



Writers' Guide

Use this activity booklet to write
and illustrate a GREAT STORY!



For more information contact:

education@wvpublic.org

Or visit us online at wvpublic.org/writerscontest



PBS KIDS Writers Contest 2021 The basic rules:

- Entrants must be in grades K-5 and submit only single-author entries.
- Only one story per person
- Stories can be fact or fiction, prose or poetry

Word Count: (We take this seriously.)

- Kindergarten and 1st grade — min. 50 to max 200 words
- 2nd and 3rd grades — min. 100 to max 350 words
- 4th and 5th grade — min. 150 to max 550 words

Format: (Be sure to follow directions.)

- Text must be printed/written legibly or typed
- If you cannot write you may dictate your story to someone who can.
- Stories must have five original, clear and colorful illustrations done by the author.
- Artwork may include drawings, collages, 3D art and photos taken by the author.
- Number the pages!

Official Entry Form:

- Each entry must include a complete and legible official entry form.

Judging: Stories that do not follow contest rules will be disqualified.

Judging will occur in mid-April and will use the following rubric:

- 40% creativity and originality of plot and/or themes
- 40% story structure and use of literary devices
- 20% relevance, quality and originality of illustrations

All decisions of the judges are final. Prizes will be awarded to first through third place at each grade level.

Mail entries by March 31 to:

WVPB Writers Contest
600 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301



BRAINSTORMING – GET READY TO WRITE!

- Brainstorming is a way to come up with new ideas.
- If you could write a story about anything what would it be?
- Who are the characters, places or events that will be in the story?
- List or draw your story ideas in the box below.
- Circle the idea you want to use in your story!



ALL STORIES HAVE A BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND AN END.

Write or draw how you want the story to start in the first column, what happens during the story in the middle column, and how you want your story to end in the far-right column.

Beginning	Middle	End



BEGIN TO WRITE!

Write sentences for your story.

beginning

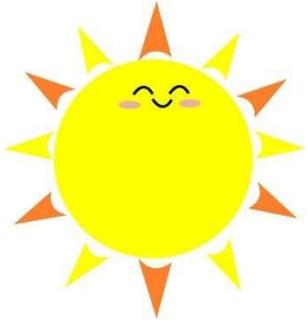
middle

end



ILLUSTRATIONS

Pictures are important in a story because they show things that aren't in the words of the story and can add funny, happy, sad, or scary feelings to the story. Pictures can have captions. Captions are words under the picture to connect the picture to the story. Practice drawing pictures and writing captions.

 <p>A bright sunny day!</p>	<p>Picture:</p> <p>Caption:</p>	<p>Picture:</p> <p>Caption:</p>
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Draw three illustrations you want to use with your story and give each a caption:

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IT'S TIME TO WRITE!

Get ready to write sentences and add your illustrations.

Get some paper and start your story!

REVISING

When you finish writing use the checklist below to review your work. You may want to have a teacher or other adult help with this step.

Question	Yes	No
Does my story have a title?		
Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end?		
Does my story have good, strong characters?		
Does my story explain the action taking place?		
Does my story have a good conclusion?		
Do my sentences make sense?		
Did I check my story for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization?		
Do my illustrations help readers understand and enjoy my story?		
Did I follow all Contest Rules?		

Once you have answered “yes” to all the questions you are ready to enter your story in the West Virginia Public Broadcasting PBS Kids Writers Contest!



NOTES TO TEACHER OR PARENT

Prior to beginning the writing process carefully review the 2021 Contest Rules. Pay particular attention to the guidelines for word count, page numbering, and illustration expectations.

BRAINSTORMING This section is intended to help students start to form ideas for potential stories. It provides a blank page to freely develop ideas through word and illustration. Encourage students to suggest ideas for characters, places, or events that will be in the story.

BEGINNING – MIDDLE – END This section is intended to help students develop their story ideas and work on characters, plot/story structure, climax/resolution, and setting.

LET THE STORY WRITING BEGIN This section is intended to help students write a first draft of their story. Students may want to use the REVISING rubric at this point as a formative assessment.

ILLUSTRATIONS This section provides an opportunity for students to make thoughtful, engaging illustrations they want to use with their stories and give practice in writing captions. Encourage students to pick words and phrases from their stories they want to illustrate. You may want to show students picture books and ask them to explain how the illustrations enhance the understanding of the story.

TIME TO WRITE This is the point where students write and illustrate their story now. Review the Contest Rules with students periodically to make sure they are following guidelines.

REVISING provides the students with an opportunity to review and revise their work prior to submitting the final product. Once a student has checked yes as their answer to each question, they should be able to submit their contest entry.

Questions? Email us at education@wvpublic.org.