



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 Announces Local Winners of 14th Annual Reading Rainbow Writing Contest

KENT, Ohio — April 7, 2008 — PBS 45 & 49 announced the local winners in the kindergarten, first, second and third grade categories of the Reading Rainbow 14th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest [see page 2 for complete list of winners]. The winners were announced on Saturday, April 5, 2008, 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 DVD players. Second place winners received art sets. Third place winners received \$25 Borders gift cards. All winners, plus the honorable mention 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 18, 2008.

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 2008.

The Reading Rainbow 14th 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 judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations. More than 400 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 10 a.m. on PBS 45 & 49.

PBS 45 & 49

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Winners of PBS 45 & 49's Reading Rainbow 14th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest

Kindergarten Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Rosey Daley
Story: "Posey Says 'Girls Are Too Allowed!'"
Parents: Park and Brenda Daley
City: Salem
School: Buckeye Elementary

Second Place

Name: Kourtney Kogut
Story: "The Mysterious Seed"
Parents: Russell and Lori Kogut
City: Paris
School: M.I. Elementary (in Minerva)

Third Place

Name: Emily Garside
Story: "I Love Hawaii"
Parents: Susan and Alan Garside
City: Canal Fulton
School: Northwest Local

Honorable Mention

Name: Kanney Wong
Story: "Nini's Pet Store"
Parents: Hsiao-Chi Hsu and Cheng Wong
City: Kent
School: Child Development Center at Kent State University

First Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Michael Daley
Story: "Toad Boy Is Taking Out the Trash Bullies"
Parents: Park and Brenda Daley
City: Salem
School: Buckeye Elementary

Second Place

Name: Ethan Ellis
Story: "The Adventures of George and Wolfie"
Parents: Randy and Ann Ellis
City: Aurora
School: Craddock Elementary

Third Place

Name: Haley McCauley
Story: "Someone Is Living in My Brain"
Parents: Stacey and Todd McCauley
City: Akron
School: Homeschooled

Honorable Mention

Name: Tyler Piontkowski
Story: "The Purple Dolphin"
Parents: Theresa and Douglas Piontkowski
City: Kinsman
School: Homeschooled

Second Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Eric Grantonic
Story: "Nanny and the Kolachi Pot"
Parents: Colleen and Matt Grantonic
City: New Middletown
School: Springfield Elementary

Second Place (tie)

Name: Noah Dunaj
Story: "The Suppliosaurus"
Parents: Debbie and Adam Dunaj
City: Ravenna
School: Willyard Elementary

Second Place

Name: Daniel Daley
Story: "Cactus Flats: A Little Town in the Desert"
Parents: Park and Brenda Daley
City: Salem
School: Buckeye Elementary

Third Place

Name: Reese Hawthorne
Story: "Spring Senses"
Parents: Shane and Cheri Hawthorne
City: Hartville
School: Homeschooled

Honorable Mention

Name: Maya McDonald
Story: "Amber and Jack"
Parents: Michelle and Dan McDonald
City: Ashland
School: Edison Elementary

Third Grade Winners

Grand Prize

Name: Caitlyn Jarvis
Story: "The Tree That Could Talk"
Parents: Carolyn West-Jarvis
City: Cuyahoga Falls
School: King Elementary

Second Place

Name: Michelle Smyth
Story: "Where Rain Goes"
Parents: Denise and Edward Smyth
City: Roswell, Georgia
School: Sweet Apple Elementary

Third Place

Name: Gracie Durbin
Story: "Sunshine"
Parents: Neil and Margaret Durbin
City: Stow
School: Homeschooled

About Reading Rainbow

Reading Rainbow, the Emmy Award-winning PBS children's series starring LeVar Burton, takes viewers on unforgettable learning adventures to nurture a lifelong love of reading. PBS 45 & 49 airs the show weekdays at 10 a.m.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-854-4549.