



Author Tips & Story Submission Challenge

Author Tips for Young Writers — Make Your Story Shine!

1. Start with Action! Don't wait — jump right into the moment.
2. Use Your 5 Senses. What can your characters see, smell, taste, hear, and feel?
3. Every Character Wants Something. What's your main character's goal or dream?
4. Add a Twist. Surprise your reader with something they didn't see coming.
5. Show Feelings. Instead of saying "she was mad," show what her face or voice does.
6. End Strong. Leave your reader laughing, learning, or thinking.

Now it's your turn to shine! Use these tips to create your own holiday story and enter the Prindle House Holiday Story Challenge!

Contest Instructions for Students (and Parents or Teachers)

How to Enter:

1. Write an original holiday-themed story (½ page – 1½ pages).
2. Use at least 3 tips from the Author Tips Sheet.
3. Submit your story by December 20 to  stories@prindlehouse.com or upload to prindlehouse.com/holidaystorycontest.
4. Include your first name, grade, and school (or program name).

Judging & Prizes

Judging Criteria:

- Creativity (25 pts)
- Use of Writing Tips (25 pts)
- Originality & Voice (25 pts)
- Holiday Spirit (25 pts)

Prizes Ideas:

🥇 1st Place – \$25 gift card + feature on Prindle House social media

🥈 2nd Place – Prindle House Book Bundle

🥉 3rd Place – Certificate + Digital Story Feature

Bonus: All participants receive a printable “Certified Young Author” certificate emailed back to them.