Contest Tips: Poetry

1. When rhyming, choose interesting rhymes that aren't easily guessed.
2. Make intentional word choices as well as line breaks. In free verse, last words of lines and how each line stops can help create music and suggest meaning.
3. Avoid poems about abstractions that are very general (love, justice, beauty...) unless you include details that ground the poem so that readers can better visualize your meaning.
4. Create characters that have original characteristics and personalities - not simple copies of something you have seen elsewhere.
5. Choose a title that indicates the focus of your piece or reflects its meaning.

Additional Resources:
- KET.org/poetryeverywhere
- KET.org/poetryelements
- KET.org/poetrylessons
Contest Tips: Short Story

Give details that show rather than tell so that the reader is able to make discoveries.

Think about what your audience might already know, or not, about your setting, plot, or characters. Add descriptive detail to help readers visualize unknown aspects.

Create characters that have original characteristics and personalities – not simple copies of something you have seen elsewhere.

Plan your story so that a natural flow exists between plot points, action, and the resolution rather than a sudden and abrupt ending.

Choose a title that indicates the focus of your piece or reflects its meaning.

Craft meaningful dialogue to enhance understanding of characters thoughts and viewpoints.

Additional Resources:
- KET.org/literaryelements

KET.org/WritersContest
Craft illustrations thoughtfully as an enhancement to the story, rather than an afterthought.

Think about what your audience might already know, or not, about your setting, plot, or characters. Add descriptive detail to help readers visualize unknown aspects.

Give details that show rather than tell so that the reader is able to make discoveries.

Create characters that have original characteristics and personalities - not simple copies of something you have seen elsewhere.

Plan your story so that there is natural flow between plot points, action, and the resolution rather than a sudden and abrupt ending.

Choose a title that indicates the focus of your piece or reflects its meaning.

Additional Resources:
- KET.org/pbskidswrite