



# “A Book That Shaped Me”

The Library of Congress National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest

## ★ 2015 Participation Guidelines ★

The “A Book That Shaped Me” Summer Writing Contest encourages rising 5th & 6th graders to reflect on a book that has made a personal impact on their lives. The contest is administered as part of summer reading programs at participating public libraries in DC, MD, VA, DE, WV, & PA. Top winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. For a list of 2015 participating public libraries, please visit: [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/)

### Who can participate?

Rising 5th & 6th Graders  
(students who will be entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall of 2015)

### How to Enter

“A Book That Shaped Me” - Write a short essay on a book that has had a personal impact on your life.

Books have the power to shape us by changing the ways we think and feel. Think about a book that made a difference in your life. It could be your favorite book, one that you read at school or as part of this year’s summer reading program. How did it make you feel? Did it change the way you see yourself, your family or the world? Choose one book—it can be fiction or nonfiction—and write a short essay about how it had a personal impact on your life.

- ★ Write a one-page essay.
- ★ Use examples from the book to make your points.
- ★ Your essay will be judged on content, structure and creativity.
- ★ Your essay may be typed or handwritten.

Submit your essay in-person by **Friday, July 10, 2015** to your participating neighborhood public library using the required entry coupon. (See next page!) For a list of participating library locations in DC, MD, VA, DE, WV, & PA, visit: [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/)

### Awards

“A Book That Shaped Me” will award prizes to thirty State Finalists, six State Winners, and three overall Grand Prize Winners. A scoring panel consisting of members of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will select the top five (5) essayists from each participating state. These State Finalists will each receive a \$50 gift card and additional prizes, and then advance to the next level judging.

Six State Winners will be selected from the State Finalists. The State Winners will each receive an additional \$50 gift card. Three Grand Prize Winners will be selected from the State Winners by a panel of judges assembled by the Library of Congress that include educators, children’s authors and Library of Congress staff. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Grand Prize Winners will receive additional gift cards for \$200, \$150, and \$100 respectively along with additional prizes and transportation to attend the contest awards ceremony at the Library of Congress.

State Finalists, State Winners, and Grand Prize Winners will be honored during a presentation at the 2015 Library of Congress National Book Festival on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

# "A Book That Shaped Me" Submission Form



## Preparing Your Entry

- ★ Write a one-page essay about a book that had a personal impact on your life.
- ★ Your essay may be typed or hand-written.
- ★ Use examples from the book to make your points.
- ★ Your neighborhood librarian can even help you edit your essay! (Your work must be your own original work but librarians can provide suggestions about structure and form and can proofread.)

## Submitting Your Entry

Submit your essay along with the entry coupon (below) in person at your participating neighborhood public library. Staple the coupon to your essay. Should your essay win a State Finalist, State, or Grand Prize, we will contact you using this information, so be sure your coupon is complete and legible! Essays without an entry coupon will be disqualified.

## Who can participate?

"A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Writing Contest is for students who will be entering the 5th or 6th grade in the fall of 2015. Winners will be asked to provide proof of completion of the 4th or 5th grade (report card, transcript, or letter from the school principal). Submissions are only accepted in person at participating public library locations in DC, MD, VA, DE, WV, & PA. For a list of participating library locations visit: [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/)

## How are the entries judged?

- Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
- ★ Content (addressing the contest theme).
  - ★ Structure (spelling, grammar, punctuation).
  - ★ Creativity (approach to theme, sentiment expressed).

## How will I know if I win?

The Library of Congress will notify State Finalists on or about August 18, 2015. The Library of Congress will notify State and Grand Prize winners on or about August 26, 2015. For program updates, please refer to the "A Book That Shaped Me" contest website: [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/)

## What happens if my essay wins?

**OWNERSHIP.** All essays become the property of the Library of Congress and participating public library systems. Please make copies of your entry, as no essays will be returned.

**PERMISSION RELEASE FORM.** Signature of parent or guardian is required on entry coupon, which also contains release information.

All finalists and winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.



## "A Book That Shaped Me" 2015 Entry Coupon

- ★ **PLEASE PRINT. Then cut and staple your entry coupon to your essay.** Do not use paper clips. An entry without a parent or guardian's signature will be eliminated!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ What grade will you be entering in the fall of 2015? 5th / 6th (circle one)

How did you find out about this contest? \_\_\_\_\_

What school will you attend in the fall of 2015? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor child whose name is written above. I agree to allow my child to participate in the Event, Library of Congress National Book Festival "A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Writing Contest, and to appear in or to provide Materials under the terms stated herein. This permission applies to Event-related "Materials," including my child's entry, audio or visual recordings or photographs of or prepared by my child or me, and supporting items we provide, such as written works. I hereby grant to the Library of Congress and other libraries participating in the Summer Writing Contest the worldwide, nonexclusive, transferable, irrevocable, royalty-free right to use the Materials for non-commercial purposes. The Library of Congress and other participating libraries may reproduce, prepare derivative works of, distribute, perform, display, or otherwise make use of the Materials, in any form, media, or technology, now known or later developed.

Parent/Guardian Contact (please print full name): \_\_\_\_\_

Parental signature (required for entry): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# "A Book That Shaped Me"

The Library of Congress National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest

## ★ Information for Educators and Parents:

The Library of Congress National Book Festival is presenting a summer writing contest to encourage rising 5th & 6th graders to reflect on the books that have made a personal impact on their lives. The "A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Writing Contest is administered as part of public library summer reading programs and top winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, which will take place September 5, 2015 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

We ask for your assistance in encouraging students to participate in this opportunity to share their enthusiasm for books. This year the contest is available through participating public library locations in DC, MD, VA, DE, PA, and WV! For a full list of participating libraries, visit the "A Book That Shaped Me" National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest website, [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/) Contest entry forms are available at participating library locations and at the Library of Congress Young Readers Center. Downloadable entry forms are available on-line at the contest website.

Children may ask for your help in finalizing their essays. Please be willing to offer guidance by proofreading and making suggestions on how they might improve their essays. You could show them resources to help them with grammar and structure, or even refer them to online proofreading resources. The work must be the student's original work, but suggestions about structure and form, and proofreading from a caring adult can show children how to use help, even with their creative efforts.

If you plan to engage a group of students from your school/organization/summer camp, etc., in the "A Book That Shaped Me" Summer Writing Contest we'd love to know! Please send an email with the subject line "Summer Writing Contest Participation" and the following information to [BooksShapeContest@loc.gov](mailto:BooksShapeContest@loc.gov) - your name, title, organization, contact information, number of students who will participate in the contest, and home library.