



## IOWA STUDENT READERS RECOGNIZED FOR LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE AWARDS PROGRAM

**DES MOINES** — The Iowa Center for the Book honored 18 student readers from across Iowa as winners and honorable mentions for the 2020 Iowa Letters About Literature awards program at a virtual ceremony on Friday, May 1.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the recognition ceremony was moved to an online format. State Librarian Michael Scott gave an address and the winning letters in each level were read by Angie Manfredi, State Library Youth Services Consultant, while a slide recognizing the student was displayed. A recording of the recognition ceremony will be posted to the Iowa Center for the Book website for viewing soon.

“We celebrate and congratulate the 2020 Letters About Literature winners and honorable mentions,” said Michael Scott, State Librarian of Iowa. “Their creativity and ability to connect a meaningful book to their life experience has had an impact on me and I’m sure many others. I know the future is bright for these students.”

Letters About Literature is a statewide literary contest where student readers write a letter to an author of a book that has changed their view of themselves or their world. The 18 winners and honorable mentions were chosen from nearly 600 entries from students across Iowa.

**The winners and honorable are listed below; [read the students’ letters in full.](#)**

### **Level I (Grades 4 - 6)**

**First Place: Parker Shendelman**

Author/Book: *Fish In A Tree* by Linda Hunt

School: Northeast Elementary, Ankeny

**Second Place: Gavin Freiberg**

Author/Book: *An Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo

School: Lenihan Intermediate School, Marshalltown

**Third Place: Shannon Frommelt**

Author/Book: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

School: Westwood Elementary, Ankeny

**Honorable Mention: Krista Bogers**

Author/Book: *A Night Divided* by Jennifer Neilson

School: Northwest Elementary, Ankeny

**Honorable Mention: Ella Reynolds**

Author/Book: *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein

School: Lenihan Intermediate School, Marshalltown

**Honorable Mention: Everardo Etcheto**

Author/Book: *Restart* by Gordon Korman

School: St. Augustin Catholic School, Des Moines

**Level II (Grades 7 - 8)**

**First Place: Jack Sovern**

Author/Book: *The Story of Salt* by Mark Kurlansky

School: Decorah Middle School, Decorah

**Second Place: Sara Johanningmeier**

Author/Book: *Everything On It* by Shel Silverstein

School: Decorah Middle School, Decorah

**Third Place: Veronica Smith**

Author/Book: *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan

School: St. Augustin School, Des Moines

**Honorable Mention: Audrey Stone**

Author/Book: *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell

School: St. Augustin School, Des Moines

**Honorable Mention: Rosie Penar**

Author/Book: *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D Salinger

School: Stilwell Junior High School, West Des Moines

**Honorable Mention: Saanvi Ram**

Author/Book: *Moving Target* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

School: George Washington Middle School, Dubuque

**Level III (Grades 9 - 12)**

**First Place: Grace McKinstry**

Author/Book: *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister

School: Cedar Rapids Washington High School, Cedar Rapids

**Second Place: Anna Walls**

Author/Book: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

School: Adel DeSoto Minburn High School, Dexter

**Third Place: Maitreyi Shrikhande**

Author/Book: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

School: Davenport Central High School, Davenport

**Honorable Mention: Ibrahim Shaheen**

Author/Book: *Robocalypse* by Daniel H. Wilson

School: Iowa City High, Iowa City

**Honorable Mention: Nic Ryan**

Author/Book: *Little Nicolas Is Bored* by Rene Goscinny

School: Cedar Rapids Washington High School, Cedar Rapids

**Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Kolln**

Author/Book: *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

School: Cedar Rapids Washington High School, Cedar Rapids

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**About the Iowa Center for the Book**

The Iowa Center for the Book is a program of the State Library of Iowa and an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Founded in 2002, the mission of the Iowa Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries.

[www.iowaCenterfortheBook.org](http://www.iowaCenterfortheBook.org)

**About the State Library of Iowa**

The State Library of Iowa actively champions libraries. Our two roles are improving library services in Iowa and delivering specialized information services to state government and to Iowans. The State Library is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

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