



## Vermont PBS KIDS Writers Contest Rules 2017

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** The Vermont PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by Vermont PBS (the "Contest" or "Promotion") and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. The Contest begins on January 9, 2017, and ends with the announcement of winners on or about April 30, 2017. This Contest consists of one round of local judging. To enter the Contest you may submit your entry to PBS Kids Writers Contest, Vermont PBS, 204 Ethan Allen Avenue, Colchester, VT 05446. All entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2017 to be eligible. This Contest is void where prohibited. Sponsored and coordinated by Vermont PBS located at 204 Ethan Allen Avenue, Colchester, VT 05446.

### Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth or fifth grade.
- Children of employees of Vermont PBS, 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 Vermont. 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.

### 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 300 words and a maximum of 450.
- 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 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 Vermont PBS KIDS 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 to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of no fewer than 3 judges selected and coordinated by Vermont PBS. Judging will occur on or about April 21, 2017. The judging criteria and percentages 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. Winners will be notified on or about April 30, 2017.

### Prizes

There will be **1 First Place Winner and a Runner Up from each grade**. Prizes are the sole discretion of Vermont PBS. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at the sole discretion of Sponsor.

### 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. Vermont PBS 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 Vermont PBS 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 Vermont PBS. 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 Vermont PBS 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 Vermont PBS 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 Vermont PBS 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 Vermont PBS, 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. Vermont PBS 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. Vermont PBS are 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 by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Contest.