



WQLN PBS Kids Writers Contest Rules

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in grades K-5. Pre-K entries accepted but will be judged in the kindergarten category. The participating Pre-K student cannot submit a story in the Kindergarten category during the following year.
- 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 WQLN PBS viewing area. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify ineligible entries; such entries will not be returned.
- 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. Many will enter, few will win.

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.
- Fourth and fifth grade stories must have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 550 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 pieces 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.
- Stories containing violence and inappropriate language and/or content will be disqualified.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official WQLN PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian consenting to allowing their child 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 to the local Contest will be judged using the criteria from a rubric, in the categories listed below, by a panel of judges selected by WQLN. First, Second and Third Place winners will be chosen based on the top (3) highest scores in each grade level. Judging will occur on the date as set forth by WQLN in April. All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Rubric Categories: Originality, Creative Expression, Organization/Progression, Use of Language & Conventions, Illustrations

Return of Entries

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

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Rights Associated with Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant's parent/legal guardian for WQLN 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. All entries, and any copyrights therein, become the sole property of WQLN. 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 WQLN 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 WQLN 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 WQLN 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 WQLN, 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. WQLN 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. WQLN is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.



WOLN Kids Writers Contest - Rubric

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2	1
Originality: Unique, child-centered, engaging	Truly unique and captivating, completely child-centered	Mostly unique and fresh, quite engaging	Engaging but with some overly familiar elements	Mostly a retelling of a known story	Direct or very short retelling
Creative Expression: Imagery, details	Vivid imagery, figurative language, specific details, contribute to vividness	Some imagery, figurative language, most details contribute	Some use of detailed language	Modifiers present	No imagery apparent
Organization/Progression: appropriate, good flow	Has a strong hook, delightful and fresh progression, satisfying conclusion	Has a hook and strong progression, solid ending	Has a perceivable order	Elements strung together with some connection	Random thoughts
Use of Language & Conventions	Delightful word choice, fitting to aims of story, connectors and structure contribute	Word choice deliberate, conventions mostly accurate	Word choice is adequate, some conventions apparent	Basic sentence structure	Word strings, sentence fragments
Illustrations: enhance story, notable style	Style fits the mood of story, work is creative, original and eye-catching	Illustrations largely fit the story, some work better than others	Illustrations loosely fit the piece	Illustrations likely copied/traced	No illustrations



2024 WQLN PBS Kids Writers Contest Entry Form

Type or print legibly

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Child's Mailing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Child's School: _____

Circle Grade: Kindergarten 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade 5th Grade Sex: F M

TITLE OF STORY _____

Required word count range:

Grades K-1 minimum-50, maximum-200 | **Grades 2-3** minimum-100, maximum-350 | **Grades 4-5** minimum-150, maximum-550

Number of Words: _____ (The word count includes "a", "an", & "the".) Number of Illustrations: _____ (minimum of 5)

Only one entry per child • Only single author stories (no co-authors) • Story must be original work of the child • Original art can include drawings, collages, 3-D and photos taken by the author • Story may be fact or fiction, prose or poetry • Use only one side of the paper • Number each page on the back • Text must be printed/written legibly or typed • Children who can't write may dictate their story to be printed or typed • Invented spelling is accepted • Story text may be on pages with illustrations or on separate pages • Non-English text must be translated into English text on the same page and the translated English text must adhere to the word count • Word count includes "a", "an", and "the", but not words on nonstory pages, e.g., title page, or those that enhance illustrations.

ALL ENTRIES SUBMITTED BY EITHER A TEACHER OR PARENT MUST INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

WHEN THE ENTRY IS SUBMITTED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN: Your child will receive a certificate of participation along with their original story **if you include a self-addressed/postage paid envelope**. Or check "pick up certificate" below, to pick up your child's certificate & story at WQLN, 8425 Peach St., between June 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024. After June 30th, your child's story will be shredded.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

I acknowledge that I have read the Contest rules & regulations prior to signing this and that I understand the rules

Printed Parent/Guardian Name _____ Email address _____

☐ **Pick up certificate/story**

WHEN THE ENTRY IS SUBMITTED BY THE TEACHER: Complete the following information and your student will receive a certificate of participation, along with their original story. It will be mailed to you some time after **April 30, 2024**.

Teacher Signature _____ Email address: _____

Printed Name _____ School Name _____ Phone _____

School Mailing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Mail to or drop off entries at WQLN Public Media | Writers Contest | 8425 Peach Street | Erie, PA 16509

Entries accepted beginning January 2, 2024

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE ENTRIES: 5:00pm on March 28, 2024

For more information, contact Jennifer at (814) 217- 6015 or jallen@wqln.org

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