

2026 PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY

Rotary
Club of Reno



PBS Reno Writers Contest Rules 2026

Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

- The contest is open to students in grades K-3 in Nevada and northeastern California.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted in the contest.
- Only single author stories qualify (no co-authored stories).
- Stories can be fact or fiction, and prose or poetry.
- All stories must be received by March 13, 2026 to be eligible for the 2026 competition.
- Any failure to adhere to these contest rules may result in disqualification from the contest.
- No purchase is necessary.

Word Count Requirement

- Kindergarten stories must have a minimum of 25 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- First grade stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Second grade stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- Third grade stories must have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- The word count includes "a," "an," and "the," but not the words on the title page or those that enhance the illustrations.
- Text must be printed, written legibly, or typed.
- Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed, written legibly, or typed.
- Invented spelling is accepted.

Format and Illustrations

- Stories must have at least five original and clear illustrations.
- Original art can include drawings, collages, or photographs taken by the author.
- All stories received must include a title page with the story title; on the back the author's first name and last initial, grade level, school's name, and word count.
- Stories submitted by mail or hand delivered to PBS Reno must include an entry form found on pbsreno.org/writerscontest.
- Stories must be written on one side of the paper with page numbers on the back.
- Illustrations may be integrated into the text pages or on separate pages.
- PBS Reno will provide story paper for contestants as requested.

Official Entry and Consent Form

- Sponsoring teachers must attach a teacher entry form for their student stories.
- Winning stories are required to include the official PBS Reno Writers Contest Consent Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian allowing their child/ward to participate in the Contest.
- All entry and consent forms must be legible.

Judging, Awards, and Notification

A first place, second place, and third place winner will be selected per grade level. All entries submitted in the Contest will be judged by a panel of judges from PBS Reno. All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Winners will be notified and need to complete the PBS Reno Writers Contest Consent Form before prizes are awarded.

Rights

From time of submission, entries become the exclusive property of PBS Reno and may not be returned. Any and all rights in the winning entries shall be PBS Reno's exclusive property.

