

Waterloo Public Library Short Story Contest Rubric

Name _____

Date _____

Category	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Comments
Content /20	Skillfully combines all story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a thought provoking theme	Combines story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a thought-provoking theme	Overly Simplistic. No clear controlling idea and/or theme	
Plot and Situation /20	Skillfully develops plot line with complex major and minor characters and a definite setting	Develops a standard plot line with complex major and minor characters and a definite setting	Provides a minimally developed plot line	
Narrative devices /20	A range of devices such as suspense, dialogue and action (gestures, expressions) skillfully advances the plot, gives insight into characters, and keeps the reader continually informed/entertained	A range of devices such as suspense, dialogue and action (gestures, expressions) advances the plot, gives insight into characters, and keeps the reader informed/entertained	2 or less devices used that aid in the advancing of the plot, reader is left looking and searching for more detail	
Story Detail /20	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples create a clear sense of the main characters' thoughts, actions and appearances	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples create a sense of the characters' thoughts, actions and appearances	Anecdotes, and other details leave you still needing more support in understanding character thoughts, actions, etc.	
Organization /20	Skillful Structure: Strong, engaging exposition Logical and effective sequencing of ideas based on purpose and skillfully linked to theme Resolution and denouement reinforce theme and give closure	Effective structure: Engaging exposition Logical sequencing of ideas based on purpose and linked to theme Resolution and denouement reinforce theme and give closure	Weak structure: Exposition, sequencing of ideas in body and/ or resolution/ denouement need some revision May be isolated events with weak sequencing	
Voice /20	Writer's voice is clear, authentic, and confident	Writer's voice is understood, and gaining strength	Writer's voice is weak, and needs support to become more clear	

Total out of 120 _____