



2026 Smoky Hills PBS KIDS Writers Contest Entry Form

Stories From The Zoo

All Stories Must Have A Zoo Theme!



Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone # _____

Circle Grade: 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade 5th Grade

Title of Story: _____

Number of Words: _____
(The word count includes "a," "an," & "the.")

Word Count Range: **Grades 1st + 2nd: 50 – 200 Words**
Grades 3rd – 5th: 100 – 350 Words

Number of Illustrations: _____ (Minimum of 5)

How did you hear about the contest? Please Circle One

On-Air **Email** **Social Media** **Website** **Local Library** **School** **Other**

- Only one entry per child
- Only single author stories (no co-authors)
- Submit stories on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, unbound
- Story must be original work of the child
- Original art can include drawings, collages, and photos taken by the author
- Story may be fact or fiction, prose or poetry
- Use only one side of the paper
- Number each page on the back
- Text must be printed/written legibly or typed
- Children who can't write may dictate their story to be printed or typed

- Invented spelling is accepted
- Story text may be on pages with illustrations or on separate pages
- Non-English text must be translated into English text on the same page and the translated English text must adhere to the word count
- Word count includes "a" "an" "the" but not words on nonstory pages (e.g. title page) or those that enhance illustrations

☐ I want my entry returned, and I have included a self-addressed envelope with the appropriate postage.
• Entries will not be returned unless a postmarked return envelope is included.

I acknowledge that I have read the contest rules & regulations before signing this and that I understand the rules.
Signature required by either parent/guardian or teacher. If submitted as a school project, please include teacher and school information below.

Parent / Guardian or Teacher Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name: _____ School Phone #: _____

Yes / No (circle one)

I would like to receive emails filled with news about PBS KIDS programs, educational resources, events, activities, and more.

Entries must be postmarked by February 23, 2026