

TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION

MEDIA ADVISORY

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TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION ANNOUNCES READING RAINBOW CONTEST WINNERS

*Top Entries Were Chosen from Nearly 1000 Submissions
by Young Writers and Illustrators in Minnesota and Wisconsin*

ST. PAUL, Minn.— Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) is pleased to recognize 14 outstanding young authors for their award-winning stories through the 14th Annual *Reading Rainbow* Young Writers & Illustrators Contest, which encourages grade schoolers to apply their writing and artistic talents by creating original storybooks.

Competition for the contest was enthusiastic this year; *tpt* received 976 entries from kindergartners to third graders throughout Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin. The children's original stories and illustrations were judged for creativity and artistry. Sixty semifinalists were selected, and a panel of community judges then chose a first-place winner and honorable mentions from each grade level. First-place winners will advance to the national round of the contest, which will take place in June.

Last year's contest saw one of our local winners, Cora Marit Richter, win 2nd place at the national level; this year, she continued the winning streak winning an honorable mention and her sister, Marina Richter, took 1st prize in the local first grade division.

This year's winners, listed below, created original books featuring tales ranging from a whimsical survey of Australia's unique animals to sharing family traditions with Grandma. They can be viewed at www.tpt.org/parents/rainbow08; sample illustrations are attached and are available in high resolution.

The first-place winners are:

Kindergarten - *The Buffalo and the Boy*, Nell K., Orono, MN

First Grade – *The Smackaroo Kangaroo*, Marina R., Ramsey, MN

Second Grade – *How Monkeys Learned to Climb - A Legend*, Gracie L., Victoria, MN

Third Grade Winner – *Making Pirogi with Grandma*, Grace G., St. Paul, MN

In addition, the following entries received an honorable mention:

Kindergarten

The Very First Rainbow, Elizabeth B., Red Wing, MN

The Hungry Tigers, Calvin M., Minneapolis, MN

First Grade

A New Home for Duck, Cecilia K., Lino Lakes, MN

The Bug, Alex W., Eau Claire, WI

The Chameleon Who Couldn't Change Colors, Weston W., Red Wing, MN

Second Grade

Fredrick Faces His Fears, Ella Brooke M., Eden Prairie, MN

How the Giraffe Got It's Long Neck, Allison M., Stillwater, MN

Third Grade

Minnesconsin, Eliana F., Minneapolis, MN

Arthur and the Homework Machine, Maddie G., Maple Grove, MN

Fuzzy Porcupine's Big Balloon, Cora Marit R., Ramsey, MN

ABOUT *tpt*

The mission of Twin Cities Public Television is to “harness the power of television and other media for the public good.” A not for profit educational, civic, and cultural resource, *tpt* presents original television productions for national and state broadcast. Productions include the Emmy Award winning Benjamin Franklin; the Emmy winning The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's; the Emmy winning Suze Orman: The Laws of Money, The Lessons of Life; the DragonflyTV science series for kids; the popular public affairs program Almanac, and the innovative Minnesota Channel, which magnifies the impact of Minnesota's finest public service organizations using the power of television. One of the most watched PBS affiliates in the nation, *tpt* is based in St. Paul and operates seven digital stations in addition to analog channels *tpt 2* and *tpt 17*.

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