



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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The Library of Michigan and the Michigan Center for the Book invite you to encourage your students or patrons to participate in Letters about Literature and River of Words. We are joining with the Library of Congress to promote these outstanding writing programs to schools and libraries.

Letters about Literature is a free national reading-writing contest that invites readers in grades 4 through 12 to write letters to authors of books that have changed their lives. Children and young adults may submit letters individually or through school, a library group or other organization by December 4, 2015 for grades 9-12 and by January 11, 2016 for grades 4-6 and grades 7-8. The program encourages reading, writing, art and personal reflection. More information and entry forms are available at [www.read.gov/letters](http://www.read.gov/letters).

River of Words is a nonprofit organization promoting literacy, creative expression, and community awareness of critical environmental concerns, especially water. ROW provides a unique watershed education model integrating art and poetry in a place-based curriculum. Students K-12 (ages 5-19), can submit artwork and poetry to the national contest by December 1, 2015. More information and entry forms are available at [www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org).

Winners are selected at the state and national levels. Both programs have curriculum materials for classroom use. You can find entry forms and more information at the program web sites or at [www.michigan.gov/youthlibraryservices](http://www.michigan.gov/youthlibraryservices). We hope you will use the forms and also post them around your school or library. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

We look forward to seeing great work from your students and patrons. Thank you for your time!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karren Reish".

Karren Reish  
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**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN**

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