

2026

PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY

Rotary

Club of Reno



**“Mom’s Bhindi Masala”
by Srialia**

 **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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WRITERS CONTEST

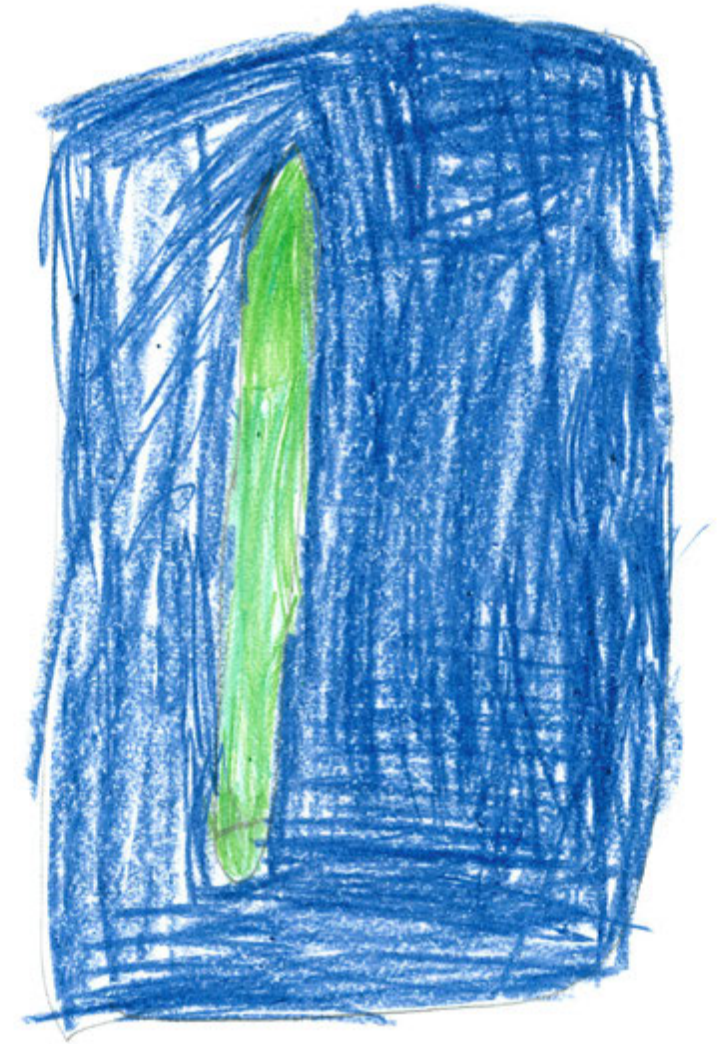
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SECOND GRADE: 1st Place

“Mom’s Bhindi Masala”
by Sriala

Coral Academy of Science
Elementary

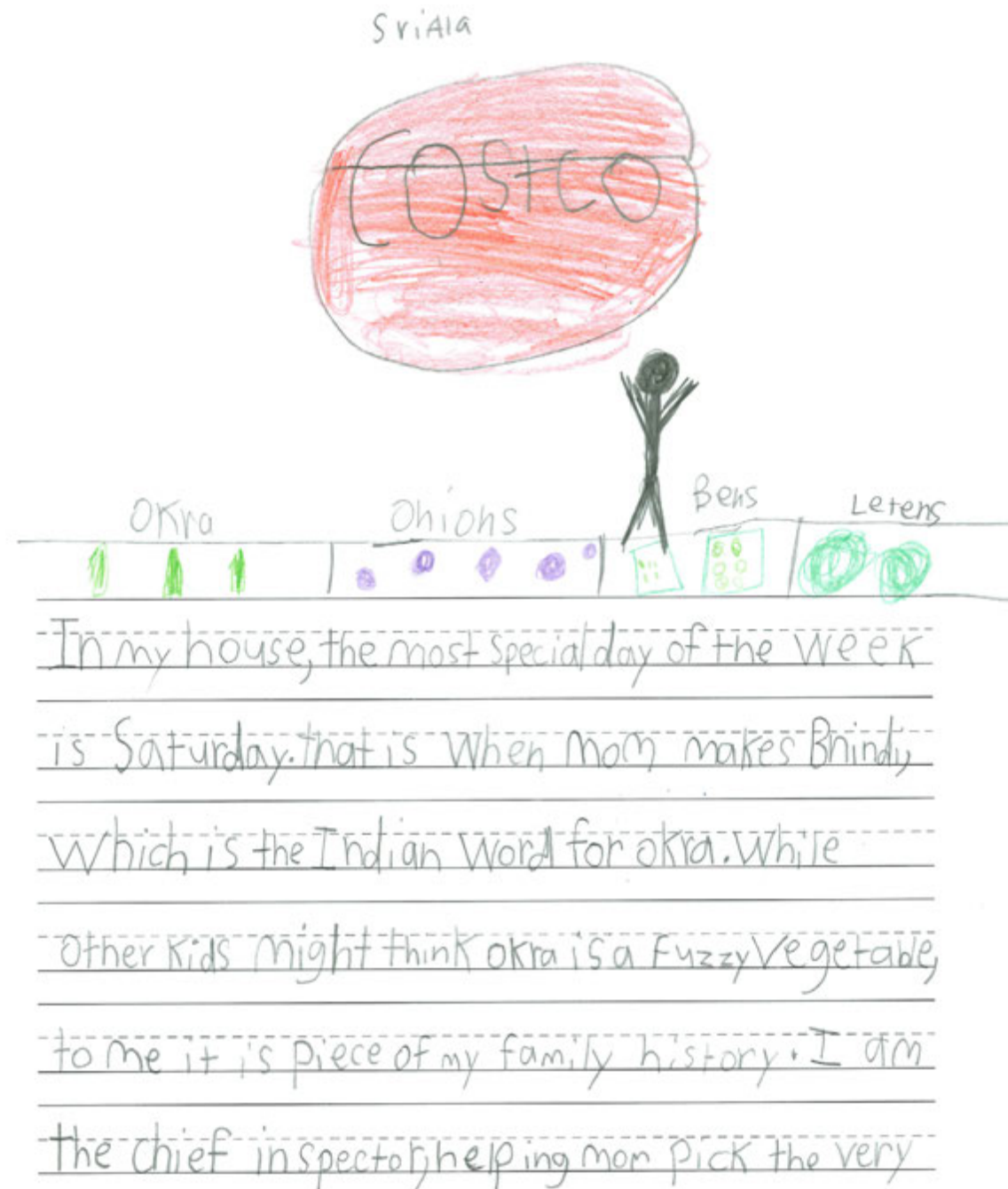




MOM'S BINDI Masala

by: SriAa

In my house, the most special day of the week is Saturday. That is when Mom makes Bhindi, which is the Indian word for okra. While other kids might think okra is a fuzzy vegetable, to me it is a piece of my family history. I am the chief inspector, helping mom pick the very



best ones. We wash the okra and dry them so they stay crunchy. Then we chop them into tiny pieces of green stars. I sprinkle with turmeric. My hands turn into gold. Shiny gold! Mom says these spices are magic dust that makes our food healthy and delicious. Next is tadka. This is an Indian



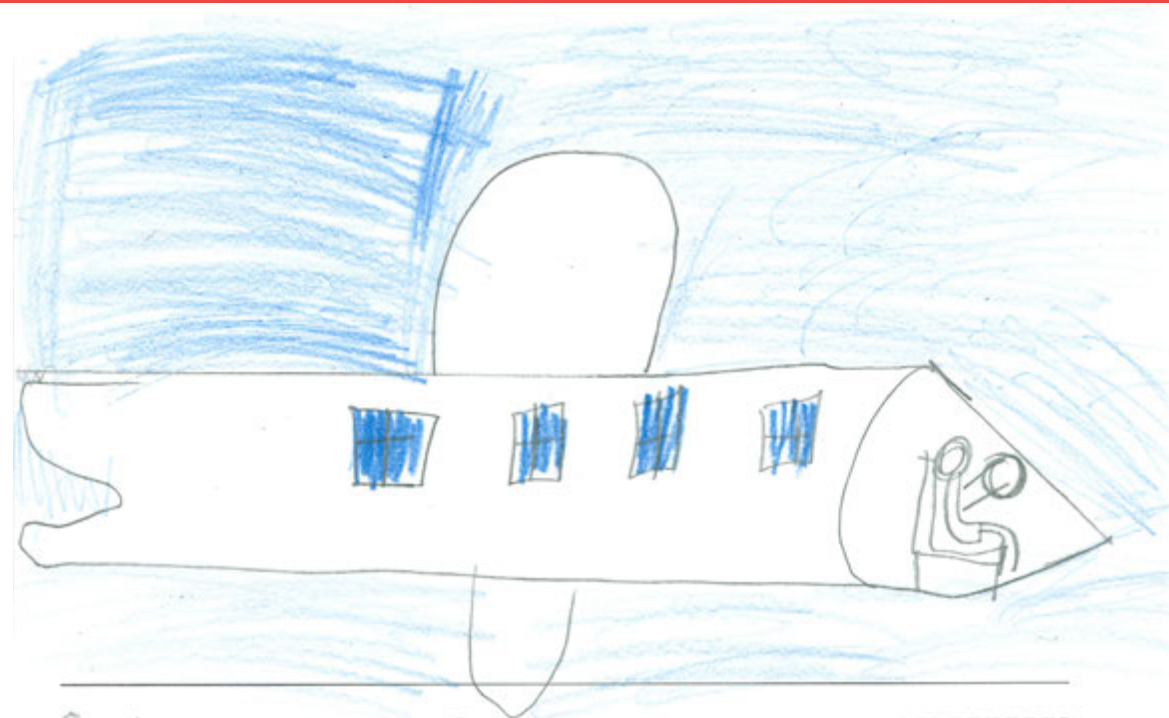
best ones. We wash the okra and dry them so they stay crunchy. Then we chop them into tiny piece of green stars. I sprinkle with turmeric. My hands turn into gold. Shiny gold! Mom says these spices are magic dust that makes our food healthy and delicious. Next is tadka. This is an Indian

cooking trick where we drop seeds into hot oil. They pop like tiny firecrackers in the pan. When the okra stars hit the oil, they make a loud hiss! The kitchen fills with a warm smoke. Sounds like my tummy is doing a happy dance. While the golden stars are



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cooking, mom tells me a story
about my grandmother.
She lived in a small village in
India many years ago.
India is 1000s of miles away.
I feel like I am standing right next
to her whenever I smell these
spices around our kitchen.
Finally, we eat the crispy
okra with rice,



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We eat rice mixed with
okra curry. This meal is special
because it counts me
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