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NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho winners of 2013 “Letters About Literature” contest

BOISE, ID—The Idaho Commission for Libraries announces Idaho winners of the 2013 “Letters About Literature” contest. Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion for young readers sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

This year’s winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4-6, **Victor Smith** of **Meridian** wrote to author Madeleine L’Engle about her book, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Victor is in the 6th grade at Lewis and Clark Middle School in Meridian.
- Level II, Grades 7-8, **Kenadi Swendsen** of **Middleton** wrote to author Kathryn Erskine about her book, *Mockingbird*. Kenadi is in the 8th grade at Vision Charter School in Caldwell.
- Level III, Grades 9-10, **Hannah Mahoney** of **Moscow** wrote to all authors of literature. Hannah is a sophomore at Moscow Senior High School in Moscow.

Students in grades 4-10 read a book and write a personal letter to an author, explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. Students may select authors, living or deceased, from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The Commission appointed judges who selected the top essayists on three competition levels. Celebrity judge Dan Popkey, Idaho Statesman columnist, said, “Victor, Kenadi and Hannah richly convey the transformational power of good writing. But they do more than just tell: Inspired by literature, they write inspired sentences themselves.”

“These three talented young readers were among 500 Idaho students who took part 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 will 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; national winners will be announced in mid-May.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select **one National Winner** per competition level to receive a **\$1,000 cash award**. The judges will also select **one second place winner on each competition level** to receive a **\$150 cash award**.

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