WQED WRITERS CONTEST RULES 2027

Your Chance to Stand Out Among Many! NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. The WQED Writers Contest is produced by WQED Multimedia (the "Contest" or "Promotion.").The Contest begins on January 1, 2027 and ends on March 31, 2027. Electronic Entry and contest begins January 1st. This Contest consists of one round of local judging. To enter the Contest you may submit your entry to WQED. All entries must be postmarked March 31st be eligible. Contact WQED for other exact local judging deadlines. These Contest rules are subject to modification by WQED at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited. Sponsored and coordinated by WQED.

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- Entrants must be children in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, or fifth grade.
- Children of employees of WQED Multimedia, 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.
- No AI art
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.
- No purchase is necessary.

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 550 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 five (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 WQED 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 three judges selected and coordinated by WQED. Judging will occur on or about April 14, 2027. The judging criteria and percentages will 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 after April 21, 2027.

Prizes

Six (6) First Place Winners (One (1) First Place Winner per grade - Six (6) Second Place Winners (One (1) Second Place winner per grade.) Six (6) Third Place Winners (One (1) Third Place winner per grade). Six (6) Honorable Mention (One (1) Honorable Mention winner per grade). WQED reserves the right to substitute any prize for a prize of equal or greater value, at the sole discretion of WQED. Potential winners will be notified by Sponsor on April 21, 2027 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

WQED is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries.

Rights Associated with Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant's parent/legal guardian for WQED 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 WQED. 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 WQED 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 WQED 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 effect such grant of rights, each participant (and parent or guardian) agrees to cooperate with WQED 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 WQED 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. WQED 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. WQED 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

WQED Multimedia
4802 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

For more information and resources visit: wqed.org/education/writers-contest/

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