

2026 PBS RENO WRITERS CONTEST

PRESENTED BY Rotary Club of Reno

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 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 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, 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 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.”

