



2017 PBS39 KIDS Writers Contest – Overview

(Dates subject to change)

History

The competition began in 1995 as the Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, relaunching in 2009 as the PBS KIDS Go! Writers Contest.

Each year, hundreds of PBS member stations across the county offer the contest to viewers in grades K-3. PBS39 is proud to be part of this network of stations, working with schools and libraries to inspire a love of reading, writing, and creativity in children.

Local Contest (January 1, 2017 – April 28, 2017)

- Schools and libraries from the area agree to participate as Local Entry Points.
 - Complete and return Entry Point Registration Form by December 16, 2016.
 - These locations will be listed on the PBS39 website.
- Participating locations conduct local contest with their students, using the following materials from PBS39*:
 - 8.5x11 and 11x17 promotional posters
 - Individual entry forms
 - Judging score sheets
 - Participation certificates
 - Official rules and timeline
 - Classroom/workshop activity sheets
- Schools can request a visit from Ryder and PBS39 to kickoff their contest.
- Libraries can host their own workshops with the contest materials, or invite PBS39 to lead a workshop at the library.
- All stories must be submitted to a Local Entry Point by Monday, April 17, 2017.
- Local Entry Points will use the judging score sheets and 3-5 judges to select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner from each grade.
 - NOTE: Schools can choose to judge by classroom OR grade level.
- Local Entry Points will send FIRST PLACE stories from each grade to PBS39 for regional judging.
- **PBS39 must receive all first place stories by Friday, April 28, 2017 at 5:00pm.**

Updated 10/10/2016

Regional Contest (May 2016)

- Regional judging will take place at PBS39 on or before Friday, May 19.
- After judging, all participants will be notified.
- Those who did not win will receive their stories back via mail.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from each grade, along with their families and teachers, will be invited to a special winners' ceremony at PBS39 to celebrate their accomplishments.
- The first place story in each grade will be uploaded to the PBS39 website as a PDF.
- The first place winners will be invited to the PBS39 studios. Our production team will record them reading their stories for spots on our main channel (39.1) and kids channel (39.2).

Overview of Rules

- Participating students must be in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade.
- Each entry must include the official PBS39 KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form.*
- One entry per student.
- Stories can be fact or fiction, and prose or poetry.
- Word count requirements:
 - Kindergarten-First Grade: min. 50 words; max. 200 words
 - Second-Third Grade: min. 100 words; max. 350 words
- Each story must have at least 5 original illustrations.
 - Drawings, collages, and photographs taken by the author are accepted.
- Judging criteria (as indicated on the Judging Score Sheets*):
 - 40% Creativity and originality of plot and/or themes;
 - 40% Story structure and use of literary devices;
 - 20% Relevance, quality and originality of illustrations.

**All official PBS39 KIDS Writers Contest materials will be distributed to Local Entry Points after the December 16th registration deadline.*

To request a Local Entry Point Registration Form, email educationoutreach@wfw.org.