

2nd-grader wins library-card art contest

By Alison Stanton
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

A picture of a smiling blue and gray robot accented with colorful lights and holding a book appropriately titled *The Book of Robots* will adorn 5,000 new library cards at the Peoria Public Library.

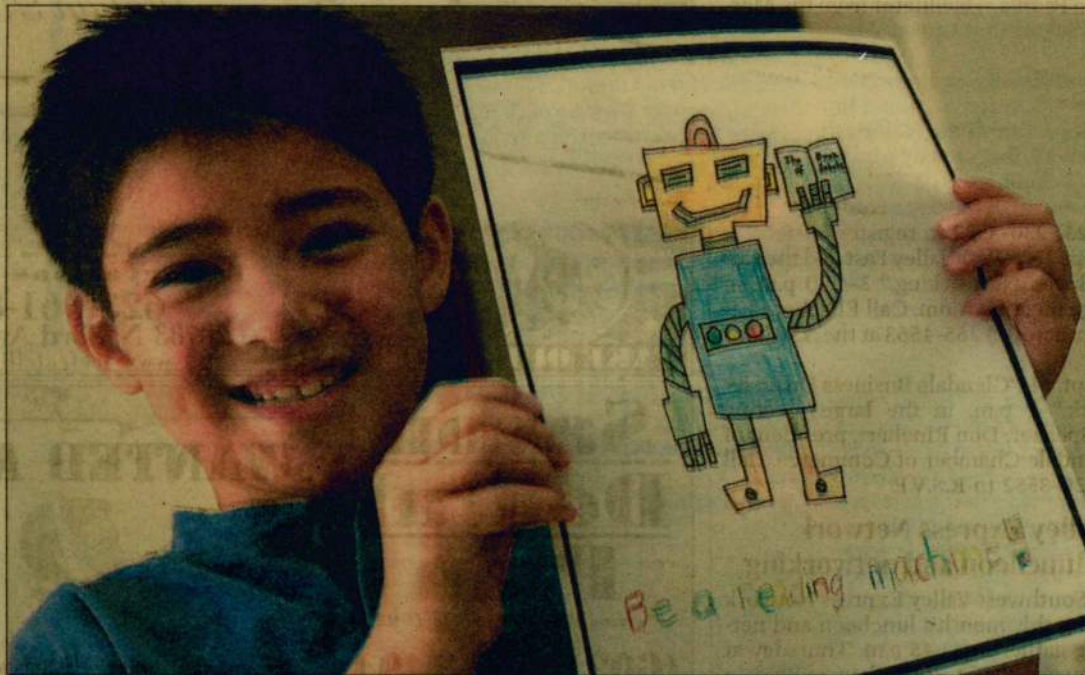
The drawing, as well as the accompanying phrase "Be a reading machine," were the brainchild of 7-year-old Peoria resident Brandon Hang.

Brandon, a second-grader at Challenge Charter School in Glendale, was the grand-prize winner in the library's second annual contest to design the new card, which the library began to distribute recently. Brandon competed against about 40 other artists from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Library Board members, staff and volunteers helped judge.

Brandon said he came up with the slogan first, and then tried to think of a drawing that would complement the words.

"I just drew the robot because it went good with the slogan," Brandon said.

Although Brandon, who said he loves drawing "trains and air-



Brandon Hang, 7, a second-grader at Challenge Charter School in Glendale, shows his winning entry.

planes and helicopters and stuff," prefers to draw with a regular pencil, the final copy of his entry was done in colored pencils.

"He does the pencil because he is a perfectionist and he does a lot of tweaking," Brandon's mom Debbi Hang said. In late July, she

and her husband, Glenn Hang, learned that their son's drawing had won.

"There were high fives all over.

"His message is clear to anyone of any age."

Deborah Tasnadi
Manager, Peoria Public Library
System

It was a big deal," Debbi said, laughing. "Brandon was dancing all over the house."

Deborah Tasnadi, library manager for the Peoria Public Library System, said she and the other judges were impressed with Brandon's work.

"I think what stood out in Brandon's drawing was the simplicity and color," Tasnadi said. "He incorporated his love of machines and robots with his love of books. His message is clear to anyone of any age."

Debbi Hang said that Brandon, who will receive a \$100 Savings Bond, loves the idea that so many people will get a sample of his artwork.

"He said to me, 'Five thousand people are going to have my card in their wallet and will be looking at my design!'"

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