

2026 PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY Rotary Club of Reno

THIRD GRADE: 1st Place

“Todd the Turtle” by Sophia

Westergard Elementary School

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 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 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 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. 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.

