



# 2026 Vegas PBS KIDS Writers Contest Presented by Janice Allen Entry Form

The 2026 Vegas PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by Vegas PBS

Type or print legibly:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Sex: F M

Title of Story \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Words \_\_\_\_\_ Word count range: Kindergarten–Grade 1 minimum 50, maximum 200

(The word count includes "a," "an," and "the.") Grade 2 minimum 100, maximum 350

Grade 3 minimum 100, maximum 450

Number of Illustrations \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of 5) Grades 4–5 minimum 100, maximum 550

Only one entry per child • Entrants must reside in Southern Nevada (Clark, Nye, White Pine, or Lincoln counties) • Only single-author stories (no co-authors or artificial intelligence assistance) • Story MUST be original work of the child • Original art can include drawings, collages, 3-D, and photos • Photos MUST be taken by the author • Photos should NOT include images of the author • Story may be fact or fiction, prose or poetry • Use only one side of the paper • Number each page on the back • Text must be printed/written legibly or typed • Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed or typed • In Kindergarten–Grade 2, invented spelling is accepted • In Grades 3–5, spelling and conventions are part of the scoring rubric • Story text may be on pages with illustrations or on separate pages • Non-English text must be translated into English text on the same page and the translated English text must adhere to the word count • Word count includes "a," "an," and "the" but not words on nonstory pages (e.g., title page) or those that enhance illustrations

I acknowledge that I have read the contest rules and regulations prior to signing this and that I understand the rules.

## Required:

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address, if different than the above address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional for School-Related Entry:

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for receipt of entries is:  
Friday, March 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Please mail to:  
Vegas PBS Ready To Learn  
3050 E. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89121  
Or email story and entry form to: [jrussell@vegaspbs.org](mailto:jrussell@vegaspbs.org)





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## Rules 2026

**MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by Vegas PBS (the "Contest" or "Promotion") and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. The contest begins on or about January 1, 2026, and ends March 13, 2026. This contest consists of local judging only; no national competition is being held in 2026. To enter the contest for local judging, you may submit your entry to Vegas PBS at 3050 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121. All entries must be received by Friday, March 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible. This contest is void where prohibited.

### Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in Kindergarten–Grade 5.
- Entrants must reside in Southern Nevada (Clark, Nye, White Pine, or Lincoln counties).
- Children of employees of Vegas PBS, PBS stations, or their affiliates, sales representatives, subsidiaries, or parent companies, advertising/sales promotion agencies, and judges are not eligible.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted in this contest; all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- Only single-author stories (no co-authors or artificial intelligence assistance).
- Story may be fact or fiction, prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these contest rules may result in disqualification from the contest.
- No purchase is necessary. Many will enter, few will win.

### Word Count Requirement

- Kindergarten and Grade 1 stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Grade 2 stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- Grade 3 stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 450 words.
- Grades 4–5 stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 550 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 or typed.
- Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed 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 the word count.
- In Kindergarten–Grade 2, invented spelling is accepted. In Grades 3–5, spelling and conventions are part of the scoring rubric.

### Format and 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. Photos should NOT include images of 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 Vegas 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 allow 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, and Notification

All entries submitted will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of judges from each local PBS station. The entry with the highest percentage in each grade will be deemed the grand prize winner for that grade. Judging for Vegas PBS will occur on the dates as set forth by Vegas PBS, or on or about April 2026. Stories will be scored using a rubric based on the following:

- 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; 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 in May 2026. Each local winner's name and/or entry may be posted on the contest website at <http://www.vegaspbs.org/writers-contest/> in 2026.

### Return of Entries

The contest administrators at local stations 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. PBS, and/or its affiliates, are 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/guardian for Vegas PBS to use the participant's name, likeness, biographical information, and 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 Vegas PBS. By entering, entrants' parent/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 Vegas PBS 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/guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and entry form to Vegas PBS and warrants that the participant's parent/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/guardian) agrees to cooperate with Vegas PBS to achieve fulfillment of such formalities. By submitting an entry form, each participant's parent/guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to be bound by these contest rules. Each participant's parent/guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to release and hold Vegas PBS 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. Vegas PBS 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. Vegas PBS is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the contest.