

OKLAHOMA

CENTER FOR THE BOOK

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Nine Winners Announced in My Favorite Book Student Writing Contest

Students to be Honored at State Capitol on May 11

The Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries has announced the winners of the 2021-2022 My Favorite Book statewide writing competition for students in fourth through twelfth grades. More than 595 students representing public, private, and home schools participated in the competition, which requires them to write a letter to the author of a favorite book and explain how the book or one of the book's characters impacted their life.

Cash prizes are awarded with first-place winners receiving \$500; second-place \$250; and third-place \$100. In addition, the first-place winners will select their school or public library to receive a \$1,000 grant. An awards ceremony will be held Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at the Oklahoma State Capitol Building's second floor rotunda. The program will begin at 10:30 am. Students will be reading their winning letters at the event.

The My Favorite Book competition is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, the Kirkpatrick Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"The contest is designed to encourage young people to think critically about the books they read," according to Connie Armstrong, director of the Center. "The letter writing exercise also emphasizes formal and important ways to communicate in a world filled with texting and social media posts."

The winning students are:

Division I (Grades 4 through 6)

First Place: Jenna Thompson, Metro Christian Academy, Tulsa

For letter to author Shannon Messenger for the *Keeper of the Lost Cities* book series

Second Place: Lillian Salon, University School at the University of Tulsa

For letter to author Thanhha Lai for *Inside Out and Back Again*

Third Place: Zachary Fralick, Jenks West Intermediate School

For letter to author Tom Pace for *The Mentor*

Division II (Grades 7 and 8)

First Place: Blake Wolfe, Clyde Boyd Middle School, Sand Springs

For letter to author S.E. Hinton for *The Outsiders*

Second Place: Fathiyah Ayodele, Oakdale School, Edmond

For letter to Katherine Johnson for *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson*

Third Place: Kennedy Postier, Bixby Middle School

For letter to J.K. Rowling for the *Harry Potter* series of books

Division III (Grades 9 through 12)

First Place: Cate Dennis, MacArthur Senior High School, Lawton

For letter to author Dan Rather for *What Unites Us*

Second Place: Elyse Haslam, Crescent High School

For letter to author John Steinbeck for *Of Mice and Men*

Third Place: Sophia Pham, Westmoore High School, Oklahoma City

For letter to author Ko Moon-Young for *The Boy Who Fed on Nightmares*

For more information about the My Favorite Book writing competition and other programs of the Center, visit libraries.ok.gov/ocb, or contact Connie Armstrong at 405/522-3383 or connie.armstrong@libraries.ok.gov.

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The **Oklahoma Center for the Book (OCB)** in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries is a state affiliate of the **Center for the Book in the Library of Congress**, and is organized to focus attention on the vital role of books and reading in our lives. The Center promotes the past, current, and future works of Oklahoma authors; promotes the literary heritage of the state; and encourages reading for pleasure by Oklahomans of all ages.