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Jesse White Announces Winners of “Letters About Literature” Contest
Winners from Sugar Grove, Mettawa and Petersburg

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that students from Sugar Grove, Mettawa and Petersburg are the Illinois winners of the 2017 “Letters About Literature” contest. The reading and writing contest for students is sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book. Winning Illinois letters have been submitted to the Library of Congress for entry into the National Contest. White honored the winners on Monday at a ceremony at the State Library.

“For the tenth year in a row, I am proud to announce that Illinois had more entries than any state,” said White. “The young writers we honored today have demonstrated, through their writing skills, how literature impacts so many lives.”

To participate in the competition, students in grades 4-12 must read a book or poem and then write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their views of the world and/or themselves. Students may select authors, living or deceased, from a fiction or nonfiction book, poem or play.

This year's Illinois winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4-6: **Veronica Regelbrugge** of Sugar Grove wrote to author Wendy Mass about her book, “A Mango Shaped Space.” Veronica is a student at Harter Middle School in Sugar Grove, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Ann Ritchie.
- Level II, Grades 7-8: **Josie Arnold** of Mettawa wrote to author Jennifer Niven about her book “All the Bright Places.” Josie attends Quest Academy in Palatine, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Jen Fabsik.
- Level III, Grades 9-12: **Keeley Logsdon** of Petersburg wrote to author Kathryn Stockett about her book, “The Help.” Keeley attends PORTA High School in Petersburg, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Pat Marshall.

Each winner received a \$200 check from the Illinois Center for the Book, a plaque signed by Secretary White, and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Teachers received a \$100 check from the Illinois Center for the Book to purchase books for their school library and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Read the winning essays at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book.

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