

Judging Criteria: Points Guide

1. Plot & Characterization

10 points: The story contains creative development. All pieces are woven together into a single whole.

5 points: The story lacks sufficient unique twists to lift it above the level of average.

1 point: The storyline is either difficult to follow, or simplistic and predictable.

2. Setting & Atmosphere

10 points: The setting is integral and contributes to the mood and emotions of the characters.

5 points: The story conveys a sense of place, but the setting is not an integral part of the story.

1 point: The physical setting is seldom described so you have little sense of time and place.

3. Writing Quality & Mechanics

10 points: The author uses language in a skillful manner to express the character, theme and setting.

5 points: The author adequately uses language.

1 point: The perspective drifts or is marked by confusion. The story contains errors.

4. Passion

10 points: I will remember this story and these characters long after reading.

5 points: The story was okay.

1 point: I read it because I had to.