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## **Alabama Student National Winner in Letters About Literature Contest**

The Alabama Center for the Book and the Alabama Humanities Foundation are pleased to announce that Cori Anne Mazer, a student at Highlands School in Birmingham, has been named a 2009 Letters About Literature national winner.

Letters About Literature is a reading-writing contest in which student readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s way of thinking about the world or themselves. Letters are judged first at the state level. First-place winners from state competitions across the country are then submitted to the national contest, where six winners will be chosen to receive \$10,000 reading promotion grants for their school or community library. Approximately 55,000 young readers from across the nation participated in this year’s Letters About Literature initiative.

Mazer, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, wrote to Lois Lowry after reading *The Giver*. She has designated her school library as the recipient of the grant. “I’ve spent countless hours in that library, so I’m happy to be able to give something back,” said Mazer.

On the state level, the program is sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. State and national judges include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians and teachers.

The Alabama Center for the Book is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Housed at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, the Center sponsors programs around the state on books and reading. For more information, please visit [www.alabamabookcenter.org](http://www.alabamabookcenter.org) or contact the Alabama Center for the Book at 334-844-4946.