

The Maryland Center for the Book is pleased to announce the Maryland state winners and finalists in the *Letters About Literature* writing contest. This signature program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress inspires young people to write to an author of a book that has somehow changed their worldview or themselves. Over 59,000 entries were received nationwide. We are delighted to recognize the achievements of the following Maryland students.

Maryland Winners and Finalists

2008 *Letters About Literature*

Maryland State Special Prize 2008
Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Silver Spring
Beth Kerley -- Shane DeRolf, *The Crayon Box That Talked*

Level One **(Grades 4-6)**

First Place

Individual Entry

Braddock Middle School, Cumberland

Karina Sharma -- Pam Munoz Ryan, *Esperanza Rising*

Second Place

Individual Entry

Frost Elementary School, Frostburg

Makea Luzader -- Christopher Paolini, *Eragon (Inheritance, Book One)*

Finalists

Ashburton Elementary School, Bethesda

Anja Shahu -- Cynthia Lord, *Rules*

Dumbarton Middle School, Towson

Phoebe Layne -- Natasha Friend, *Perfect*

Henry Pfeifer -- Andrew Clements, *Frindle*

Emma K. Daub School, Hagerstown

John Strauss -- Franklin W. Dixon, *The Mystery of the Missing Chums*

Grace Episcopal Day School, Kensington

Clare Specht -- Lynne Rae Perkins, *All Alone in the Universe*

Trevor Jennings -- Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Hebbsville Elementary School, Baltimore

Destini Johnson -- Sharon Wyeth, *Freedom's Wings*
Brea Sasser -- Karen Beaumont, *I Like Myself!*

Lisbon Elementary School, Woodbine

Emma Halley -- Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*

Loch Raven Academy, Towson

Shania Alford -- Rachael Ray, *Cooking Rocks! Rachael Ray 30-Minute Meals for Kids*
Akan Udoh -- Mary E. Williams, *Paranormal Phenomena*
Jazmin Venable -- J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter* series
Imani Johnson -- E. B. White, *Stuart Little*
Maya A. Hale -- Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *Alice* book series
Danielle Lincoln -- Chynna Clugston, *Queen Bee*

Oakcrest Elementary School, Landover

David Oriala -- George Selden, *The Cricket in Times Square*

Salisbury Middle School, Salisbury

Cassidy Feeney -- Barthe DeClements, *Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade*
India Whitehead -- Bobbie Kalman, *India: The People* (from *Lands, Peoples, and Culture* series)

South Shore Elementary School, Crownsville

Jack Nickel -- Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*
Sierra Robbins -- Jacqueline Carroll, *Here Comes the Brand-New Me* (from *Full House Stephanie* series)

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

Natalie Larsson -- Dean Hughes, *Soldier Boys*
Kate Larsson -- Gregory Maguire, *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Silver Spring

Holly Pifer -- Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*
Zoe Hatzes -- Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*

St. Jude Catholic School, Rockville

Claire Jenkins -- Sharon Bell Mathis, *The Hundred Penny Box*

Westland Middle School, Bethesda

Susan Cobb -- Avi, *The Secret School*

Individual Entry, Clarksville

Michelle Wong -- Pearl S. Buck, *The Big Wave*

Individual Entry, Columbia

Abigail M. Pollock -- Valerie Tripp, *Molly's Puppy Tale*

Individual Entry, Eldersburg

Sarah Giordano -- Julie Andrews Edwards, *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*

Individual Entry, Forest Hill

Sonal Khosla -- Katherine Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*

Individual Entry, Suitland

Damesha Edwards -- Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*

**Level Two
(Grades 7 & 8)**

First Place

Bennett Middle School, Salisbury

Kaley Booth -- Ann Martin, *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray*

Second Place Tie

Individual Entry, Andrews AFB

Claire Grissom -- Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

Wicomico Middle School, Salisbury

Yein Ha -- Paull Shin, *The Knowledge Thief and Teacher's Hope*

Finalists

Cambridge School, Baltimore

Averie Thomas -- Alicia Appleman-Jurman, *Alicia*

Green Acres School, Rockville

Simon Lewis -- Mike Lupica, *Travel Team*
Adam Barton -- Geraldine McCaughrean, *The Kite Rider*

Hyattsville Middle School, Hyattsville

Kara Metcalf -- J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter* series

Lime Kiln Middle School, Fulton

Kyle Bachman -- Carl Hiaasen, *Flush*

Mt. Savage Middle School, Mt. Savage

Emma Godfrey -- Todd Strasser, *CON-Fidence*

Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson

Caroline Cassard -- Jeanne DuPrau, *The City of Ember*

Plum Point Middle School, Huntingtown

Billy Saunders -- Patricia Pfitsch, *Riding the Flume*
Sienna Brown -- Christopher Paolini, *Eldest (Inheritance, Book Two)*
Jack Bauer -- Gary Paulsen, *Dogsong*
Joseph Kemp -- Christopher Paolini, *Eragon (Inheritance, Book One)*
Jennifer Pawlowski -- J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Book Seven*

Severn River Middle School, Arnold

Donita Zen T. Peria -- Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass (His Dark Materials, Book One)*
Ellie Smith -- Natasha Friend, *Perfect*
David Hannon -- Louis Sachar, *Holes*
David Jamison -- Robert Dinwiddie, *Universe*
Ciaran Giroux -- Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken"
Zachary Meyers -- Neil Duffy, *The Spirit in the Stick*
Meghan Aldrich -- Beth Nimmo and Debra Klingsporn, *The Journals of Rachel Scott*

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

Savanna Swartz -- Dr. Seuss, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*
Gabby Henriksen -- Brødrene Grimm, *Hans og Grete*
Hayley Griffin -- Robert Munsch, *Love You Forever*
Rachel Cutler -- Mark Kimball Moulton, *A Snowman Named Just Bob*
Maddie O'Hare -- Kevin Henkes, *Wemberly Worried*

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Silver Spring

Madeline Pifer -- Cynthia Lord, *Rules*
Allen Meringolo -- James Lincoln Collier Christopher Collier, *My Brother Sam Is Dead*
Beth Kerley -- Shane DeRolf, *The Crayon Box That Talked*

St. Jude Catholic School, Rockville

P. J. Oristian -- Holly Black, *The Spiderwick Chronicles*
Sean Sandford -- Dr. Seuss, *Green Eggs and Ham*

Washington Episcopal School, Bethesda

Ellie Durling -- Laura Ingalls Wilder, *These Happy Golden Years* from the *Little House on the Prairie* series

Individual Entry, Laurel

Erika Hall -- Susanna Kaysen, *Girl Interrupted*

Individual Entry, Stevensville

William Houstian -- Michael Morpurgo, *Private Peaceful*

**Level Three
(Grades 9-12)**

First Place

Individual Entry

Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Frederick

Maggie Tighe -- Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Second Place

Individual Entry

Worcester Preparatory School, Berlin

Dominique L. Kunciw -- Mats Wahl, *The Invisible*

Finalists

Baltimore School for the Arts, Baltimore

Arielle Armstrong -- Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues*

Calvert High School, Prince Frederick

Jasmine Brown -- Michelle Spray, *Growing up with Scoliosis: A Young Girl's Story*

Carver Voc-Tech High School, Baltimore

Melinda Keating -- Carolyn Mackler, *The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things*

Lakeya Williams -- Mary Hoffman, *Amazing Grace*

Troy L. Austin -- Zora Neale Hurston, "I Get Born" from *Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography*

Catonsville High School, Baltimore

Kathryn Ditch -- Elie Wiesel, *Night*

Jackie Johnson III -- Elie Wiesel, *Night*

Dulaney High School, Timonium

Katie McClenny -- Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*

Emily Gladstone -- Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Corey Esposito -- Stephen King, *Carrie*

Casey Shea Sweren -- Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Bethany Bettencourt -- Misty Bernall, *She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall*

Flynn Harne -- Erich Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Kevin Njou -- Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People*

Rachel Evans -- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

Grace Arenas -- Edmond Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Sam Gelman -- Jules Verne, *From the Earth to the Moon*

Easton High School, Easton

Elizabeth Murphy -- Dave Pelzer, *Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family*

Taylor Berrang -- Kate DiCamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Caroline Marvel -- Torey Hayden, *Beautiful Child: The Story of a Child Trapped in Silence and the Teacher who Refused to Give Up on Her*

Hammond High School, Columbia

LaVel Moorehead -- Angela Johnson, *The First Part Last*

Key School, Annapolis

Theo Anthony -- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Katherine Edwards -- Janet Fitch, *White Oleander*

Linganore High School, Frederick

Melissa Maczys -- Natasha Friend, *Perfect*

Mt. Hebron High School, Ellicott City

Katie Crocker -- Daniel Keyes, "Flowers for Algernon"

Notre Dame Prep, Towson

Emily Faber -- Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Sam Paetow -- Lois Lowry, *Number the Stars*

Rockbridge Academy, Millersville

Kristen Trovato -- L. M. Montgomery, *Pat of Silver Bush*

Roland Park Country School, Baltimore

MariaLisa Itzoe -- Jane Austen, *The Complete Works of Jane Austen*

St. Paul's School, Brooklandville

Ian Pederson -- Mark Bowden, *Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War*

Austin Sauter -- Matt Christopher, *The Challenge at Second Base*

Junius Randolph III -- Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary*

Tuscarora High School, Frederick

Talia Valencia -- Bill Bryson, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*

Individual Entry, Baltimore

Jenny Hunt -- Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Individual Entry, Clarksville

Sarah DeLuca -- Gale Sayers, *I Am Third*

Individual Entry, Columbia

Lindsey Rhodes -- Lucas Parker, "The Sandbox" from *Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul: 101 Stories of Courage, Hope, and Laughter*

Individual Entry, Ellicott City

Emily Dow -- O. Henry, "Transients in Arcadia"

Individual Entry, Montgomery Village

Matthew Halowell -- Randy Alcorn, *Safely Home*

Individual Entry, Olney

Carrie Donovan -- Linda Lowry, *One More Valley, One More Hill*

Individual Entry, Taneytown

Allison Elli -- Frances Hodgson Burnett, *A Little Princess*