



## Houston Public Media PBS KIDS Writers Contest Rules 2020

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** The HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA PBS KIDS Writers Contest (the "Contest" or "Promotion") is produced by HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. To enter the Contest submit your Entry to HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA, Attn: Writers Contest, 4343 Elgin Street, Houston, TX 77204-0008. All entries must be postmarked by March 18, 2020 or received in person by March 18, 2020 to be eligible. These Contest rules are subject to modification by HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited.

### Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be in kindergarten, first, second or third grade.
- Children of employees of HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA, 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 Texas. 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.

### Word Count and Text Format

- 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.
- 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 can be written or typed.
- Children who cannot write may dictate their story to an adult who will write or type.
- Text can 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 (best guess spelling) is accepted.

### Illustrations

- Stories must have at least 5 original illustrations.
- Original art can include drawings, collages, pop-ups, and painting created by the author or photographs taken by the author. Illustrations need to be the child's own, original work.

### Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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

All decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal or review. All entries will be judged using the criteria of originality, creative expression, storytelling, illustrations, and over all impression. Some things that make a story special include colorful art; a unique story; a story with a good beginning, middle and end; illustrations that match the story; attention to detail; and following the contest rules.

### Awards

**Four (4) First Place Winners** One (1) First Place Winner Per Grade – Winners' stories will be published on Houston Public Media's website. Winners and their families will be invited to a special celebration. Winners will receive a Prize Bag. Note: There is no national contest in 2020. The First Place Winners do not advance to a higher level of competition. **Finalists** Thirty (30) Finalists and their families, will be invited to a special celebration. **Participants** (All) participants will receive a certificate. Houston Public Media reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of Houston Public Media. Potential winners will be notified by Sponsor on or about May 1<sup>st</sup> for winner verification. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferrable, 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 mailed entries only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of an *appropriate* size. HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail. Certificates and stories will be returned to home addresses if they are individual entries, and to schools if they are school entries.

### Rights Associated with Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant's parent/legal guardian for HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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 HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA. By entering, entrant's 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 HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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 HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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 HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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 HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA and PBS/WNED, 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. HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA 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. HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA and PBS/WNED are not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

**Privacy:** To understand how HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA uses, stores, manages and discards private information, visit the HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA privacy policy at <http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/about/privacy-policy/>.

**Sponsor:** HOUSTON PUBLIC MEDIA, 4343 Elgin Street, Houston, TX 77204-0008, [www.houstonpublicmedia.org/writerscontest](http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/writerscontest)