

CONTEST RUBRIC

SHORT STORY

YOUNG
WRITERS
CONTEST

	ORIGINALITY	CREATIVE EXPRESSION	STORYTELLING	GRAMMAR, USAGE, & MECHANICS
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme. Writing includes certain elements of originality – a unique voice or unexpected outcome, for example. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot is well-developed with a beginning, middle, and end. Writing is well organized and unified from start to finish, with effective transitions. Writing style and content generally meet the needs of the audience. Tone is appropriate and enhances the writing. Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest, and variety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing demonstrates an understanding of grammatical conventions. Sentence structure is varied as appropriate. Careful word choice enhances the writing.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is based on an original idea or includes elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is expressive, include some figurative language and detailed description. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot is generally well-developed. Writing is generally organized and unified. Writing demonstrates some awareness of audience needs. Effective transitions are used, but there may be lapses. Sentences are effective with some variety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing demonstrates some understanding of grammatical conventions, with few lapses. Some careful word choices are evident.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of original thought is present, but may be based on a common theme, without elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing includes some descriptive words and efforts at figurative language, but need improvement to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot is not consistently well-developed. While coherent, does not demonstrate and understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. Some transitions are awkward. Sentence structure is generally simple. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous grammatical errors or sentences that are uniform and simple. A few careful word choices may be evident.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing feels like a retelling of a common theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is very simple and lacks creative enhancements that engage readers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot is unclear and/or not developed. Lacking organization, therefore hard for the reader to understand. Sentences are simple or fragmented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to a lack of understanding of grammatical conventions and/or poor word choices, the writing is difficult to understand.

All criteria are adjusted in consideration of the writer's age group.
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