



2024 WETA PBS Kids Writers Contest Rules

The WETA PBS KIDS Writers Contest is sponsored by WETA. The Contest begins January 17, 2024 and ends with the announcement of winners no later than June 15, 2024. **To enter the Contest, please do one of the following:**

- Email a completed 2024 WETA PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form with your story submission to writerscontest@weta.org by April 8, 2024, or
- Mail a completed 2024 WETA PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form with your story submission to WETA, 3939 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, VA 22206. All entries must be postmarked by April 8, 2024 to be eligible.

1. NO PLEDGE OR DONATION NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. ALL FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

2. Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

Children of employees of WETA, NewsHour Productions LLC, and PBS, and any subsidiaries or parent companies, are not eligible. To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of the District of Columbia, Maryland or Northern Virginia.

- **All entries must be legible, complete and accompanied by an official entry form signed by the Entrant's parent or legal guardian.**
- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third grade, or fourth grade.
- 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 fiction or non-fiction, and prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.

3. Official Entry Form

- Entries can be submitted one of two ways:
 - 1) Scanning and emailing entries to writerscontest@weta.org, or
 - 2) Sending or dropping off the entries at the WETA headquarters mailroom. If you choose this option, entries must be on one side of the page with numbers on each page.
- Each mailed or scanned entry must be accompanied by the official WETA PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form found at www.weta.org/write, with the required signature of a parent/guardian (and, if appropriate, the optional signature of the sponsoring teacher), consenting to allowing the Entrant 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.

4. Story Requirements

- All entered stories must begin with the opening sentence "A day at my favorite place..."

- Kindergarten stories must have a minimum of 30 words and a maximum of 100 words.
- First grade stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Second, third, and fourth grade stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- The word count includes short words such as “a,” “an,” and “the,” but not the words on non-story pages such as the title page or those words that enhance the illustrations.
- Stories can be typed or handwritten; children who cannot write on their own may dictate their story to be printed or typed.
- Text may be integrated into the illustration pages or on separate pages.
- Stories must have English language content; Non-English language text must be translated on the same page and the English Language text must adhere to the word count restrictions.
- Invented spelling is accepted.
- All stories must have an original title

5. Format & Illustrations

- Stories must have at least 5 original illustrations.
- Original art can include drawings, collages, or photographs taken by the author. All art must be original, created by the Entrant.
- Stories must be written or printed on one side of each sheet of paper and page numbers must appear on each page.

6. Judging, Awards & Notification

All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged on creativity, originality, clarity, story structure and illustrations. All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. 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 with the second to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Second Place winners; and (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, 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 no later than June 15. Inability to reach prize winner after reasonable efforts (as determined solely by WETA) may result in disqualification and an alternate winner may be selected. Winners may waive their right to receive a prize.

7. Prizes

All children submitting an eligible entry will receive an acknowledgement of their achievement.

Five (5) First Place Winners (One (1) First Place Winner Per Grade) - Child's Story published as hardcover book (approximate retail value ("ARV") \$60); Wireless Mini Karaoke Machine (ARV \$31); Illustration Activity Book (ARV \$13).

Five (5) Second Place Winners (One (1) Second Place Winner Per Grade) - Art Case (ARV \$47).

Five (5) Third Place Winners (One (1) Third Place Winner Per Grade) - K and 1st grade DIY Story Making Set (ARV \$35), 2nd and 3rd Grade The Storymatic Kids Game (ARV \$30) and 4th grade Tall Tales Story Telling Board Game (\$30).

Teacher Prize – Any teacher who submits one (1) or more stories from their class will be **entered to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card**. One (1) Amazon Gift Card (ARV \$100) will be awarded per contest.

School Prize – The area school with the most contest entries submitted will get a free classroom library of books.

WETA reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of WETA. Prize recipients must allow a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks from notification to delivery. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at WETA's sole discretion.

8. Odds

Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received.

9. 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. WETA is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail.

10. Sponsor

The WETA PBS KIDS Writers Contest is sponsored by WETA, whose decisions regarding the selection of winners and all other aspects of the contest shall be final and binding in all respects. WETA will not be responsible for typographical, printing or other inadvertent errors in these Official Contest Rules or in other materials relating to the contest. WETA will not be responsible for incomplete, illegible, lost, late, or misdirected entries or for failure to receive entries due to transmission failures or technical failures of any kind, including, without limitation, malfunctioning of any network, hardware or software, whether originating with sender or WETA. WETA does not guarantee that duplicate entries will be invalidated. WETA reserves the right to disqualify any entries by persons determined to be tampering with or abusing any aspect of the Contest. If you have any questions regarding this contest, please contact WETA, 3939 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, VA 22206.

11. Limitations of Liability

By entering the contest, entrant agrees that (1) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the contest, or any prizes awarded, shall be resolved individually without resort to any form of class action; (2) any claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering the contest, but in no event attorney's fees; and (3) under no circumstances will any entrant be permitted to obtain any award for, and entrant hereby waives all rights to claim, punitive, incidental or consequential damages and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased and any other damages, other than damages for actual out-of-pocket expenses.

12. Construction

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Contest Rules, or the rights and obligations of any contestant and WETA, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Virginia, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions (whether of Virginia, or any other jurisdiction) that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Virginia. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these rules shall not affect the invalidity or unenforceability of any other provision. In the event that any such provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, these rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or unenforceable provision was not contained therein.

13. General Release

By entering the contest, contestants release WETA and its respective affiliated companies, directors, officers, employees, representatives, partners and agents from any liability whatsoever for any claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the contest or with the acceptance, possession or use of any prize (including, without limitation, claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages related to personal injuries, death, damage to, loss or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation or portrayal in a false light).

14. Rights Associated with Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the Entrant's parent/legal guardian for WETA to use the Entrant's 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. All entries, and any copyrights therein, become the sole property of WETA. By entering, Entrant's parent/legal guardian agrees to abide by the above stated rules, and warrant that the Entrant's entry is Entrant's original work and does not infringe upon or violate rights of any third party. Entrant's parent/legal guardian grants to WETA the right to edit, publish, promote, and otherwise use Entrant's 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 Entrant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the Entrant, agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and Entry Form to WETA and warrants that the Entrant's parent/legal guardian has the authority to assign such right, title, and interest. By submitting an Entry Form, each Entrant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of participant, agrees to be bound by these Contest Rules. Each Entrant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to release and hold WETA, 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. WETA 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. WETA is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

15. Privacy

Unless otherwise specified, any and all information in connection with this Contest will be used by WETA solely for the purpose of administering the Contest. To understand how WETA uses, stores, manages and discards private information, visit the WETA privacy policy at (<http://www.weta.org/privacy>).