

As part of our Hooked on Books English/Humanities expedition, our middle school classes participated in the National Letters About Literature competition this year. Students wrote letters to the authors of books they read and were moved by.

The competition received 59,000 letters from young readers across the country, of which just under 4,000 advanced to round 3, or state-level judging.

One of our 8th grade students, Kayleigh Warren, won first place for the state!

Congratulations Kayleigh!

Kayleigh read the book, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian written by Sherman Alexie. We plan to post a copy of this letter on our website soon.

"Research has shown that making connections with authors increases a student's engagement with books and reading. In this time of tight budgets, fewer and fewer schools can afford the expense of an in-person author visit. Letters About Literature is a powerful conduit for enabling those connections, and in a way that is particularly meaningful to an individual child: a letter to an author of a favorite book."

-Newberry Honor Author, Kirby Larson

Kayleigh Warren has taken the first place prize in this year's Letters About Literature writing contest for New Mexico Level 2. Congratulations!

The first place prize is a \$100 Target GiftCard.

As a state winner, Kayleigh's letter has now advanced to national judging. Our panel of national judges will select the national winners on April 24 and we hope to make all announcements on or soon after May 1.

As you may know, the national prize includes a \$500 Target Gift Card plus the student earns the right to nominate a school or community library to receive a \$10,000 Letters About Literature Reading Promotion Grant. How empowering for a child to be able to give this gift to his/her community!

Catherine Gourley, National Program Director
Letters About Literature
www.lettersaboutliterature.org