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

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Information Contacts:**

Pam Bradshaw, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or [pam.bradshaw@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:pam.bradshaw@libraries.idaho.gov)

Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov)

### Idaho Winners of 2015 “Letters About Literature” Contest

BOISE, ID—The Idaho Commission for Libraries is pleased to announce the Idaho winners of the 2015 “Letters About Literature” contest:

- Level I, Grades 4-6, 1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Jeneva Dredge of Ammon** wrote to author Jessica Day George about her novel *Princess of the Midnight*. Jeneva is in 4th grade at Ammon Elementary School.
- Level II, Grades 7 & 8, 1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Catherine Ji of Boise** wrote to author Rainbow Rowell about her novel *Eleanor and Park*. Catherine is in 8th grade at North Junior High.
- Level III, Grades 9-12, 1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Miles Maxcer of Moscow** wrote to author Michael Crichton about *Jurassic Park* and his other novels. Miles is in 11th grade at Moscow High School.

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 at the national level and the Commission for Libraries at the state level in Idaho. Students in grades 4-12 read a book from any genre—contemporary or classic—and write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. Initial judging was conducted at the Center for the Book in Washington, D.C. and the entries were forwarded to the Commission, where they were further narrowed down. From there, literature professors from three Idaho universities selected the top essayists at each competition level.

“These three talented young readers were among 339 Idaho students who participated in this year’s contest,” said Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor at the Commission. “We are extremely proud of all of the students who took part, because they are developing a lifelong love of literature, reading, and learning.”

Letters About Literature awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each of the three state winners receive a \$100 Visa gift card; a framed personalized certificate signed by Ann Joslin, State Librarian; and a new hardbound book. All three winning letters advanced to the National Competition, where a panel of national judges for the Center for the Book will select one National Winner per competition level. National winners will be announced in mid-May.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of libraries to better serve their clientele 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/>.