



December 2019

Dear Educator:

Few things capture a child's imagination like a good book! We would like to invite you to join WTVP as we launch the 2020 *PBS KIDS Writers' Contest*.

The *PBS KIDS Writers' Contest* is a local competition designed to promote children's literacy skills by encouraging K-3 students to submit their own original stories. For years, students have participated in PBS KIDS annual Writers' Contest, building their creative voices and developing critical reading and writing skills. Teachers throughout the years have been enthusiastic about the benefits of participating in the Contest:

"I have chosen to use the PBS Kids Writers' Contest for the last 13 years to help my class become better story tellers and writers. We study all year about the parts of a story, punctuation, and how to hold a reader's interest in a story. The children tell stories to their peers during our circle time to perfect their skills. The children have a lot of fun making up silly, true, make-believe, and imaginative stories all year long. The classes have benefited immensely from this project in their reading, writing, and illustration skills. I would highly recommend this project to any classroom. The benefits are worth the work!"

...Susan Benson, Little Friends
Learning Center

We invite you to consider integrating the Contest into your school's curricula and/or offering special writing sessions for interested students. With that in mind, we have collected resources designed specifically for K-3 classrooms in conjunction with the contest, as well as information on the ways in which the Contest aligns with Common Core standards. See <https://pbslearningmedia.org> for details.

Our Contest this year invites students to submit their original **fiction** pieces, either prose or poetry.

We ask that writers keep in mind story length minimums and maximums. **Stories that exceed the maximum length stated in the rules will not be judged.** Please note an accurate word count on the entry form. For examples of winning entries, please see <https://www.wtvp.org/events/writers-contest/2019-writers-contest-winners/>.

This year, entries are due by April 6, 2020. Judging begins in April, and winners will be notified by email on May 8, 2020. Winners will be invited to a party in the WTVP studio on June 5, 2020.

We hope you will join us in bringing the love of reading and the joy of self-expression to children in our community. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 309-495-0595 or email at mary.heinemann@wtvp.org, or visit our website at <https://www.wtvp.org/writers-contest/>. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Heinemann
WTVP Education Outreach Coordinator