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

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho winners of 2014 “Letters About Literature” contest

BOISE, ID—The Idaho Commission for Libraries is pleased to announce the Idaho winners of the 2014 “Letters About Literature” contest. This year’s winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4-6, 1st Place – **Cate Cartier** of **Coeur d’Alene** wrote to author R. J. Palacio about her novel, *Wonder*. Cate is in the 5th grade at Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts & Humanities in Coeur d’Alene.
- Level II, Grades 7-8, 1st Place – **Rose Thompson** of **Boise** wrote to author Marie Lu about her collection, *The Legend Trilogy*. Rose is in the 7th grade at East Junior High School in Boise.
- Level III, Grades 9-12, 1st Place – **Parth Kashikar** of **Boise** wrote to author Nancy Farmer about her novel *The House of the Scorpion*. Parth is in the 10th grade at Boise High School in Boise.

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion for young readers that is coordinated and funded by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Students in grades 4-12 read a book from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—and write a personal letter to the author, living or deceased, explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. Two rounds of initial judging were 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 colleges selected the top essayists on each competition level.

“These three talented young readers were among 230 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 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 and one second place winner on each competition level to receive a \$150 cash award.

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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/>.