

2026

PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY

Rotary

Club of Reno



**“Todd the Turtle”
by Sophia**



PBS Reno

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THE WINNERS!

KINDERGARTEN

- 1st Place: "A Broken Toilet" by Caisey**
Coral Academy of Science Elementary
- 2nd Place: "Perrito" by Daenerys**
Coral Academy of Science Elementary
- 3rd Place: "My Mom" by Tinsley**
Nancy Gomes Elementary School

FIRST GRADE

- 1st Place: "A Special Power" by Sadie**
Individual Entry
- 2nd Place: "Rocky the Special Rock Star!" by Ferguson**
Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada
- 3rd Place: "Lost Ball" by Enzo**
JWood Raw Elementary School

SECOND GRADE

- 1st Place: "Mom's Bhindi Masala" by Srialia**
Coral Academy of Science Elementary
- 2nd Place: "Martin Saved the World" by Emmett**
Brown Elementary School
- 3rd Place: "The Amazing Baker Lilly" by Lilly**
Caughlin Ranch Elementary School

THIRD GRADE

- 1st Place: "Todd the Turtle" by Sophia**
Westergard Elementary School
- 2nd Place: "The Story of Special" by Zoey**
Westergard Elementary School
- 3rd Place: "Special Difference" by Charlie**
Hunsberger Elementary School





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PBS member station, PBS Reno, serving northern Nevada and northeastern California, is proud to host the PBS Reno Writers Contest.

Few things capture a child's imagination like a good book. PBS Reno Writers Contest invites children, kindergarten through third grade, in communities across our area to use their boundless imaginations to create original stories and illustrations and then submit them to PBS Reno, their local PBS station.

This year, thousands of children from across northern Nevada and northeastern California participated in the PBS Reno Writers Contest, building their creative voices, and developing critical reading and writing skills.

Visit pbsreno.org/writerscontest to find out more about the contest, read the winning stories and watch the winners announce their stories.



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THIRD GRADE: 1st Place

“Todd the Turtle”
by Sophia

Westergard
Elementary School



Todd the Turtle



Once upon a time, a turtle named Todd was not special. He only had three friends named Tim, Tom, and Tad. One day, Todd tumbled into the palace and Princess Ella gave him a magic wand because he wished to be



Once upon a time, a turtle named Todd was not special. He only had three friends named Tim, Tom, and Tad. One day Todd tumbled into the palace and Princess Ella gave him a magic wand because he wished to be

more special. He could only use the wand once. When he was back at his house, Todd said, "Magic, magic, magical wand make me the most special one in the pond." He got flower prints on his shell. He tried swimming



more special. He could only use the wand once. When he was back at his house, Todd said "Magic magic, magical wand make me the most special one in this pond." He got flower prints on his shell. He tried swimming

faster, he tried controlling the water, and he tried to teleport, but he could not do any of that.

He went to bed. Todd had a dream about swimming in the ocean. When he woke up, he was in the ocean.



faster, he tried controlling the
water, and he tried to teleport,
but he could not do any of that.
He went to bed. Todd had a dream
about swimming in the ocean. When
he woke up, he was in the ocean.

Todd asked if there was a way back to his pond, but nobody knew what a pond was. A fish named Carl showed him the way to a hotel. Todd spent the day shopping, eating at different restaurants, and playing at



Todd asked if there was a way back to his pond, but nobody knew what a pond was. A fish named Carl showed him the way to a hotel. Todd spent the day shopping, eating at different restaurants, and playing at

different parks. That night he dreamed about swimming in an aquarium. Todd woke up in an aquarium. An octopus said, "Hello! My name is Charlie. What is your name?" "My name is Todd. Do you know how to get back to



different parks. That night he dreamed about swimming in an aquarium. Todd woke up in an aquarium. An octopus said, "Hello! My name is Charlie. What is your name?" "My name is Todd. Do you know how to get back to

my pond?" Todd said.
The octopus said, "What is
a pond? You cannot go.
The aquarium is closing.
You will have to sleep here."
Before Todd went to sleep,
he figured out what his power
was. It was to have a dream



my pond?" Todd said. The octopus
said, "What is a pond? You cannot
go. The aquarium is closing you will
have to sleep here." Before Todd
went to sleep, he figured out what
his power was. It was to have a dream

and it will come true.
Todd tried to dream about his
pond, but he could not.
Instead, Todd was having dreams
about streams, lakes, and rivers.
One day, Todd daydreamed
about home. In an instant,
there was a flash of light



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about streams, lakes, and rivers. One
day, Todd daydreamed about home. In
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He was at his house and found Tim and his little siblings outside. Tim asked, "Where were you?" Todd said, "It does not matter. What matters is getting rid of my powers." The princess gladly removed his powers. Todd had realized



He was at his house and found Tim and his little siblings outside. Tim asked, "Where were you?" Todd said, "It does not matter. What matters is getting rid of my powers. The princess gladly removed his powers. Todd had realized

that he was special enough just
the way he was.

The end.



that he was special enough, just
the way he was. The end.