



January 2018

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 2018 *PBS KIDS Writers Contest*.

The *PBS KIDS Writers Contest* is a local competition designed to promote the advancement of children's literacy skills through hands-on, active learning. The Contest encourages children in grades K-3 to celebrate the power of creative writing by submitting their own original pieces. For years, students have participated in PBS KIDS' annual writing contest, building their creative voices and developing critical reading and writing skills.

To make this Contest a success, we invite you to join in the fun. While we are supporting the Contest with broadcast promotional announcements, you can help broaden the reach of the Contest to your students through the display and distribution of posters and entry forms at your school. In addition, 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. These are found on PBS's online portal for teachers, [PBS LearningMedia](#).

Please take special note of a rule change for this year. To encourage creative thinking, we are only accepting **fiction** writing pieces. Of course, students may incorporate facts into their stories. For example, "The Story of a Raindrop" could relate everything a child has learned about the water cycle in a creative way!

We also 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.** For examples of winning entries, please see <http://pbskids.org/writerscontest/>.

This year, entries are due by April 6, 2018. Judging begins in April, and winners will be announced on May 4, 2018. Winners will be invited to a party in the WTVP studio on June 15, 2018.

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 are interested in being involved, please contact me by phone at 309-495-0595 or email at mary.heinemann@wtvp.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Heinemann
WTVP Education Outreach Coordinator