

SHORT STORY

	Originality	Creative Expression (Story/Text)	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. For example, in a unique voice or with an unexpected outcome. 	<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"> • The plot is well-developed with a beginning, middle, and ending. • The writing is well-organized and unified from start to finish, with effective transitions. • The writing style and content generally meet the needs of the audience. • The tone is appropriate and enhances the writing. • Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest and variety. • The writing includes exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing demonstrates an understanding of grammatical conventions. • Sentence structure is varied when appropriate. • Careful word choice enhances the writing.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plot is generally well-developed though may be lacking in one area (the beginning or ending, for example). • The piece is generally organized and unified. • Effective transitions are used, but there are lapses. • The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience's needs. • Sentences are effective with some variety. • The writing includes at least 3 of the following: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 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 the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language but needs improvement in order to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plot is not consistently well-developed. • The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. • Some transitions are awkward. • Sentence structure is generally simple, with little attempt to provide variety and fluidity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are numerous grammatical errors, OR the sentences are uniform and simple. • A few careful word choices may be evident.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plot is unclear and/or not developed. • The piece is not organized and is 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 choice, the writing is difficult to understand.

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

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