2026 Achievement Awards in Writing Prompt: The Joy and Power of Reading

Context: The joy and power of reading in life has been discussed and quoted by many leaders, writers, and authors. Reading is fun because it helps us to learn about stories, characters, and life and experience places to which we may never travel. A good reader learns about life experiences that he/she may never experience. Reading helps us learn about the world and life around us in many ways. Reading has the power to change a person's life experiences by making a difference.

Writing Directions: Read the quotes below and choose one to reflect on and then write your reader response using any one of the prompts here. You can use any reflections and connections with the quote and your own experiences with any reading. Convey your ideas in any format; see the Guidelines page for more information.

Quote A: "There will always be storms of one kind or another, but I will always be buoyed by books—hopeful, encompassing, life-saving books." Sophie Blackall: an Australian illustrator and author of children's books and two-time winner of the Caldecott medal.

Quote B: "If you are going to get anywhere in life, you will have to read a lot of books." Roald Dahl: a British author of many beloved children's books.

Quote C: "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Frederick Douglass: an American social reformer and leader of the civil rights movement in the nineteenth century.

Quote D: "The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more places you will go." Theodore Geisel (pen name, Dr. Seuss): an American children's book author.

Quote E: “More than at any other time, when I hold a beloved book in my hand my limitations fall from me, my spirit is free.” Hellen Keller: an American author, political activist, and lecturer who devoted her life to helping those in need.

Quote F: “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa: an Albanian-born, Indian Roman Catholic missionary; Nobel Prize winner; and social worker who devoted her life to helping those in need.