
The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 13, 2016

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Winners of 2016 “Letters About Literature” Contest Honored at Awards Event

BOISE, ID— The twelve Idaho students who won at the state level of the 2016 “[Letters About Literature](#)” Contest were honored Friday, May 6, during an Awards Luncheon in the Capitol Dining Room of the Statehouse. State Librarian Ann Joslin congratulated the students and thanked them for their thoughtful and heart-felt letters. She also expressed appreciation to family members, teachers, and librarians for supporting the students’ love of literature and providing encouragement in their writing.

Award-winning author Chris Crutcher was the keynote speaker. The event was also attended by Diann Roberts, English Language Arts/Literacy Coordinator with the Idaho State Department of Education. Each of the Idaho winners received a Visa gift card; a framed personalized certificate signed by the State Librarian; a new hardbound book; and a copy of Crutcher's “ill-advised autobiography,” *King of the Mild Frontier*, which he signed after the event.



Front Row: Thomas Quarve, Elise St Clair, Ethan Johnson, Amaya Fischer, Emma Elizabeth Clark and Mya Klein

Back Row: Laurel Hicke, Ashlyn Yevchak Alexa Swanstrom, Moriah Godwin, Ryan Clements, Talia Walsmith

This year’s winners are:

Level I, Grades 4-6:

- 1st Place— Elise St Clair, 5th grade, I.B. Perrine Elementary School, Twin Falls
- 2nd Place— Thomas Quarve, 5th grade, St. Paul’s Catholic School, Nampa
- 3rd Place— Amaya Fischer, 5th grade, St. Paul’s Catholic School, Nampa
- Honorable Mention— Ethan Johnson, 5th grade, St Paul’s Catholic School, Nampa

Level II, Grades 7-8

- 1st Place— Talia Walsmith, 8th grade, River City Middle School, Post Falls
- 2nd Place— Mya Klein, 7th grade, Idaho Falls Public Library. Idaho Falls
- 3rd place— Laurel Hicke, 7th grade, Individual Entry, Moscow
- Honorable Mention— Moriah Godwin, 8th grade, River City Middle School, Post Falls

Level III, Grades 9-12

- 1st Place— Ashlyn Yevchak, 10th grade, Timberline High School, Boise
- 2nd Place— Alexa Swanstrom, 10th grade, Timberline High School, Boise
- 3rd Place— Emma Elizabeth Clark, 11th grade, Individual Entry, Moscow
- Honorable Mention— Ryan Clements, 10th grade, Fruitland High School, Fruitland

Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion for young readers, is coordinated and funded by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The Idaho Commission for Libraries is a state-level partner. Students in grades 4-12 read a book from any genre and write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves.

“We are delighted to honor these talented young readers, who were among 423 Idaho students participating in this year’s contest,” said Jeannie Standal, school library consultant at the Commission. “We are proud of all of the students who took part, because they are developing a lifelong love of literature, reading, and learning.”

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of libraries to better serve their communities through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. To learn more about ICFL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.

Find more information and download the above photo and other group photos at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/celebrating-2016-LAL-winners>. For photos of individual winners with the State Librarian and Author Chris Crutcher, contact teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov.