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Attorneys Jump-Start Jackrabbit Student Art Contest

BY TIM EIGO

A rabbit and two lawyers
hopped into a classroom.

More than 100,000 schoolkids have learned those essential facts over the past few years. And they have discovered that those attorneys and their bouncy creation would call on the pupils themselves to help draft another in a series of successful children’s books. As we head into the fall, another bunny–student collaboration is about to begin.

Jeremy Jackrabbit is the floppy-eared brainchild of Arizona lawyers Rodney and Sasha Glassman. This year, they are working on their fourth book in the JJ series. And they are pleased to say that Arizona schoolkids will again play a part in the book’s creation.

Every interior page of each volume is filled with student art, drawn from a contest, beginning now. (Jeremy himself, as he appears on the cover, was created by Arizona artist Catalina Rankin, whose

husband is Tucson City Attorney Mike Rankin).

To participate, students can read the book’s text, set out in page-segments and identified by their grade level. If something on “their” pages sparks their creative juices, they can create their own artwork for that page and submit it as part of a Phoenix Public Library contest.

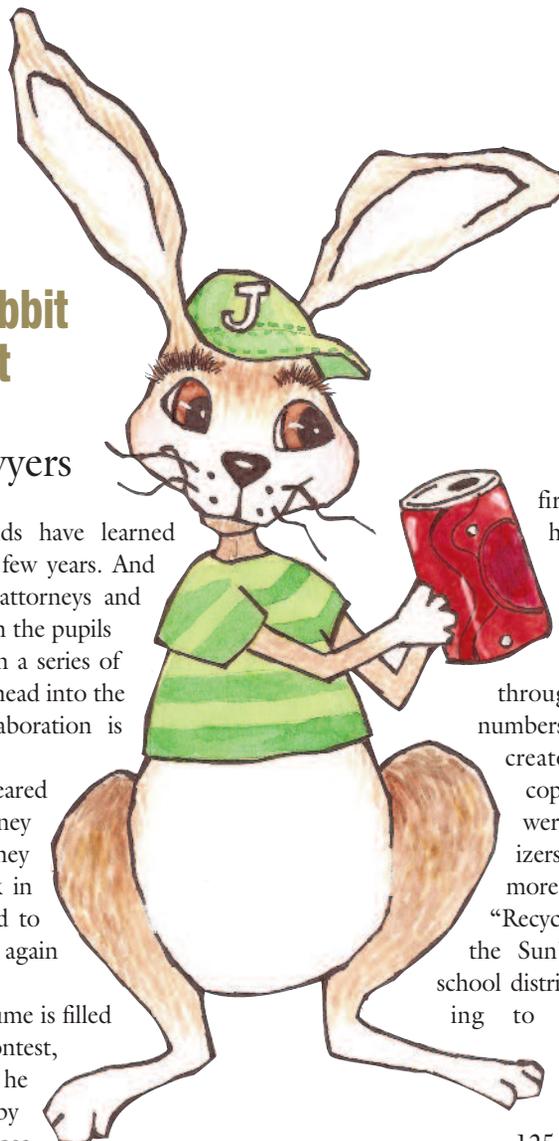
Any student–artists in kindergarten through eighth grade may participate (and they may submit up to two creations each).

Reviewing the previous volumes on the Glassmans’ website hints at the variety and diversity of kid talent on tap. Submissions—even winning ones—have been created using pen-and-ink, pencil, paint, watercolor—even crayon or marker.

Once the art is submitted by the deadline of Friday, October 31, the book’s producers make their selections and begin production of the book.

Each volume teaches children about “the Earth’s precious resources.” The couple began with “Jeremy Jackrabbit Harvests the Rain” and they then created “Jeremy Jackrabbit Recycles the Can.” They followed it with “Jeremy Jackrabbit Captures the Sun.”

With the help and talent of this year’s young artists, “Jeremy Jackrabbit Saves Every Drop” will be published and available in Spring 2015.



(You can click and read the first three books here: <http://www.jeremyjackrabbit.com/stories/>)

Once completed, the books are distributed free of charge to kindergartners throughout the state, and the numbers have been growing. The creators’ website says 15,000 copies of “Harvests the Rain” were distributed. Later, organizers oversaw the distribution of more than 56,000 copies of both “Recycles the Can” and “Captures the Sun” to over 50 elementary school districts across Arizona. According to Rodney Glassman, the total distribution since the multi-volume project began in 2010 exceeds 125,000 children. Organizers

ask Arizona attorneys to pass the contest message on to their own kids or anyone who may want to participate.

In the spring, we’ll report back on the new book’s launch. **AT**

More on Jeremy
Contest form and dropoff locations (deadline October 31):
MORE <http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org/kids>
ONLINE
Books and Authors:
www.jeremyjackrabbit.com/

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Sasha and Rodney Glassman.