

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Young readers invited to enter Letters About Literature writing contest**

Students in grades 4-12 who write letters to their favorite authors may win an all expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for themselves and their parents. This is the fourth year the Iowa Center for the Book has participated in this contest which is sponsored by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores.

Letters About Literature is an opportunity for students to write about how a book of their choosing has had an impact on their lives. Students write to an author describing how the author's book changed their view of the world or themselves. Students can pick a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem or speech by an author from the past or present.

The Iowa Center for the Book will select the top essayists in Iowa 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 for grades 9-12. The winner at each level will receive a cash prize of \$100 plus a \$50 Target gift card. Students who place second at each level will receive a \$50 cash prize and the student who places third will receive \$25.

The winners in each level will advance to the national competition. Six national winners will each receive an all expense-paid trip to the nation's capital to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2007. In addition, they will receive a \$500 Target gift card.

Deadline for entries is December 8, 2006. To obtain the entry coupon, call the State Library, 1-800-248-4483; (515) 281-4105, or visit the Iowa Center for the Book Web site at [www.iowacenterforthebook.org](http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org).

Librarians, teachers or parents interested in obtaining copies of the contest guidelines and teaching supplement to guide students through the reading-writing process should visit the Web site above. Winners' and semifinalists' letters for 2006 are also available on the Web site.