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### Winners of 2017 Houston Public Media PBS KIDS Writers Contest announced

*Four local children in grades K-3 from **Houston, Sugar Land, Missouri City and Fresno** win first-place*

**HOUSTON – (May 13, 2017)** – Thirty-one local children from grades K-3 were named finalists in the 2017 Houston Public Media PBS KIDS Writers Contest, which offers children the experience of writing and illustrating their own book. This year marks the 21st year for this annual literary competition, with nearly 500 local children submitting their work. The first-place winners from each grade and their story titles are:

- **Kindergarten – Aizah Ali (Fresno) – “A Red Cat Finds Her Family”**
- **First Grade – Munir Moore (Missouri City) – “The Tall Oak Tree”**
- **Second Grade – Vrishni Venkata Krishnan (Sugar Land) – “The Lonely Pine Tree”**
- **Third Grade – Priya Sekhri (Houston) – “Diary of a Lunchbox”**

All 31 finalists were honored with medals during an awards ceremony at The Children’s Museum, which was attended by the children’s families and teachers. The first-place winners read their stories to the audience and received a special trophy. This year’s special guest speaker was **Deborah “D.E.E.P.” Mouton, Houston’s Poet Laureate**, who offered words of encouragement to the children at the ceremony.

“We are so proud of all the young authors who participated this year,” said Josh Adams, executive director of operations at Houston Public Media. “It’s an honor for Houston Public Media to organize and host this event because this activity promotes the advancement of children’s literacy and expands kids’ imagination, their confidence and writing skills. Thank you to all the teachers, librarians, school staff and parents who continue to inspire these young authors on a daily basis.”

For a complete list of local finalists, visit [www.houstonpublicmedia.org/writerscontest](http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/writerscontest).

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### **About Houston Public Media**

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