

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUNG READERS INVITED TO ENTER LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WRITING
CONTEST, LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

State Winners Will Advance for National Competition

Calling all readers in grades 4 through 12: write a letter to your favorite author, and you might win a \$10,000 Reading Promotion Grant for your school or community library!

Have you ever read a book that changed your life or the way you view the world? If so, the Alabama Center for the Book wants to hear about it. The \$10,000 library grant is part of the national prize in Letters about Literature, a writing contest for readers in grades 4 through 12 sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. Alabama youth may participate by submitting to the Alabama Letters About Literature contest.

To enter, students write a personal letter to an author explaining how the author's work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—and any time period.

The Alabama Center for the Book, the state affiliate of the national Center for the Book, and the Alabama Humanities Foundation sponsor the state contest. Between now and December 14, 2007, students may submit letters in one of three competition levels: Level I for grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8; and Level III, grades 9 through 12. State winners and finalists will receive prizes and recognition in the spring of 2008.

First-place state winners will receive a \$50 Target GiftCard and will advance to the national competition. Judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select six national winners (two per competition level) and 12 national runners-up (four per competition level). Each national winner will receive a \$500 Target GiftCard. In addition, each will win a Reading Promotion Grant of \$10,000 for their school or community library. National winners will be instrumental in deciding how the library funds will be spent. The 12 national runners-up will win a \$100 Target GiftCard each, as well as a Reading Promotion Grant of \$1,000 for their school or community library,

Remember: the deadline for entries in the state contest is December 14, 2007. For contest guidelines and entry forms, contact the Alabama Center for the Book at 334-844-4946 or lettersaboutlit@auburn.edu, or visit the Web site at www.alabamabookcenter.org.

Teachers, librarians or parents interested in obtaining copies of the 36-page teaching supplement to guide students through the reading-writing process should visit the Center for the Book Web site at www.alabamabookcenter.org.

Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its commitment to supporting education and early childhood reading. Target recognizes the integral role reading plays in shaping a child's future, because reading is the foundation for life-long learning and success. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts and safe families and communities. Today that translates to \$3 million every week.

The national Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. For information about its activities and national reading promotion networks, visit www.loc.gov/cfbook. The Alabama Center for the Book, established in 2000, promotes reading, libraries and books through programs including the Alabama Gets Caught Reading poster series, the Alabama Book Festival, Letters About Literature, River of Words, and This Goodly Land, an online Alabama literary map. For more information about these and other ACFTB programs, go to www.alabamabookcenter.org.

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