secondary (grades 9-12). Over 58,000 students from across the country participated in the 2008 contest and 643 of the entries were from Arizona.

Prizes were awarded to Arizona's top three writers in each level at Reading the Best. The nine students from Phoenix, Scottsdale, Gilbert, Lakeside, and Tucson wrote letters to authors as varied as Robert Frost, Charles Dickens, Jerry Spinelli, Scott Westerfeld, Lensey Namioka, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.



Author Terri Fields presents prizes to a contest winner. Photo by Thanasis Kinias

ONEBOOKAZ for Kids author Terri Fields presented certificates, autographed copies of her book, and Target gift cards to winners, and the students read their letters to the audience. The three first-place winners also received cash prizes, provided by the national Center for the Book and Target.