Writers’ Guide
Grades K-5

Use this activity booklet to write or draw a GREAT STORY!

For more information contact:
Education@wvpublic.org
Or visit our webpage at wvpublic.org/writerscontest
PBS KIDS Writers Contest

The basic rules:

• Entrants must be in grades K-5
• Only single author entries.
• Only one story per person
• Stories can be fact or fiction, prose or poetry

Word Count: We take this seriously.

• Kindergarten and 1st grade  min. 50 to max 200 words
• 2nd and 3rd grade         min. 100 to max 350 words
• 4th and 5th grade         min. 150 to max 550 words

Format: Be sure to follow directions.

• Text must be printed/written legibly or typed
• If you cannot write you may dictate your story to someone who can.
• Stories must have 5 original, clear and colorful illustrations done by the author.
• Artwork may include drawings, collages, 3D art and photos taken by the author.
• Number the pages!

Official Entry Form:

• Each entry must include a complete and legible official entry form. Judging: Stories that do not follow Contest rules will be disqualified.

Judging will occur in Mid-April and will use the following rubric.

• 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 decisions of the judges are final. Prizes will be awarded to first through third place at each grade level.

Mail entries by March 31 to:

WVPB Writers contest * 600 Capitol Street * Charleston, WV 25301
BRAINSTORMING – Get Ready to Write!

Brainstorming is a way to come up with new and different ideas.

• If you could write a story about anything what would it be?
• Who are the characters, places or events that will be in the story?
• List or draw your story ideas in the box below.
• Circle the idea you want to use in your story!
### Beginning – Middle - End

- All stories have a beginning, middle and an end.
- Write down or draw how you want the story to start, what happens during the story, and how it will end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Begin to write!
Write sentences for your story.

Beginning

Middle

End
Illustrations

Pictures are important in a story, they show things that aren’t in the words of the story and can add funny, happy, sad or scary feelings to the story. Pictures can have captions. Captions are words under the picture to connect the picture to the story. Practice drawing pictures and writing captions.

A bright sunny day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Picture:</th>
<th>Caption:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Draw 3 illustrations you want to use with your story and give each a caption.
Time to Write!
It’s time to write your story and add the illustrations.
Get some paper and start to write.

Revising

When you finish writing use the checklist below to review your work. You may want to have a teacher or other adult help with this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does my story have a title?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does my story have good strong characters?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does my story explain the action taking place?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does my story have a good conclusion?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do my sentences make sense?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did I check my story for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do my illustrations help readers understand and enjoy my story?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did I follow all Contest Rules?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have answered “yes” to all the questions you are ready to enter your story in the West Virginia Public Broadcasting PBS Writers Contest!
Notes to Teacher or Parent

Prior to beginning the writing process carefully review the Contest Rules. Pay particular attention to the guidelines for word count, page numbering, and illustration expectations.

Brainstorming is intended to help students start to form ideas for potential stories. It provides a blank page to freely develop ideas through word and illustration. Encourage students to suggest ideas for characters, places, or events that will be in the story.

Beginning – Middle – End is intended to help students develop their story ideas and work on characters, plot/story structure, climax/resolution, and setting.

Let the Story Writing Begin is intended to help students write a first draft of their story. Students may want to use the Revising rubric at this point as a formative assessment.

Illustrations provides an opportunity for students to make thoughtful, engaging illustrations they want to use with their story and give practice in writing captions. Encourage students to pick words and phrases from their stories they want to illustrate. You may want to show students picture books and ask them to explain how the illustrations enhance the understanding of the story.

Time to Write – Students actually write and illustrate their story now. Review the Contest Rules with students periodically to make sure they are following guidelines.

Revising provides the students with an opportunity to review and revise their work prior to submitting the final product. Once a student has checked yes as their answer to each question they should be able to submit their contest entry.
Judging, Awards & Notification

Official Entry Form

Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.

Format & Illustrations

Stories submitted by mail must be created on one side of the paper and numbered on the back of each page.

Kindergarten and first grade stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 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 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.

Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translated text (English text) must adhere to word count.

Invented spelling is accepted.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

-Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth or fifth grade.
-Children of employees of LOCAL STATION, sales representatives, subsidiaries or parent companies, advertising/sales promotion agencies, and judges are not eligible.
-To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of the fifty (50) United States and D.C. 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.
-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 500 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 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.
-Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translated text (English text) must adhere to word count.
-Invented spelling is accepted.

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 500 words.
- The text must be printed or written legibly 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.
- Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translated text (English text) must adhere to word count.
- Invented spelling is accepted.

Format & Illustrations

- Stories must have at least 5 original, clear and colorful illustrations.
- Original art can include drawings, collages, and 3-D created by the author or photographs taken by the author.
- Stories submitted by mail must be created on one side of the paper and numbered on the back of each page.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB 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, Awards & Notification

- All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of no fewer than 3 judges selected and coordinated by WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB. Judging will occur on or about April 10th. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria as follows: 40% Creativity and originality of plot and/or themes, 40% Story structure and use of literary devices, 20% Relevance, quality and originality of illustration. 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 the second to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Second Place winners (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 on or before April 31.

Prizes

- Six (6) First Place Winners (One (1) First Place Winner per grade - Six (6) Second Place Winners (One (1) Second Place winner per grade). Six (6) Third Place Winners (One (1) Third Place winner per grade). Six (6) Honorable Mention (One (1) Honorable Mention winner per grade). WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB reserve the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB. Potential winners will be notified by Sponsor on or about April 30th, for winner verification. 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 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.
- WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, and WVPB, and WPS/WNED 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED and to 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and/or PBS/WNED 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 WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED, and its employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, representatives, subsidiaries, parent companies, and 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. WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED reserve 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. WQED, WPSU, PBS39, WVPB and PBS/WNED are not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

Privacy: Unless otherwise specified, any and all information connected in connection with this Contest will be used by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Contest.

Sponsor: WQED 4802 Fifth Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
Entries MUST be postmarked by March 31st of Contest year.