

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2026

CONTACT

Kaylee Reed, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Kaylee.Reed@libraries.ok.gov

Oklahoma Students Honored at State Capitol for 2026 My Favorite Book Contest

Oklahoma City, Okla. — Students, parents, teachers, librarians, caregivers, and legislators gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol on May 13 to celebrate a shared love of reading during the 2026 My Favorite Book Awards Ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

The My Favorite Book Contest celebrates student readers across Oklahoma and the meaningful connections they make through books. As part of the contest, students write personal letters to the author of a book, series, or story that had a lasting impact on their lives, and submit those letters to the Oklahoma Center for the Book for consideration.

This year's contest received over 400 entries from students across the state in three divisions: Grades 4–6, Grades 7–8, and Grades 9–12.

“Today is about more than picking a favorite story. It’s about recognizing how reading shapes who we are, expands our thinking, and connects us to new ideas and perspectives,” said Natalie Currie, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, during the ceremony. “Books and stories help us deal with bullying, show us how to navigate grief, follow our dreams, and develop the courage to try new things.”

During the ceremony, winning students were recognized and selected letters were read aloud at the Capitol. Finalists received cash prizes, and each first-place winner selected a school or public library to also receive a monetary award in support of literacy and reading programs.

“This program is a key part of our legacy and has garnered interest from more than 3,000 students statewide since its inception five years ago,” said Michelle

Hall, director of the Oklahoma Center for the Book. “It’s a great day to celebrate these students and the creativity, thoughtfulness, and passion for reading they demonstrated through their essays.”

Hall also acknowledged the support of the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, whose contributions help fund student awards and library grants through donations honoring longtime literary advocate Lynn McIntosh. This year’s ceremony is especially meaningful as it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, a milestone being celebrated throughout the year.

2026 My Favorite Book Contest Winners

Division I (Grades 4–6)

First Place: Relic Foster, Shiloh Christian School
Letter to Jeff Kinney for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

Second Place: Daniel Atkinson, Owasso Public Schools
Letter to John Hendrickson for *Life on Delay*

Third Place: Jinlin Chen, Jenks Public Schools
Letter to Kelly Yang for *Front Desk*

Division II (Grades 7–8)

First Place: Anna Corfidi, Bixby Public Schools
Letter to John David Anderson for *Posted*

Second Place: Sophia Laubach, Oologah-Talala Public Schools
Letter to Shirley Jackson for *The Lottery*

Third Place: Nuam Kiim, Bixby Public Schools
Letter to Deb J.J. Lee for *In Limbo*

Division III (Grades 9–12)

First Place: Georgena Weaver, Harding Fine Arts Academy
Letter to Daniel Kraus for *Whalefall*

Second Place: Paxton Miller, Edmond Public Schools
Letter to Elie Wiesel for *Night*

Third Place: Abigail Bannister, Marlow Public Schools
Letter to Sylvia Plath for *The Bell Jar*

The My Favorite Book Contest opens each fall and closes in December. Students interested in participating in future contests can follow updates and announcements through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries monthly newsletter.

#

About the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

The [Oklahoma Department of Libraries](#) is the official State Library of Oklahoma. It serves the information and records management needs of state government, assists with public library development, coordinates library and information technology projects for the state, and serves the general public through its specialized collections.

About the Oklahoma Center for the Book

The [Oklahoma Center for the Book \(OCB\)](#) is a state affiliate of the [Center for the Book in the Library of Congress](#), and is organized to focus attention on the vital role of books and reading in our lives. The Center promotes the past, current, and future works of Oklahoma authors; promotes the literary heritage of the state; and encourages reading for pleasure by Oklahomans of all ages. The Center partners with the non-profit [Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book](#) on a variety of literary events.