



PBS 45 & 49

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 announces local winners of 11th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators contest

KENT, Ohio — PBS 45 & 49 announced today the local winners in the kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade categories of the Reading Rainbow 11th Annual Young Writers & Illustrators Contest [see below for complete list of winners].

PBS 45 & 49's local winners were announced at the PBS 45 & 49 / Summit Mall Family Expo in Akron, hosted by Children Services of Summit County in honor of Child Abuse/Family Awareness Month.

The stations' four grand-prize winners will receive \$50 Borders Books and Music gift certificates, and their stories will be submitted to the national competition. All second- and third-place winners will receive \$25 Borders gift certificates. Grand prize and second- and third-place stories will be available to read on the PBS 45 & 49 Web site (www.pbs4549.org) by April 30, 2005.

The Reading Rainbow 11th Annual Young Writers & Illustrators Contest encouraged children in kindergarten through grade three to submit their original stories and illustrations to PBS 45 & 49 for local prizes and a chance to compete at the national level. Submissions were accepted from January until March 4, 2005. Entries were judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations. Over 400 children entered this year's contest.

Reading Rainbow, hosted by actor LeVar Burton, is a critically acclaimed television series that encourages children ages 5 to 10 to read. It is the most-used television program in local K-3 classrooms. The Emmy Award-winning series airs weekdays at 11 a.m. on PBS 45 & 49. Local funding for **Reading Rainbow** is provided by Learning Rx.

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Winners of PBS 45 & 49's Reading Rainbow 11th Annual Young Writers & Illustrators Contest

Kindergarten Winners

***Grand Prize

Name: Madison Williams
Story Title: Polkadot and Emily
Parents: Dave and Lynn Williams
Home Phone: 330-670-0670
City: Akron
School: Ohio Virtual Academy

***Second Place

Name: Carson Keenan
Story Title: My Favorite Signs
Parents: David and Michele Keenan
Home Phone: 330-896-7161
City: Uniontown
School: St Francis de Sales, Akron

***Third Place

Name: Alexandra Wooldredge
Story Title: Letters Are Falling From the Sky
Parents: John and Sharon Wooldredge
Home Phone: 330-677-5289
City: Stow
School: Riverview Elementary

1st Grade Winners

***Grand Prize

Name: Vanessa Snyder
Story Title: Ten Little Kittens Playing in a Barn
Parents: Thomas and Cynthia Snyder
Home Phone: 330-875-3871
City: Louisville
School: Portage Collaborative Montessori School, North Canton

***Second Place

Name: Marissa Williams
Story Title: The Princess Gets Captured
Parents: Dave and Lynn Williams
Home Phone: 330-670-0670
City: Akron
School: Ohio Virtual Academy

*** Third Place

Name: Josie Michalec
Story Title: Mysterious
Parents: Shawn Michalec and Jacqueline Justice
Home Phone: 330-678-4936
City: Ravenna
School: Brimfield Elementary

2nd Grade Winners

*****Grand Prize**

Name: Taylor N. Martin
Story Title: Clouds
Parents: Michael and Jennifer Martin
Home Phone: 330-896-1852
City: Uniontown
School: Home schooled

*****Second Place**

Name: Rebecca Wilson
Story Title: The Butterfly's Birthday
Parents: Danny and Vicky Wilson
Home Phone: 330-767-4320
City: Navarre
School: Brewster Elementary

*****Third Place**

Name: Luke Myers
Story Title: The Snow Monkey
Parents: Matthew and Rosanne Myers
Home Phone: 330-296-5333
City: Ravenna
School: Willyard Elementary

3rd Grade Winners

*****Grand Prize**

Name: MacKinzie Smith
Story Title: How the Turtle Got Its Shell
Parents: Hugh and Sabrina Smith
Home Phone: 330-868-5564
City: Minerva
School: Home schooled

*****Second Place**

Name: Emma Sampson
Story Title: When I Got in Trouble
Parents: Paul and Janice Sampson
Home Phone: 330-677-4853
City: Kent
School: Holden Elementary

*****Third Place**

Name: Carson Greco
Story Title: The 3 Little Penguins
Parents: Dan and Ramona Greco
Home Phone: 440-871-7933
City: Westlake
School: Dover Elementary