

Showcase Rules



ALL ENTRIES ARE PUBLISHED. SEVERAL WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

The Austin PBS KIDS Writers Showcase ("Showcase") is produced in Central Texas by Austin PBS ("Sponsor"). The Showcase begins on January 5, 2026 and ends March 31, 2026 with the announcement of local winners on or about May 1, 2026. This Showcase consists of one round of judging. To enter the Showcase for judging, you will need to submit your Entry to Austin PBS. Electronic entries **must be in pdf form** and can be submitted via austinpbs.org/writers or austinpbs.org/escritores. Stories can be submitted by US mail to: Austin PBS Writers Showcase, PO Box 143626 Austin, TX 78714. Mailed stories must include a printed and filled Entry Form. These Showcase rules are subject to modification by Austin PBS at their discretion. This Showcase is void where prohibited. Sponsored by Austin PBS, PO Box 143626 Austin, TX 78714.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children currently attending Kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth or fifth grade, or homeschooled within those grades.
- Children of employees of Austin PBS, other 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 within 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 Showcase; 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.
- Stories cannot include violent or graphic content.
- Any failure to adhere to these Showcase Rules may result in disqualification from the Showcase.
- 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 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 and/or collages created by the author, or photographs taken by the author.
- Stories must be created on one side of the paper and each page should be clearly numbered.
- Paper size: 8 1/2 by 11 inches.
- Since all entries will be posted online, please **do not include the child's last name or picture or school name in the story for safety purposes.**
- PDF only, no JPEGs or other file formats.
- 15 Mb maximum upload size.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official Austin PBS KIDS Writers Showcase 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 Showcase, confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials.
- The entry form must be complete, legible, and adhering to all rules in order to be eligible to be judged/published.

Judging, Awards & Notification

Entries that meet eligibility shall be scored using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- 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 entries that meet eligibility will be judged by a panel of judges selected by Austin PBS. The entry with the highest score in each grade will be deemed the First Place Winner for that grade, the second highest score in each grade will be deemed the Second Place Winner for that grade, and the third highest score in each grade will be deemed the Third Place Winner for that grade. In the event of a numerical tie, the entry with the highest score in the creativity and originality category among the tying entries will be given the highest place.

Judging of entries in the Austin PBS Writers Showcase will occur on or about April 13, 2026. All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review.

Winners will be notified on or before May 1, 2026. All entries will be posted on the Showcase website at austinpbs.org/writers by April 13, 2026.

Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at the sole discretion of Sponsor.

Return of Entries

The Showcase 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. Physical entries can also be picked up at Austin PBS offices by contacting education@klru.org. 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 Showcase 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 the participant, agrees to be bound by these Showcase 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 Showcase 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 Showcase 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 Showcase.

Privacy

Unless otherwise specified, any and all information connected in connection with this Showcase will be used by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Showcase. 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, PO Box 143626 Austin, TX 78714