



Common Core Alignment

The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is a perfect way to introduce and practice the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Literacy. Students can learn from reading and studying other texts, then reading and writing their own stories, and finally sharing their stories with adults and peers. Not only will K-3 teachers be able to address key standards in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, but students will also have fun creating something special of their own and have the chance to win a competition. What better way for students to grow as readers and writers than to become authors themselves?

Common Core State Standards		PBS KIDS Writers Contest
Reading Standards for Literature (K-5)	Key Ideas and Details	Can be used for such things as identifying characters, settings, and major events in stories. Recommended Activity: <i>Get Ready to Write! (Worksheet #1 in Teacher's Guide)</i>
	Craft and Structure	Can be used for recognition of different text types as well as describing the structure of a story (beginning and end in particular). Recommended Activity: <i>Brainstorming (Worksheet #2)</i>
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Can help with understanding the relationship between illustrations and story – in particular the illustrations' ability to describe character, setting or events.
Reading Standards for Informational Text (K-5)	Key Ideas and Details	Can provide opportunity for students to ask and answer questions about key details in a text – such questions as <i>who, what, where, when, why, and how.</i>
	Craft and Structure	Can help students identify parts of a book (front cover, title page, etc.); distinguish information provided by illustrations and words in a text; and identification of main purpose of texts including author's intent.
Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K-5)	Print Concepts	Can help students to understand the basic features of print such as following words from left to right, top to bottom, page by page and recognition of all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet, capitalization and ending punctuation.
	Fluency	When sharing and reading contest stories, students can read texts with purpose and understanding and read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
Writing Standards (K-5)	Text Types and Purposes	Students can use contest story writing to apply a combination of drawing and writing to narrate linked events in the order in which they occur and provide a reaction as well as including details to describe actions and use of temporal words to signal event order and provide closure.
	Production and Distribution of Writing	With guidance and support from adults, contest stories can be edited with suggestions to strengthen the writing as needed. Recommended Activity: <i>Revising (Worksheet #3)</i>
	Research to Build and Present Knowledge	Prior to contest story writing, students can conduct research based on a favorite author and/or book and express opinions about them, then proceed with their own stories that may or may not be influenced by what they learned.
	Range of Writing	Students can practice writing routinely over short time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) as well as over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision).
Speaking and Listening Standards (K-5)	Comprehension and Collaboration	Students can participate in discussions based on their topics and texts for the contest and also ask and answer questions about their or others' stories read aloud to the group.
	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas	The illustrations for the students' contest stories should provide additional detail and clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Recommended Activity: <i>Illustrations (Worksheet #4)</i>
Language Standards (K-5)	Conventions of Standard English	The writing of any story, including the contest stories, should show upper- and lowercase letters, frequently occurring nouns and verbs, most frequently occurring prepositions, capitalization of the first word in a sentence, recognition of end punctuation, and spelling of simple words.