



How the Contest Fits in the Core Curriculum

The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is a perfect fit for exercising Core Curriculum guidelines in ELA. The contest naturally provides teachers several of the criteria in the ELA Core Curriculum Standards. Not only will teachers be meeting Core Curriculum Standards, but students will have fun in creating something special of their own with a possibility of winning a national writing and illustrating competition. What is needed in order to enter the contest is nothing outside of ordinary ELA lessons.

What better way for students to learn and master the basics of reading and writing texts than to use their own story writing? Students can learn from reading and studying other texts, then reading and writing their own stories, and finally sharing their stories with adults and peers.

Core Curriculum Standard		PBS KIDS Writers Contest
Reading Standards for Literature K-5	Key Ideas and Details	Can be used for such things as identifying characters, settings, and major events in stories
	Craft and Structure	Can be used for recognition of different text types as well as describing the structure of a story (beginning and end in particular)
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Can help with understanding the relationship between illustrations and story – in particular the illustrations’ ability to describe character, setting or events
Reading Standards for Informational Text K-5	Key Ideas and Details	Can provide opportunity for students to ask and answer questions about key details in a text – such questions as <i>who, what, where, when, why, and how</i>
	Craft and Structure	Can help students identify parts of a book (front cover, title page, etc.); distinguish information provided by illustrations and words in a text; and identification of main purpose of texts including author’s intent.
	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Can easily show the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear and students should be able to explain how those images help clarify the text.
Reading Standards: Foundational Skills (K-5)	Print Concepts	Can help students to understand the basic features of print such as following words from left to right, top to bottom, page by page and recognition of all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet, capitalization and ending punctuation
	Phonics and Word Recognition	Will expose students to such things as the use and recognition of sight words, grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words, distinguishing of long and short vowels, decoding one-syllable and two-syllable words
	Fluency	When sharing and reading contest stories, students can read texts with purpose and understanding and read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
Writing Standards K-5	Text Types and Purposes	Students can use contest story writing to apply a combination of drawing and writing to narrate linked events in the order in which they occur and provide a reaction as well as including details to describe actions an use of temporal words to signal event order and provide closure
	Production and Distribution of Writing	With guidance and support from adults, contest stories can be edited with suggestions to strengthen the writing as needed
	Research to Build and Present Knowledge	Prior to contest story writing, students can conduct research based on a favorite author and/or book and express opinions about them, then proceed with their own stories that may or may not be influenced by what they learned
Speaking and Listening Standards K-5	Comprehension and Collaboration	Students can participate in discussions based on their topics and texts for the contest and also ask and answer questions about their or others stories read aloud to the group
	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas	The illustrations for the students’ contest stories should provide additional detail and clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings
Language Standards K-5	Conventions of Standard English	The writing of any story, including the contest stories, should show upper- and lowercase letters, frequently occurring nouns and verbs, most frequently occurring prepositions, capitalization of the first word in a sentence, recognition of end punctuation, and spelling of simple words