

2026

PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY

Rotary

Club of Reno



**“The Story of Special”
by Zoey**

 **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: 2nd Place

“The Story of Special”
by Zoey

Westergard
Elementary School





Once upon a time, a girl named Charlie was listening to her mom talking to her aunt about how special the night was. Charlie walked over to a bench when an old lady came to sit with her. The old



Once upon a time, a girl named
Charlie was listening to her mom
talking to her aunt about how
special the night was. Charlie walked
over to a bench when an old lady
came to sit with her. The old

lady asked her what was
the matter. She answered,
“I don’t want special to be
a word because it does not
mean anything.”

“Oh, but it means a lot of things
and you will notice that after.”

“After what?” Charlie



lady asked her what was the matter.
She answered "I don't want special
to be a word because it does not
mean anything." "Oh, but it means
a lot of things and you will notice
that after." "After what" Charlie

asked. "Why after your
adventure of course."

"What adventure...ahh!"

All of a sudden she was floating
around people she knew.

She knew there was a word to
describe them. Oh no, it was the
wise old lady who sent her on



asked. "Why after your adventure of
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a sudden she was floating around people
she knew She knew there was a word
to describe them. Oh no, it was
the wise old lady who sent her on

the adventure. "She's trying to teach me a lesson," Charlie thought to herself. Then, she was in a very dark room where she was by herself. All of a sudden she saw her family, friends, and community. Her mom



The adventure. "She's trying to teach me a lesson" Charlie thought to herself. Then, she was in a very dark room where she was by herself. All of a sudden she saw her family, friends, and community. Her mom

started talking, "If you don't think we are special," she continued after a quick cry, "then we will just leave." Then everyone disappeared. Every person disappeared into dust. "No, no, no!" Charlie cried. She tried to get them,



started talking "If you don't think we are special," she continued after a quick cry "then we will just leave." Then everyone disappeared. Every person disappeared into dust, "No, no, no!" Charlie cried. She tried to get them,

but they were gone. Charlie cried so much. "I take it back, special is the best word in the world!" Charlie regretted. Then she woke up. She heard her mom's beautiful singing, her brother snoring, her cat



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so much. "I take it back, special
is the best word in the world!"
Charlie regretted. Then she woke up.
She heard her mom's beautiful
singing, her brother snoring, her cat

meowing, her neighbor mowing their lawn, and every other sound. She ran to the kitchen. She hugged her mom and whispered, "Special things are a valuable part of life."



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