



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 Announces Local Winners of 13th Annual Reading Rainbow Writing Contest

KENT, Ohio — March 26, 2007 — PBS 45 & 49 announced the local winners in the kindergarten, first, second and third grade categories of the **Reading Rainbow 13th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest** [see below for complete list of winners]. The winners were announced on Saturday, March 24, 2007, at two sites: the PBS 45 & 49/Summit Mall Family Expo in Akron and the Youngstown Book Fair at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

The four local grand prize winners received \$50 Borders Books and Music gift certificates. Second and third place local winners received \$25 Borders gift certificates. All winners received **Reading Rainbow** backpacks and DVDs. Grand prize and second and third place stories will be available to read on the PBS 45 & 49 Web site after April 16, 2007.

PBS 45 & 49's grand prize submissions in each category will be entered into the national **Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators** competitions. The national grand prize winner in each grade level will receive a laptop computer. The second place winner in each grade level will receive a flat panel TV and DVD player. The third place winner in each grade level will receive an MP3 player. Plus, all national winners will receive three sets of 10 **Reading Rainbow** DVDs and feature books — one each for their school, community library and home. National grand prize winners will be announced in June 2007.

The **Reading Rainbow 13th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest** encouraged children in kindergarten through grade three to submit their original stories and illustrations to PBS 45 & 49. Submissions were accepted from January until February 23, 2007, and were judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations. More than 250 children submitted stories.

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.

PBS 45 & 49

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Winners of PBS 45 & 49's Reading Rainbow 13th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest

Kindergarten Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Michael Daley
Story: "Duck Boy and Big Chick in 'Pop Zombies'"
Parents: Park and Brenda Daley
City: Salem
School/Phone: Buckeye Elementary

Second Place

Name: Michael Kean
Story: "Meet Farmer Boy"
Parents: Erik and Chary Hively
City: Salem
School/Phone: South Range Elementary

Third Place

Name: Clara Agawa
Story: "Firana and Me"
Parents: Mas and Jeanna Agawa
City: Copley
School/Phone: Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT)

Honorable Mentions

Name: Caitlin Winston
Story: "My Wonderful World, A Book of Poems"
Parents: Audry Winston
City: Hudson
School/Phone: Evamere Elementary

Name: Jewel Chowaniec
Story: "A Girl Does Not Have to be a Princess!"
Parents: Melissa Chowaniec
City: Sebring
School/Phone: Home schooled

Name: Mackenzie Ball
Story: "Mackenzie and Sparkle"
Parents: Myra Ball
City: Sterling
School/Phone: Sterling Elementary

1st Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Timothy Smith
Story: "The Adventures of Rockman and Scuba Boy"
Parents: Tim and Colleen Smith
City: Dover
School/Phone: Dover Avenue Elementary

Second Place

Name: Daniel Daley
Story: "Ug and Mug Wonder Why"
Parents: Park and Brenda Daley
City: Salem
School/Phone: Buckeye Elementary

Third Place

Name: Dylan Manka
Story: "The Butterfly and the Fox"
Parents: David and Sarah Manka
City: Tallmadge
School/Phone: Overdale Elementary

Honorable Mentions

Name: Gus Schuster
Story: "How Mother Bird Tricked the Fox"
Parents: Julie Schuster
City: Salem
School/Phone: St. Paul's

Name: Megan Cordell
Story: "The Magic House"
Parents: Melissa Cordell
City: Canton
School/Phone: Middlebranch Elementary

Name: Timothy Grandon
Story: "The Hungry Squirrel"
Parents: Marianne Grandon
City: Akron
School/Phone: Resnik Elementary

2nd Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Larry Skiver III
Story: "The Ropes Get Funky about 'I'm Sorry'"
Parents: Larry II and Karen
City: Vienna
School/Phone: St. Rose in Girard

Second Place

Name: Anna-Frances Harrison
Story: "The Flower and the Bee"
Parents: John and Tamra Harrison
City: Akron
School/Phone: Home schooled

Third Place

Name: Hannah Emerson
Story: "Hannah's Life"
Parents: DeAnn Bennett
City: Niles
School/Phone: Seaborn Elementary

Honorable Mentions

Name: Alexis Jordan
Story: "The Goba"
Parents: Kimberly Jordan
City: Wadsworth
School/Phone: Reimer Road Christian

Name: Taylor Cunningham
Story: "The Hamburger"
Parents: Sharon Cunningham
City: Navarre
School/Phone: Brewster Elementary

Name: Christian Mammana
Story: "The Space People"
Parents: Rebecca Mammana
City: Macedonia
School/Phone: Ledgeview Elementary

3rd Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Vanessa Snyder
Story: "The Lost Sheep"
Parents: Thomas and Cynthia Snyder
City: Louisville
School/Phone: Portage Collaborative Montessori School

Second Place

Name: Stephen Sweitzer
Story: "Just Like Always"
Parents: David and Guida Sweitzer
City: Akron
School/Phone: Home schooled

Third Place

Name: Taylor Gifford
Story: "Happy Again"
Parents: Nicole Gifford
City: Madison
School/Phone: Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT)

Honorable Mentions

Name: David Kobza
Story: "If I Had Millions of Dollars"
Parents: Mercedes Kobza
City: Wichita, Kansas
School/Phone: Bostic Elementary School

Name: Jason Lababidi
Story: "How the Rainbow Was Created"
Parents: Renee Lababidi
City: Akron
School/Phone: Discovery Montessori

Name: Victoria Reljin
Story: "The Missing Honey"
Parents: Lillie Reljin
City: Akron
School/Phone: Norton Primary School

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 530,000 households (about 30 percent in the region) tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.