



2027 WQLN PBS Kids Writers Contest Rules

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines **(New Rules Highlighted Below)**

- Entrants must be children in grades K-5.
- 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 market 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.
- **Entries must be written on 8 1/2 X 11 white paper. Entries on smaller or larger paper will not be accepted.**
- **Entries must NOT be stapled, bound, or enclosed in folders, binders, report covers, or similar materials. All pages must be submitted loose and secured with a paper clip.**
- **Clearly print the student's name on the back of each page of the story.**
- 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, 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 the 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, **including printing the student's name on each page.**
- Stories containing violence, 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 allow 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 by a panel of judges selected by WQLN, who will use a rubric with the following categories: Originality, Creative Expression, Organization/Progression, Use of Language & Conventions, Illustrations. 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.

Return of Entries

The Contest administrators at WQLN are not required to return mailed entries. However, when the entry is accompanied by a stamped and self-addressed envelope of the appropriate size, it will be returned. WQLN 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 WQLN to use the participant's 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 copyright therein, become the sole property of WQLN. By entering, entrants' parent/legal guardian agrees to abide by the above-stated rules and warrant that their child's entry is their original work and does not infringe upon or violate the 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 time 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. If any applicable law requires certain formalities to be fulfilled to effectuate such a 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 the 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 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.



2027 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.

NEW: Stories must be written on 8 1/2 X 11 white paper (no construction paper). DO NOT USE staples, report covers, binders, or folders. Use a paperclip to bind the story and entry form. Print the child's name on the back of each page.

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 May 3, 2027, and May 31, 2027. After May 31, your child's story will be shredded.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

I acknowledge that I have read the Contest rules & regulations before 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 back to you between April and May.

Print Teacher Name: _____ Email address: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ School Name _____

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

Entries accepted beginning January 1, 2027

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE ENTRIES: 4:30 pm on March 31, 2027

For more information, contact Kathy at (814) 217-6001 or kwalters@wqln.org

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