

Iowa Center for the Book
Letters About Literature
Judging Form Levels II and III

Name of Student: _____

Name of Work: _____

CONTENT: ADDRESSING THE CONTEST THEME		Judges can award from 1 to 15 points for questions 1 and 2. 1 for minimally meeting criteria; 15 for meeting criteria in excellent
How did an author's work change your view of the world or yourself?		
1.	How well does the letter address the theme? Does it tell how the student's views were changed? Do we know how the student is different as a result of reading the work? Does the letter reflect on characters, themes, or setting? Does it give specific details on the reader's response to the work?	
2.	Does the letter provide concrete examples, anecdotes, direct quotes, or other details from the book (as opposed to generalized statements) to support the reader's interpretation? How does the letter persuade us?	
Comments:		
WRITER'S VOICE		Judges can award from 1 to 5 points for questions 3 through 7. 1 for minimally meeting criteria; 5 for meeting criteria in excellent
Writing style and originality of expression		
3.	Is the letter written to the author of the book? Does the letter dialogue with the author rather than summarizing the book's plot or saying how well the reader liked the book or complimenting the author?	
4.	How effective is the writing in the letter? Does the style or voice make the letter effective? Has the writer used interesting language, metaphor, or imagery to make his/her points? Is the expression original?	
Comments:		
EXPOSITION: LANGUAGE SKILLS, ORGANIZATION, GRAMMAR		
5.	Does the writing flow well? Is the letter focused? Does the reader present ideas in a logical, organized manner without unnecessary repetition? Does the letter have an introduction or lead paragraph that hooks the reader? Does the concluding paragraph sum up the ideas expressed in the letter and provide closure?	
6.	Has the reader proofread the letter for sentence structure, grammar, and errors of spelling and punctuation? Has it been written in correct letter format?	
Comments:		
TOTAL POINTS		