



**MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by KCOS and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. The Contest begins on or about January 17, 2019 and ends with the announcement of local winners on or about May 1, 2019. This Contest consists of one (1) round of local judging. To enter the Contest for local judging, you may submit your Entry to KCOS, your local PBS station.

## Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth or fifth grade.
- Children of employees of KCOS and judges are not eligible.
- To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of El Paso, Las Cruces, or surrounding areas. 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.
- Second and third grade stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- Fourth and fifth grade stories must have a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 400 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 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 KCOS 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 will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of judges from the UTEP Teacher Education Department. The entry with the highest percentage in each grade will be deemed the grand prize winner for that grade. KCOS will also recognize 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place winners for each grade level. This is the judging 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

The top four stories from each grade level will be digitized and posted on the contest website at [www.kcostv.org/write](http://www.kcostv.org/write).

## Return of Entries

The KCOS Contest administrators at local stations 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. KCOS 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 KCOS 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 KCOS. 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 KCOS 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 KCOS 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 KCOS 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 KCOS, 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. KCOS 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. KCOS is 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.

**Sponsor:** KCOS, 9050 Viscount Blvd, Suite A440, El Paso, TX 79925

**Classroom/Organization Contest:**

Classrooms or community groups that have five or more student entries will also be entered into a raffle to win a classroom visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog. Winning classroom or community organization will be selected and announced in Mid-April 2019. The Clifford appearance will be coordinated with KCOS to fit a schedule that works with both the classroom and KCOS.

**Deadline for receipt of entries and entry address is:**

Deadline: April 5, 2019

**Mail to:****PBS Kids Writers Contest****KCOS****P.O. Box 26668****El Paso, TX 79926**

Or deliver in person to:

**KCOS****9050 Viscount Blvd., Suite A440****El Paso, TX 79925**