PBS Fort Wayne Writers Contest Rules 2024

MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.
The PBS Fort Wayne Writers Contest begins January 1, 2024 and ends with the announcement of winners on or about May 24, 2024.

This Contest consists of one round of entry point local judging (by school or organization participating), and one round of regional judging. To enter the Contest, you may submit to your Local Entry Point /points (classroom, school, public library, etc.) or submit them directly to PBS Fort Wayne to be judged as part of the Independent Pool of entries (those not gathered at an entry point).

All entries to the Independent Pool and the winners in each category from local entry points (classrooms, schools, libraries, etc.) must be received at PBS Fort Wayne by Friday, May 10th, 2024, by 5 pm to be eligible for judging.

Contact PBS Fort Wayne for other exact local judging deadlines. These Contest rules are subject to modification by PBS Fort Wayne at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited. Coordinated by PBS Fort Wayne, located at 2501 E Coliseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines
- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth OR fifth grade.
- Children of employees of PBS Fort Wayne, sales representatives, subsidiaries or parent companies, advertising/sales promotion agencies, and judges are not eligible.
- To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of the State of Indiana or within PBS Fort Wayne’s Viewing area of Ohio (including Bryan, Defiance, Paulding & Van Wert) Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify ineligible entries; such entries will not be returned.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted in this Contest; all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- Only single author stories qualify (no co-authored stories).
- Stories can be fact or fiction, and prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.
- No purchase is necessary. Many will enter, few will win.

Word Count Requirement
- Kindergarten and first grade stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words and a minimum of 5 illustrations.
- Second and third grade stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words and a minimum of 5 illustrations.
- Fourth and fifth grade stories must have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 400 words with a minimum of 5 illustrations.
• The word count includes “a,” “an,” and “the,” but not the words on non-story pages such as the title page or those that enhance the illustrations.
• Text must be printed or written legibly or typed.
• Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed, written legibly, or typed.
• Text may be integrated into the illustration pages or on separate pages.
• Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translated text (English text) must adhere to word count.
• Invented spelling is accepted.

Format & Illustrations
• Stories must have at least 5 original, clear, and colorful illustrations.
• Original art can include drawings, collages, and 3-D created by the author or photographs taken by the author.
• Stories submitted by mail must be created on one side of the paper and numbered on the back of each page.

Official Entry Form
• Each entry must include the official PBS Fort Wayne Writers Contest Entry Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian (and, if appropriate, the optional signature of the sponsoring teacher), consenting to allowing their child/ward to enter the Contest, confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials.
• The entry form must be complete and legible to be eligible.

Judging, Awards & Notification
All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of no fewer than 3 judges. Local Entry Point judges will be chosen by the Education Outreach Manager at PBS Fort Wayne. Local Entry Point judging will conclude by May 10th, 2024. The 1st place stories from each Local Entry Point must be received at PBS Fort Wayne by 5:00pm on Friday, May 10, 2024. Regional judging will occur on or about May 14th, 2024. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria:

• 40% Creativity and originality of plot and/or themes,
• 40% Story structure and use of literary devices,
• 20% Relevance, quality, and originality of illustration.

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Winners will be as follows: (1) the entry with the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the First Place winners; (2) the entry with the second to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Second Place winners (3) the entry with the third highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Third Place winners. In the event of a tie, the entry with the highest score in the creativity and originality category from among all tying entries will be deemed the winner from among all tying entries. Winners will be notified on or before May 24, 2024.
Prizes

**Six (6) First Place Winners** (One (1) First Place Winner Per Grade) – Prize TBD; story featured on-line at [www.pbsfortwayne.org](http://www.pbsfortwayne.org)

**Six (6) Second Place Winners** (One (1) Second Place Winner Per Grade) – Prize TBD

**Six (6) Third Place Winners** (One (1) Third Place Winner Per Grade) – Prize TBD

PBS Fort Wayne reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of PBS Fort Wayne. Winners will receive their prizes at the PBS Fort Wayne Writers Contest Winners Ceremony. Prize recipients who do not attend the ceremony must allow a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks from notification to delivery. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable.

Return of Entries

The Contest administrators will make every effort, but are not required, to return mailed entries only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of an *appropriate* size. PBS Fort Wayne is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail.

Rights Associated with Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant’s parent/legal guardian for PBS Fort Wayne to use the participants’ name, likeness, biographical information, information and materials contained in the Entry Form, photographs, and any statements or remarks made about the Contest in advertising and promotion without further compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law. All entries, and any copyrights therein, become the sole property of PBS Fort Wayne. By entering, entrants’ parent/legal guardian agree to abide by the above stated rules and warrant that their child’s/ward’s entry is their original work and does not infringe upon or violate rights of any third party, and grant to PBS Fort Wayne the right to edit, publish, promote, and otherwise use their entry materials without permission, notice or compensation. No royalties will be paid at this or any time. By submitting an entry and Entry Form, each participant’s parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and Entry Form to PBS Fort Wayne and warrants that the participant’s parent/legal guardian has the authority to assign such right, title, and interest. If any applicable law requires certain formalities to be fulfilled to effectuate such grant of rights, each participant (and parent or guardian) agrees to cooperate with PBS Fort Wayne to achieve fulfillment of such formalities. By submitting an Entry Form, each participant’s parent/legal guardian, on behalf of participant, agrees to be bound by these Contest Rules. Each participant’s parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to release and hold PBS Fort Wayne, and its employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, representatives, subsidiaries, parent companies, or other affiliated companies harmless from any and all damages, losses, claims and liabilities arising out of participation in the Contest or resulting from acceptance or claiming of any prize hereunder. PBS Fort Wayne reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate, suspend or otherwise cancel the Contest at any time. Income and all other taxes are the responsibility of the prize recipient. PBS Fort Wayne is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

Privacy: Unless otherwise specified, all information connected in connection with this Contest will be used by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Contest. Please note: If you circled “Yes” on the Entry Form to opt-in to receive the Optional promotional materials, Sponsor may share your contact information contained in the Entry Form with Contest promotional partners, or their agents, to fulfill the offers. To understand how PBS uses, stores, manages,
The 2024 PBS Fort Wayne Writers Contest is made possible through the support of Viewers like YOU! Thank you!

The 2024 Contest is also made possible in part by the corporate support of: