



ANNUAL “LIT AWARDS”

Overview: The “Lit Awards” were a recent addition to our classroom, and I have a feeling they’re going to become a yearly staple. They were hit with my tenth graders in Nashville and eighth graders in New Jersey. The goal, of course, is to celebrate an incredible year of reading both individually and collectively. First, students create a slideshow recognizing their personal favorites from the year. To keep things simple, everyone followed a similar template, which you can download from resources.corwin.com/justreadit.

Slide 1: Cover Slide. Include title, your name, appropriate photos/images, background music, etc.

Slide 2: Share two to three of your **favorite quotes** from books you have read this year.

Slide 3: List the number of books you read this year—feel free to include some/all the book covers, too.

Slide 4: Introduce your **five “Lit Awards” categories**.

(Note: Most students start with **Best Book**, **Best Author**, and **Best Character** before coming up two of their own categories, including but not limited to Best Book Cover, Best Storyline, Best Setting, Best Plot Twist, Best Scene, Best Series, Best Ending, Best Villain, Most Creative, Best Theme, Most Unique, Best Supporting Character, Best Duo, Best Relationship, Best Ending, Most Memorable, Most Meaningful, etc.)

Slide 5: Share your **complete list of nominees** (see sample template below). Five categories, four nominees per category.

Best Book	Nominee A	Nominee B	Nominee C	Nominee D
Best Author	Nominee A	Nominee B	Nominee C	Nominee D
Best Character	Nominee A	Nominee B	Nominee C	Nominee D
Own Category	Nominee A	Nominee B	Nominee C	Nominee D
Own Category	Nominee A	Nominee B	Nominee C	Nominee D

Slide 6: Best Book Nominees. Be sure to include all four book covers.

Slide 7: Best Book Winner and Why It Won. Share your rationale/why you loved the book. For example:

WHY _____ WON

- Checked all the boxes I’m looking for in a book
- Exceptional writing style
- Unforgettable characters
- Powerful themes
- Masterful storytelling
- Gave me all the feels

Slide 8: Best Author Nominees. Include a photo/headshot of each author.

Slide 9: Best Author Winner and Bio. Provide a brief “biography” of the winning author (start by checking their website). For example:

BEST AUTHOR WINNER—Tiffany D. Jackson

- NYT bestselling author
- Brooklyn raised, Howard made
- *Monday's Not Coming, Allegedly, Let Me Hear a Rhyme, Grown, White Smoke, Santa in the City, The Weight of Blood, Blackout, Whiteout*
- TV/film background
- Known for her twisty, suspenseful endings

Slide 10: Best Character Nominees

Slide 11: Best Character Winner and Why They Won.

Slide 12: Own Category Nominees

Slide 13: Own Category Winner and Why It Won

Slide 14: Own Category Nominees

Slide 15: Own Category Winner and Why It Won

Slide 16: Reflection. Write one paragraph reflecting on your voting process. What categories were the easiest and hardest for you to pick a winner? What criteria did you use? How would you describe your year of reading overall?

Slide 17: Closing Slide

Students then present their awards, either in small groups or to the entire class. We can even coordinate an actual “Lit Awards” ceremony, where everyone dresses to impress (or dresses as a character from one of their favorite books) and enjoys snacks and refreshments while celebrating a great year of reading. Students can sign up for one of three possible roles—two to three students will host the awards, several will serve as presenters (reading the nominees and announcing the winners), and others will come to the stage (ideally dressed in character) and deliver acceptance speeches. The teacher can also use this opportunity to hand out “Class Superlatives” and/or to recognize readers for their progress and accomplishments. At a minimum, this event helps students strengthen their public speaking skills in an authentic environment and ensures that we all end the year with one final positive literacy experience.