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**KCPT Announces 2015 Kids Writers Contest Winners**

*Kansas City Area Kids in Grades K-3 Submit Original Stories to Annual Contest*

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri - May 27, 2015** - KCPT announced the 2015 Kids Writers Contest winners for kindergarten through 3rd grade. The first-place participants' submissions from each grade are submitted to the national PBS Kids Writers Contest where a panel of esteemed judges will determine the top 12 entries.

The 2015 local 1st place recipients are "No Dogs" by Madeline Newell, Kindergarten, "Dr. Electric's Invention" by Jayla Walker, 1st grade, "Goggle Girl and the Missing Unishark" by Eleanor Leslie, 2nd grade, and "The Dragon and the Unicorn" by Emily Brewer, 3rd grade. To view a complete list of winners, please visit [www.kcpt.org/learning](http://www.kcpt.org/learning).

"The KCPT PBS KIDS Writers Contest is a fun, hands-on way for kids to express their creativity while building valuable literacy skills here in our community," said Kathy Van Lieshout, KCPT coordinator. "We love reading all the wonderful stories that are submitted and celebrating with the writers at our Writers Contest event. Our hope is that the KCPT PBS Kids Writers Contest fosters a love of writing that young authors will continue to develop."

A celebration for the Contest participants will be held Friday, May 29 at the Mid-Continent Public Library's Woodneath Library Center. Contest winners will receive their winning stories in a bound book created in the Woodneath Library Center's printing press. Winners will have the opportunity to be interviewed by a local children's author for Mid-Continent Public Library's "Generation Exchange" audio recording program.

The national winners will receive prizes courtesy of national prizing sponsor Little, Brown Books for Young Readers and PBS. The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by PBS and based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED-TV, Buffalo. The national winner's story will be featured on [pbskids.org/writerscontest](http://pbskids.org/writerscontest).

KCPT is committed to helping area children build valuable literacy skills through fun, hands-on opportunities to express their creativity and explore their imagination. The KCPT PBS Kids Writers Contest is one of these opportunities. Through these literacy efforts, KCPT is making a commitment to Kansas City area children and their long term success, in school and in life.

## **National Judges**

This year's panel of national judges included acclaimed writers and producers behind many PBS KIDS programs and prominent illustrators and authors working in the children's media space, including Marc Brown, author and illustrator of the "Arthur" book series and Lisa Henson, CEO of The Jim Henson Company.

## **Creative Writing Resources**

The Contest is supported by a robust set of resources for children, parents and teachers. Story ideas, activity sheets, along with the previous winning entries are available on the Contest website to inspire children during the brainstorming process. PBS LearningMedia is also offering a collection of online teacher resources for use in classrooms nationwide.

## **About KCPT**

KCPT is a nonprofit, community-owned television station serving the greater Kansas City area that provides programming and services—on air and off—that entertain, educate and enrich the community. For more information about KCPT's programs and services, or to become a member and support public television in Kansas City, please go to [KCPT.org](http://KCPT.org).

## **About PBS KIDS**

PBS KIDS, the number one educational media brand for kids, offers all children the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, online, mobile and community-based programs. Kidscreen- and Webby-award winning [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org) provides engaging interactive content, including the PBS KIDS video player, now offering free streaming video accessible on computer- and mobile-device-based browsers. For more information on specific PBS KIDS content supporting literacy, science, math and more, visit [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom), or follow PBS KIDS on Twitter and Facebook.

## **About WNED**

Through WNED-TV, ThinkBright and Well/WORLD TV, WBFO-FM 88.7 and Classical 94.5 WNED, member-supported WNED Buffalo/Toronto provides high quality programming and services to local, regional and national audiences that enlighten, inspire, entertain and educate Western New York and Southern Ontario communities. Additional information about WNED can be found at [wned.org](http://wned.org).

## **About Little, Brown Books for Young Readers**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers is a division of Hachette Book Group (HBG), a leading trade publisher based in New York and a division of Hachette Livre, the third-largest publisher in the world. HBG publishes under the divisions of Little, Brown and Company, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Grand Central Publishing, Orbit, Hachette Nashville, and Hachette Digital. For more information, visit [hbgusa.com](http://hbgusa.com).