



PBS KIDS Writers Contest Rules



WHRO's PBS KIDS Writers Contest begins January 2019. The deadline for entries is Friday, March 29, 2019.

In addition to the original contest, we will present the Batten Environmental Education Award to winning stories with an Environmental theme or topic.

Some suggested topics taken from K-5 *Science SOL's in Environmental Literacy* include: natural resources, recycling, conservation, habitat, land, air, water, animals, earth, plants, forest, rocks, fossils, weather, and energy sources, just to name a few.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be in K-5 grades.
- Children of employees of PBS, PBS stations or their affiliates, sales representatives, subsidiaries or parent companies, advertising/sales promotion agencies, and judges are not eligible.
- To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of the United States. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify ineligible entries; such entries will not be returned.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted; all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- Only single author stories qualify (no co-authored stories).
- Stories can be fact or fiction, and prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the contest.
- No purchase is necessary.

Word Count (No Exceptions)

- Stories word count range must contain: Grades K-1 *50-200 words*; Grades 2-3 *100-350 words*; Grades 4-5 *200-450 words*.
- The word count includes "a", "an", and "the", but not the words on non-story pages such as the title page or those that enhance the illustrations.
- Text must be printed, written legibly, or typed.
- Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed, written legibly or typed.
- Text may be integrated into the illustration pages or on separate pages.
- Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translation text must adhere to word count.
- Invented spelling is accepted.

Format & Illustrations

- Stories must have at least 5 original, clear and colorful illustrations.
- Original art can include drawings, collages, and 3-D created by the author or photographs taken by the author.
- Stories submitted by mail must be created on one side of the paper and numbered on the back of each page.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian (and, if appropriate, the optional signature of the sponsoring teacher), confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials.
- The entry form must be complete and legible.

Awards & Notification

Entries will be judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations. All decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal or review. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Every entrant will receive a Certificate of Achievement. First Place and Second Place winners will be chosen from entries received. An awards ceremony will be held at WHRO in honor of all winners. Each winner will receive a cash prize and receive a DVD that will include the Award Ceremony and each winner reading his/her story.

Return of Entries

The Contest administrators will make every effort, **but are not required**, to return entries **only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of an appropriate size**. WHRO is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete or illegible entries, or postage-due mail. (Parents and teachers are always welcome to pick up stories from the station.)