



The Library of Congress and DC Public Library Present

“A Book That Shaped Me”

Summer Writing Contest 2012

★2012 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 the DC Public Library 2012 summer reading program themed “Dream Big – Read!” and top winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in September on the National Mall.

Who can participate?

Rising 5th & 6th Graders
(students who will be entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall of 2012)

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 (spelling and grammar) and creativity.
- ★ Your essay may be typed or hand-written.

Deadline extended to Saturday, August 25, 2012

Submit your essay in-person by **Friday, August 17, 2012** to your neighborhood DC Public Library using the required entry coupon. (See next page!) For a list of library locations visit:
www.dclibrary.org/hours-location

Awards

“A Book That Shaped Me” will award prizes to winners at each library location and to three (3) overall grand prize winners. DC Public Library’s panel of staff judges will select top essayists for each library location. Library winners (25) will each receive a \$50 Gift Card and additional prizes, and then advance to the Grand Prize level judging.

The top three (3) Grand Prize winners will be selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Library of Congress to include educators, children’s authors and Library of Congress staff. Grand Prize winners will each receive a \$200 Gift Card and additional prizes.

Library winners and Grand Prize winners will be honored during a presentation at the 2012 Library of Congress National Book Festival on the Mall which takes place September 22-23, 2012.



"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 neighborhood DC Public Library. Staple the coupon to your essay. Should your essay win a Library or Grand Prize, DC Public Library 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 2012. 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 DC Public Library locations.

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?

DC Public Library will notify Library winners on or about September 7, 2012. The Library of Congress will notify Grand Prize winners on or about September 10, 2012. For program updates, please refer to the Library of Congress National Book Festival web site for Kids and Teachers, www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers or the DC Public Library 2012 summer reading program web site, www.dclibrary.org/dreambig.

What happens if my essay wins?

OWNERSHIP. All essays become the property of the Library of Congress and DC Public Library. 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 winners will be honored at the 2012 Library of Congress National Book Festival on the National Mall which takes place September 22 – 23, 2012.



"A Book That Shaped Me" 2012 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 _____

Home Phone () _____ Age: _____

What grade will you be entering in the fall of 2012? 5th / 6th (circle one)

What school will you attend in the fall of 2012? _____

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Home Address: _____

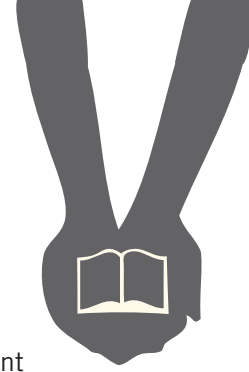
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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, "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 ("Library") and District of Columbia Public Library ("DCPL") the worldwide, nonexclusive, transferable, irrevocable, royalty-free right to use the Materials for non-commercial purposes. The Library and DCPL 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: _____



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★ Information for Librarians, Educators and Parents:

The Library of Congress and DC Public Library are collaborating on 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 the DC Public Library 2012 summer reading program themed “Dream Big - Read!” and top winners will be honored at the Library of Congress National Book Festival taking place September 22- 23, 2012 on the National Mall.

We ask for your assistance in encouraging students to participate in this opportunity to share their enthusiasm for books. Contest entry forms will be available at all DC Public Library locations and at the Young Readers Center located in the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, Room G29 (ground floor). Forms can also be downloaded online at the Library of Congress National Book Festival web site for Kids & Teachers, www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers and at the DC Public Library 2012 summer reading program web site, www.dclibrary.org/dreambig.

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 accessible through www.dclibrary.org/kids/homework. 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 bookfest@loc.gov - your name, title, organization, contact information and number of students who will participate in the contest.