



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINNERS CHOSEN IN 2007 LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE CONTEST

CHEYENNE – Top honors have gone to three Wyoming students in the 2007 Letters About Literature Contest. Letters About Literature encourages students to read, be inspired and write back to their favorite authors.

The Wyoming Center for the Book awarded Sheridan High School student Jordan Marzilli-Quintana first place in Level III (grades 9-12) for his letter to author John Knowles about the book, *A Separate Peace*. Katherine DeMunbrun from Sage Valley Jr. High in Gillette placed first in Level II (grades 7-8) writing to Dee Brown about *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Briana Hedlund from Fort Caspar Academy in Casper placed first in Level I (grades 4-6) for her letter to Nancy Krulik about *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo: Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade?*

Approximately 56,000 young readers across the country participated in this year's Letters About Literature competition, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target Stores.

All three first place winners advanced to national competition and will receive a \$100 cash award from the Wyoming Center for the Book and a \$50 Target gift card. Second place winners received a \$50 cash award and third place winners received \$25. (List of winners and honorable mentions below.)

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, sponsored in partnership with Target Stores. For more information about Letters About Literature or other Wyoming Center for the Book activities, contact Susan Vittitow, Coordinator, at 307-777-5915, svitti@state.wy.us, or visit <http://will.state.wy.us/wcb/>.

-list of winners begins next page-

Letters About Literature 2007 Wyoming winners

LEVEL I (grades 4-6)

First Place: Briana Hedlund, 4th grade Fort Caspar Academy, Casper. Writing to author Nancy Krulik, about *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo: Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade?*

Second Place: Jordan Thayer, 6th grade, Spring Creek Elementary, Laramie. Writing to Sarah Weeks about *So B. It.*

Third Place: Charlie Galloway, 5th grade, Goins Elementary, Cheyenne. Writing to J.R.R. Tolkein about *The Lord of the Rings.*

Honorable Mentions:

- Cynthia Higley, 6th grade, Big Piney Middle School, Big Piney. Writing to Todd Strasser about *Con-Fidence.*
- Sarah Shafer, 5th grade, Heritage Christian Academy, Big Piney. Writing to Carolyn Meyer about *Mary, Bloody Mary.*
- Phylcia Christoffersen, 5th grade, Goins Elementary, Cheyenne. Writing to Eleanor Coerr about *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes.*

LEVEL II (grades 7-8)

First Place: Katherine DeMunbrun, 8th grade, Sage Valley Jr. High, Gillette. Writing to Dee Brown, author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.*

Second Place: Ashley Golden, 7th grade, Sage Valley Jr. High School, Gillette. Writing to Gary Paulsen about *Tracker.*

Third Place: Megan Olson, 7th grade, Carey Jr. High, Cheyenne. Writing to Emily Dickinson about *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson.*

Honorable Mentions:

- Jamie Walker, 8th grade, Dubois K-8, Dubois. Writing to Martin Luther King Jr. about *I Have a Dream.*
- Eddie Collins, 8th grade, Dubois K-8, Dubois. Writing to Elie Wiesel about *Night.*

LEVEL III (grades 9-12)

First Place: Jordan Marzilli-Quintana, 9th grade, Sheridan High School, Sheridan. Writing to John Knowles, author of *A Separate Peace.*

Second Place: Oscar Delgado, 10th grade, Big Piney High School, Big Piney. Writing to Rosa López about *The Life that Seems Good.*

Third Place: Jessica Donaghe, 11th grade, Campbell County High School, Gillette. Writing to David Baldacci about *Wish You Well.*