



KMOS PBS KIDS Writers Contest Rules 2026

MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. The KMOS PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by KMOS-TV (the "Contest" or "Promotion") and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. The Contest begins on or about January 1, 2026, and ends with the announcement of winners on or about May 1, 2026. This Contest consists of one round of local judging. To enter the Contest, you may submit your Entry to KMOS-TV, Wood 11, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO 64093. All entries to the Independent Pool must be postmarked by March 31, 2026, to be eligible. Contact KMOS-TV for other exact local judging deadlines. These Contest rules are subject to modification by KMOS-TV at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited. Sponsored and coordinated by KMOS-TV ("Sponsor" or "PBS") located at Wood 11, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third or fourth grade.
- Children of employees of KMOS-TV, 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 fifty (50) United States and D.C. 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 should have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Second, third and fourth grade stories should have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- 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 should have 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.
- Stories submitted by email should be in .pdf, .doc., or .docx format.

Official Entry Form

- Each entry must include the official KMOS PBS KIDS 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 selected and coordinated by KMOS-TV. Judging will occur on or about April 15, 2026. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria as follows:

- 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 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 to the 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 August 31, 2015.

Prizes

Five (5) First Place Winners (One (1) First Place Winner Per Grade – AMAZON FIRE Tablet (ARV: \$74.99) **Ten (10) Honorable Mention Winners** (two (2) per grade) - KMOS PRIZE PACK (ARV: \$10.00). KMOS-TV reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of KMOS-TV. Potential winners will be notified by Sponsor on or about May 2 for winner verification. Prize recipients must allow a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks from notification to delivery. Prizes are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at the sole discretion of Sponsor.

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. KMOS-TV 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 KMOS-TV and PBS 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 KMOS-TV and PBS. 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 KMOS-TV and PBS 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 KMOS-TV and PBS/WNED and warrants that the participant's parent/legal guardian has the authority to assign such right, title, and interest. In the event that 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 KMOS-TV and/or PBS 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 KMOS-TV and PBS, 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. KMOS-TV and PBS 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. KMOS-TV and PBS are not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

Privacy: Unless otherwise specified, any and 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 KMOS-TV uses, stores, manages and discards private information, contact KMOS-TV at 660-543-4155 or email at kmos@kmos.org. To understand how PBS uses, stores, manages, and discards private information, visit the PBS privacy policy at:

<http://www.pbs.org/about/policies/privacy-policy/>.

Sponsor: KMOS-TV, Wood 11, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO 64093