

## 2017 Writers Contest Rules

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by WLJT (the “Contest” or “Promotion”) and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. The Contest begins on Jan. 4, 2017 and concludes March 31, 2017. This Contest consists of one round of judging, which will take place in April 2017.

To enter the Contest for local judging, you may submit your entry to: WLJT, P.O. Box 966, Martin, TN 38237.

All entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2017 to be eligible.

These contest rules are subject to modification by WLJT at its discretion. This contest is void where prohibited.

### Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second or third grade.
- 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.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted in this contest; 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 Requirement

- Kindergarten and first grade stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Second and third grade stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 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 or 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 translated text (English 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 Writers Contest Entry Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian (and, if appropriate, the optional signature of the sponsoring teacher), consenting to allowing their child/ward to enter the contest, confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials.
- The entry form must be complete and legible to be eligible.

### Judging, Awards & Notification

All entries submitted in the local judging round of the contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of judges chosen by WLJT. The entry with the highest percentage in each grade will be deemed the grand prize winner for that grade. The judging criteria and percentages used by any judging in connection with the local judging round of the contest shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria as follows:

- 40% Creativity and originality of plot and/or themes,
- 40% Story structure and use of literary devices,
- 20% Relevance, quality and originality of illustration

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. For the judging round of the contest, winners will be as follows: (1) the entry with the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the First Place winners; (2) the entry the second to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Second

Place winners. In the event of a tie for the judging, the entry with the highest score in the creativity and originality category from among all tying entries will be deemed the winner from among all tying entries. Winners will be notified on or before April 28, 2016. Winners and their families will be invited to a special reception at WLJT's studio May 18, 2017 where the winners will be taped reading their stories for air on WLJT later in the year.

### **Prizes**

**Four (4) First Place Winners** (One (1) First Place winner per grade) – A \$50 gift card to Walmart, a basket of arts and crafts supplies, books and other prize packs provided by local sponsors. **Four (4) Second Place Winners** (One (1) Second Place winner per grade) – A \$25 gift card to Walmart, a basket of arts and crafts supplies, books and other prize packs provided by local sponsors. Teachers of First Place winning entries will also receive a \$25 gift card to Walmart.

The teacher of the classroom submitting the most entries into the local contest will receive an appreciation gift, courtesy of WLJT.

WLJT reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of WLJT.

Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at the sole discretion of Sponsor.

### **Return of Entries**

The contest administrators at WLJT will make every effort, but are not required, to return mailed entries only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of an *appropriate* size. WLJT is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail.

### **Rights Associated with Contest**

Submission of the entry form constitutes permission from the participant's parent/legal guardian for WLJT to use the participants' name, likeness, biographical information, information and materials contained in the entry form, photographs, and any statements or remarks made about the contest in advertising and promotion without further compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law.

By entering, entrants' parent/legal guardian agree to abide by the above stated rules, and warrant that their child's/ward's entry is their original work and does not infringe upon or violate rights of any third party, and grant to WLJT the right to edit, publish, promote, and otherwise use their entry materials without permission, notice or compensation. No royalties will be paid at this or any time.

By submitting an entry and entry form, each participant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and entry form to WLJT and warrants that the participant's parent/legal guardian has the authority to assign such right, title, and interest. In the event that any applicable law requires certain formalities to be fulfilled to effectuate such grant of rights, each participant (and parent or guardian) agrees to cooperate with WLJT to achieve fulfillment of such formalities.

By submitting an entry form, each participant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of participant, agrees to be bound by these contest rules. Each participant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to release and hold WLJT, and its employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, representatives, subsidiaries, parent companies, or other affiliated companies harmless from any and all damages, losses, claims and liabilities arising out of participation in the contest or resulting from acceptance or claiming of any prize hereunder.

WLJT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate, suspend or otherwise cancel the contest at any time. Income and all other taxes are the responsibility of the prize recipient. WLJT is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

**Privacy:** Unless otherwise specified, any and all information connected in connection with this contest will be used solely for the purpose of administering the contest. Please note: If you circled "Yes" on the entry form to opt-in to receive the optional promotional materials from WLJT, your contact information contained in the entry form will be used to fulfill the offers.

**Sponsor:** WLJT, 210 Hurt St., Martin, TN 38238; 1-800-366-9558