



MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

The WVIA PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by WVIA (the "Contest" or "Promotion") and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest a concept developed by WNED. This Contest consists of one round of local judging. To enter the Contest, you may submit your Entry to WVIA, 100 WVIA Way, Pittston, PA 18640 or complete the submission form online (available at www.wvia.org) and attach your story to the submission form. All entries to WVIA Public Media must be received by April 19, 2026 to be eligible. These Contest rules are subject to modification by WVIA Public Media at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited. Sponsored and coordinated by WVIA located at 100 WVIA WAY, PITTSTON, PA 18640.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines:

- Entrants must be children in 1st -8th grade.
- Children of employees of WVIA, 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 fifty (50) United States and D.C 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 and all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- Only single author stories qualify (no co-authored stories).
- Stories can be prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification

Word Count Requirement:

- Short stories with illustrations must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- Short Stories without illustrations have a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 1,000 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.
- Inventive spelling is accepted.

Format and Illustrations:

- Stories with illustrations must have at least 5 original, clear, and colorful illustrations. Original art can include drawings, and collage 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 submitted online must be attached to the online submission form.
- Online submissions do not need to complete a written entry form.

Judging, Awards, & Notification:

All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by WVIA. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria as follows:

- Creativity & Originality — 20%
- Expression & Voice — 20%
- Structure & Flow — 20%
- Craft & Technique — 20%
- Overall Impact — 20%

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Winners will be as follows: the entry with the highest score from among all eligible entries in their category will be deemed the First Place winner; In the event of a tie, 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 after May 1, 2026.

Prizes:

One (1) First Place Winner Per Category will receive a WWIA Education ENGRAVED PLAQUE, WWIA reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of WWIA. Potential winners will be notified by WWIA on or about May 1, 2026, for winner verification. Prize recipients must allow a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks from notification to delivery. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable. The Contest administrators will not return mailed entries. WWIA 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 WWIA 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 copyrights therein, become the sole property of WWIA. By entering, entrant's parent/ legal guardian agrees 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.