



PBS KIDS Writers Contest Rules



WHRO's PBS KIDS Writers Contest begins January 2021. The deadline for entries is Friday, April 2, 2021.

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 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: 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 have parents/teachers 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. (Try to include an illustration on each page)
- Original art can include drawings, collages, and 3-D created by the author or photographs taken by the author.
- Stories submitted must, be created on one side of the paper and be 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. Judges will choose First Place and Second Place winners from entries received. WHRO will hold a virtual awards ceremony in honor of all winners. Each winner will receive a blue ribbon along with a variety of prizes which will include a \$50 gift card for First place winners and a \$25 gift card for second place winners.

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. **(Because of the current pandemic, the option to pick up stories from the station is not available at this time,)**

PBS created the National PBS KIDS Writers Contest. WHRO Public Media produces our Local PBS Kids Writers Contest