THE BLUE WITCH

Kids Original Writing Challenge

CLASSROOM GUIDE FOR TEACHERS | GRADES 3–8

Let your students become the storytellers—and imagine an adventure that could come to life through animation.

Alane Adams Studios invites U.S. students in grades 3–8 to create original adventures inspired by *The Blue Witch*. We especially encourage small groups of students to collaborate on a single imaginative story.

Writing prompt available: November 6, 2026 **Submissions open:** December 1, 2026

1 | The Official Writing Prompt

The Kids Original Writing Challenge

Abigail Tarkana has a problem. Something strange has happened at the Academy, and her unusual blue magic might be the only way to fix it!

Your mission: Write an original adventure for Abigail. You get to decide what goes wrong, who helps her, what magical creatures or surprises she encounters, and how the story ends. Along the way, what might Abigail discover, and how could her choices make a difference?

You can include Hugo, Endera, or other characters you've met. You can even invent a new character or magical creature of your own!

The only rule? Make it an adventure we'd love to see come to life on screen.

A note about the story

These are imaginative "what if?" adventures, separate from the novel's official plot. Students can explore possibilities without changing the official story or worrying about spoilers.

2 | Bring the Challenge Into Your Classroom

Step 1 — Introduce the world

Introduce students to *The Blue Witch Readalong*, a free animated adaptation of Alane Adams' novel. Its synchronized highlighted text allows viewers to follow the words as the story unfolds. Introduce Abigail, Tarkana Academy, and her unusual blue witchfire. Students do not need to know the entire novel to participate.

Watch: youtube.com/@AlaneAdamsStudios

Step 2 — Collaborate and brainstorm

Organize students into small writing groups. Invite each team to brainstorm, develop characters, build the plot, write, and revise **one cohesive original story together**. Encourage every student to contribute through ideas, dialogue, descriptions, problem-solving, or shaping the ending.

Discussion starters:

- What strange event could disrupt life at Tarkana Academy?
- What problem might only Abigail be able to solve?
- Who helps her, and who stands in her way?
- What magical creature, object, or surprise could appear?
- What difficult choice could change the ending?

Teacher tip: Group-created submissions are preferred. Individual stories are also welcome. Collaboration should involve students contributing original ideas and writing, not simply combining unrelated responses.

Step 3 — Plan the adventure

- **Beginning:** Establish the setting, characters, and magical problem.
- **Middle:** Build obstacles, surprises, and choices that raise the stakes.
- **Ending:** Resolve the main conflict and show what Abigail discovers or changes.

Step 4 — Draft the story

Have groups create a story in their own words, with a clear conflict, motivated characters, vivid details, dialogue where helpful, and a satisfying ending. **Maximum length: 1,500 words.** Shorter, well-developed stories are welcome.

Step 5 — Revise and share

Invite groups to read aloud, exchange feedback, and revise. Ask: Is the problem clear? Can readers picture the action? Do characters make meaningful choices? Does the ending work? Could this story be brought to life as a short animation?

3 | About Kids Originals

In 2023, the Alane Adams Studios team set out to demonstrate how a story written by ordinary fifth graders could become a beautiful, funny, impactful animated short. The first Kids Original, *R.A.K.O. the Robot*, premiered in May 2023 for students at Kelley Elementary in Carlsbad, California.

Subsequent prompts invited students to imagine stories about talking animals (2024), magical artifacts (2025), and new *Smudge* adventures (2026). This challenge brings student imagination into the world of *The Blue Witch*.

How a student story becomes animation

Selected stories are adapted into screenplays. The team creates an animatic—a rough visual sequence to plan timing and action—while character designers, background artists, voice actors, animators, composers, and compositing artists develop the production. Even a short animated film can require thousands of hours of creative work.

The studio has increasingly focused on shorter stories to recognize more student voices.

4 | Eligibility and Submissions

- Open to students enrolled in U.S. public or private schools, grades 3–8.
- All work must be original and student-created. Collaborative group stories are especially encouraged.
- Stories may not exceed 1,500 words.
- An educator or authorized school representative must submit entries. Direct student or parent submissions are not accepted.
- Selected stories require signed parental permission before the work can be used.

How to submit

Educators submit stories through the **official entry form** at **AlaneAdams.com**. All entries must be uploaded as **PDF files**. Multiple stories may be combined into one PDF if each story is clearly identified.

Each story should begin with a header identifying **every contributing student's first name and last initial, grade level, and the school's city and state**. Do not include students' full surnames.

How stories are selected

Eligible submissions will be reviewed by the creative team at **Alane Adams Studios**. Finalists will be announced January 8, 2027, and winners January 31, 2027. Selected stories will be adapted into animated shorts by the studio's production team.

5 | Important Dates

Date	Milestone
November 6, 2026	Writing prompt available
December 1, 2026	Submission portal opens
December 18, 2026	Final day to submit stories
January 8, 2027	Finalists announced
January 31, 2027	Winners announced
March–May 2027	Anticipated animation releases

6 | Student & Teacher Checklist

- ■ Our story is an original “what if?” adventure featuring Abigail Tarkana.
- ■ Every group member contributed to the story.
- ■ The adventure has a beginning, middle, and ending.
- ■ Characters face an interesting problem and make meaningful choices.
- ■ We included details that help readers imagine the action.
- ■ We revised for clarity, spelling, and punctuation.
- ■ The story is no longer than 1,500 words.
- ■ The PDF lists each author’s first name, last initial, grade, and school city/state.
- ■ An educator or school representative will submit through the official form.

7 | Classroom Learning Connections

The challenge supports narrative structure, character development, imaginative problem-solving, collaboration, communication, peer feedback, revision, and visual storytelling. Teachers may adapt the process for different grade levels and classroom schedules.

Ready to Bring the Magic to Your Classroom?

Every animated adventure begins with an idea. Invite students to combine their imaginations, build an original story, and discover what creative teamwork can accomplish.

Challenge details and submissions: AlaneAdams.com

Watch the free animated Readalong: youtube.com/@AlaneAdamsStudios

Presented by Alane Adams Studios