



Contest Rules

MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. The Austin PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced in Central Texas by Austin PBS (the "Contest" or "Promotion"). The Contest begins on January 1, 2020 and ends March 31, 2020 **[now extended to April 8, 2020]** with the announcement of local winners on or about May 10, 2020. This Contest consists of one round of judging. To enter the Contest for judging, you will need to submit your Entry to Austin PBS, KLRU-TV, P.O. Box 7158, Austin, TX 78713. These Contest rules are subject to modification by Austin PBS at their discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited. Sponsored by Austin PBS, KLRU-TV, P.O. Box 7158, Austin, TX 78713.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth or fifth 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.
- To be eligible, an entrant must be a resident of Austin PBS's 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 450 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.
- 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.
- Since all entries will be posted online, please do not include child's last name or picture to the story for security purposes.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official Austin 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 will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of judges from Austin PBS. The entry with the highest percentage in each grade from Austin PBS will be deemed the grand prize winner for that grade. Judging for Austin PBS's judging round of the Contest will occur on or about April 24th. The judging criteria and percentages used by our judges shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria as follows:

- Originality, scores 1-5
- Creative Expression, scores 1-5
- Organization/Progression, scores 1-5
- Use of Language & Conventions, scores 1-5
- Illustrations, scores 1-5

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 (3) the entry with the third to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Third Place winners. In the event of a tie for the judging round of the Contest, 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 May 10, 2020. All entries will be posted on the Contest Web site at kids.austinpbs.org/writers by May 10, 2020. 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 Austin PBS 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. Austin 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 Austin 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 Austin 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 Austin 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 Austin 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 Austin 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 Austin 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. Austin 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. Austin PBS 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 by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Contest. To understand how Austin PBS uses, stores, manages, and discards private information, visit the Austin PBS privacy policy at: <https://austinpbs.org/who-we-are/online-privacy-policy>.

Sponsor

Austin PBS, KLRU-TV, P.O. Box 7158, Austin, TX 78713