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### **South Carolina Middle School Student Receives National Honor**

Columbia, S.C. – More than 69,000 young readers from across the country participated in this year's Letters About Literature writing contest, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target and sponsored in South Carolina by the State Library's Center for the Book. In South Carolina, a total of 1,074 students participated in the Letters About Literature program.

Sydney Hodgin, a student at West-Oak Middle School in Westminster, SC was the 1<sup>st</sup> place State Winner in the Level 1 (grades 4-6) category. Her letter went on to national level judging and she has received a Letters About Literature National Honor award. Sydney wrote to John Howard Griffin, author of *Black Like Me*. Sydney is one of four National Honors recipients who get to designate a library to receive a \$1,000 Target grant. Sydney said, " I decided to give the money to my school because teachers there are helping me become an outstanding student and citizen." She will also receive a \$50 Target Gift Card. Sydney is the daughter of Derek and Jane Hodgin in Westminster.

Sydney will be recognized along with 8 other South Carolina Letters About Literature Award Winners at an award ceremony held Friday May 7, 2010, at 11:00 am in room 309 of the State Library's administrative building located at 1430 Senate Street in Columbia. For more information about the Letters About Literature program, visit [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org).

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#### ***About the S.C. State Library***

The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. The Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. The Library's mission is to optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services. In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the South Carolina State Library and assumed

responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies. Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and other sources. For more information, visit [www.statelibrary.sc.gov](http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov) or call 803-734-8666.